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## Training Announcements

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Office of Human Resources and Learning, are offering virtual and in-person trainings. For more information regarding trainings, [click here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact [DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov).



### Human Trafficking Summit Hosted by CareSource

On November 14th, 2024, Caresource will be hosting a Human Trafficking Summit in partnership with Rescuing Hope. The focus of this summit is collaboration. Highlighting how a Medicaid health plan can be a valuable player in the fight against trafficking, hearing from experts on barriers seen in the community that need to be addressed and what CareSource is doing to help those members that they serve.



This summit is for people that are working with victims and/or survivors of Human Trafficking. We all have different lenses in our work however at some point we will come across someone that has been impacted by this horrific crime.

This summit will be a great way to network with those in the community that are providing services from law enforcement to non-governmental entities, faith-based communities and National organizations.

Our presenters will share a wealth of knowledge from a Survivor's heart, a Judge who has amazing passion to help provide much needed treatment for these children and a gentleman that is dedicated to reaching schools and kids of all ages and training on prevention. This summit will definitely leave you with a new perspective and a passion to continue this fight against trafficking.

If you have any questions, please email [Lisa.lucchesi@caresource.com](mailto:Lisa.lucchesi@caresource.com).

**Please register by clicking here.**

## Featured Article

**ATTENTION NOW/COMP**

## Hurricane Helene Update

latest news

Due to the impact of Hurricane Helene, Governor Kemp and the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA) have declared a State of Emergency for all 159 counties throughout the State. Additionally, the Department of Health and Human Services has declared a Public Health Emergency, as authorized under section 319 of the public Health Service Act, for the State of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

To review all of the press releases regarding the statewide State of Emergency for Hurricane Helene, please login on the website:

<https://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2024-09-25/gov-kemp-declares-state-emergency-activates-state-operations-center-ahead>

Click the link below to review the letter from the Department of Community Health for more information on the authorization of Medicaid billing for the temporary emergency evacuation of the evacuating CRA and CAG settings due to Hurricane Helene.

Hurricane Helene: DCH Medicaid Billing Directive for CRA and CAG Providers

## Office of Disaster Mental Health Services

### Hurricane Helene

Hurricane Helene made landfall in Florida's Big Bend region as a category 4 hurricane. It continued to travel north through Georgia, bringing with it catastrophic damage to areas throughout the state.



People can call or text the **SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline's** toll-free number (**1-800-985-5990**) and receive immediate counseling. This free, confidential, multilingual crisis support service is available to anyone experiencing distress as a result of a natural or human-caused disaster. People who call and text are connected to trained, caring professionals from crisis counseling centers in the network. Helpline staff provide confidential counseling, referrals, and other needed support services. SAMHSA also has this Information available in Spanish at the following link: [Línea de Ayuda para los Afectados por Catástrofes | SAMHSA](#) .

For additional information on services available through the SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline, click the link below.

Lastly, the SAMHSA Disaster Distress website has a page dedicated to hurricanes and tropical storms with resources for aiding disaster survivors: <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline/disaster-types/hurricanes-tropical-storms>.

SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline

For a list of available shelters through the American Red Cross click here: [Disaster](#)

## HOW TO HELP

### Donate

[sendrelief.org/hurricane](https://sendrelief.org/hurricane)

<https://www.pledge.to/help-hurricane-helene-victims>

<https://www.redcross.org/donate/dr/hurricane-helene.html/>

<https://give.helpsalvationarmy.org/give/166081/#!/donation/checkout>

### Volunteer

Team Rubicon:

<https://teamrubiconusa.org/how-to-get-involved/volunteer-with-us/>

Red Cross:

<https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer.html>

Salvation Army:

<https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/volunteer/>

SERVGA:

<https://servga.gov/>



**SAMHSA** Ready  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

**GHC911** Georgia Healthcare Coalitions  **American Red Cross**

**Georgia Emergency Management**

**Department of Public Health**

**Ready.Gov**

**American Red Cross**

**Georgia Healthcare Coalitions**

**Department of Behavioral Health  
and Developmental Disabilities**

**Substance Abuse and Mental  
Health Services Administration**

## Rockdale County BioLabs Fire

The residents of Rockdale County have been advised to shelter in place if the smoke plume moves over their vicinity or if there is a strong odor of chlorine. For individuals who have respiratory issues, they are encouraging those individuals to shelter in place. Shelter locations are available below.

**To stay up to date, please visit the following page:**

<https://www.rockdalecountyga.gov/updates-on-bio-fire-9-29-24/>

**Follow Rockdale County on Social Media:**

**Facebook**

**Instagram**

**Non-Emergency Calls:**

Rockdale County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) hotline: 770-278-8300.

Rockdale County Sheriff's Office: 770-278-8200.



