



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

PROVIDER MANUAL

FOR

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY PROVIDERS

FOR

THE DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

FISCAL YEAR 2021

Effective Date: *October 1, 2020*

(Posted: January 1, 2021; and Retroactively Re-posted January 15, 2021)

**Special Interim Re-Posting for the
COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Response Period
Added Content: DBHDD Communications to
Providers Issued between March 1, 2020 and January
12, 2021**

“DBHDD publishes its expectations, requirements, and standards for Community Developmental Disability Providers via policies and the Developmental Disabilities Provider Manuals. This manual is updated quarterly throughout each fiscal year (September – October), and is posted one month prior to the effective date. Provider Manuals from previous fiscal years and quarters are archived on DBHDD’s website at: <http://dbhdd.georgia.gov/provider-manuals-archive>”.

INTRODUCTION

The FY 2021 Provider Manual for the Division of Developmental Disabilities has been designed as an addendum to your contract/agreement with DBHDD to provide you structure for supporting and serving individuals residing in the state of Georgia.



DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

FY 2021 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROVIDER MANUAL

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SUMMARY OF CHANGES TABLE

UPDATED FOR JANUARY 1, 2021

As a courtesy for