9/29/24 9:45 PM



## SHELTER LOCATIONS:



2484 Bruce St.,  
Lithonia, 30058



218 Scout Road,  
Covington, 30016



3375 E Fairview Rd SW,  
Stockbridge, 30281

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Please contact [Kalie Burke](#), Disaster Mental Health Coordinator, for any questions. You can also view the Department of Public Health and DBHDD [Georgia Disaster Mental Health](#) website for additional resources and information.

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## Division of Behavioral Health

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### Rate Increase for Behavioral Health Services

Please review the memorandum at the link below which communicates changes being made to behavioral health rates.

We request that you communicate the information contained in the memorandum as soon as possible to the appropriate personnel in your organization, including specifically: (a) billing/finance staff (b) IT staff responsible for rate configurations and if necessary (c) your information system vendors.



[Behavioral Health Rate  
Memo](#)

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## Division of Developmental Disabilities

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# October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month



The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

Held annually, National Disability Employment Awareness Month is led by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, but its true spirit lies in the many observances held at the grassroots level across the nation every year. Employers of all sizes and in all industries are encouraged to participate in NDEAM. This year the theme is **Access to Good Jobs for All!**

DBHDD is excited to announce this year, we are partnering with multiple community agencies and providers to host the 4th Annual NDEAM celebration and conversations event at The Carter Center in Atlanta on October 28, 2024, from 9:30am-1:00pm.

[Click here to register!](#)

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## Call for Nominations!



We are now accepting nominations for Employer, Region Employee, Employment Advocate, Employment Agency, Employment Specialist, and System Navigator of the Year as well as the Supported Employment Legacy Award.

The deadline for nominations is **Oct. 4, 2024**. Please email Christine Gudgin at [Christine.Gudgin@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Christine.Gudgin@dbhdd.ga.gov) for more information and nomination forms.

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## 2023 Employment Agency of the Year Winner: B&B Care Services



**Previous Years Winners:  
2022 Briggs & Associates & 2021 Rocket Science HR**

# DBHDD Announcements

Dear DBHDD family,

I am launching the second annual DBHDD Flame of Hope awards, recognizing individuals throughout the state who “fan the flames of hope” and further the mission and values of DBHDD. I am seeking nominations from community leaders, board members, DBHDD staff, affiliated organizations and providers to ensure every voice and community is heard.



I am asking for your help in identifying these individuals, staff people or community members for this honor. A public event recognizing the award winners will be held at the State Capitol in November on a date to be determined. A special private ceremony for nominees and their families will follow.

Examples of nominations include but aren't limited to:

- An individual or peer who embodies the miracle of recovery or success in residential or independent living
- A CSB, external providers or other staff person whose dedication helps fan the flames of hope for individuals who live in group homes, independently or are in recovery
- A volunteer or supporter whose time, talent and treasure furthers DBHDD's mission and values
- A community member or leader whose contributions or advocacy helps improve the lives of individuals or fans the flames of hope more broadly.

Please submit your nomination via [dbhdd.georgia.gov/flame-hope-nominations](https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/flame-hope-nominations) or email [public.affairs@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:public.affairs@dbhdd.ga.gov) by 8 p.m. on Friday, October 11, 2024.

Video submissions or photos are encouraged but not required. You may nominate more than one individual. Honorees and their nominators will be notified and announced by the end of the month, with ceremony details forthcoming.

We are excited to hear your stories and honor our most deserving folks in every corner of the state. Thank you for all you do every day.

Best regards,

Kevin Tanner  
*Commissioner of DBHDD*

## DBHDD Policy Information

Since September 1, 2024, DBHDD updated or developed the following policies:

[Provider Manual for Community Behavioral Health Providers, 01-112](#)

[Provider Manuals for Community Developmental Disability Providers, 02-1201](#)

Please direct all policy-related questions to the Office of Provider Relations via the Provider Issue Management System (PIMS). To submit your questions, [click here](#).

## JUST A REMINDER... Question for your Provider Relations Team?

The **Provider Issues Management System (PIMS)** is your online source to have your questions answered in a consistent, reliable and timely way! In addition to providing a timely response, the information we gather from PIMS will assist DBHDD in trending common concerns, developing FAQs, and informing policy reviews. You can access the PIMS site directly by using the link below.

[PROVIDER ISSUES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM](#)

PIMS is also accessible through the [DBHDD website](#) by selecting the "**Submit a Question to Provider Relations**" tile on the DBHDD homepage.

**Director**  
Anna Bourque

**Senior Provider Relations Managers**  
Carole Crowley  
Sharon Pyles

For Provider Relations inquiries,  
please contact us at  
[DBHDD.Provider@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:DBHDD.Provider@dbhdd.ga.gov).



## BE WELL



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities | 200 Piedmont Avenue, S.E. West Tower | Atlanta, GA 30334 US

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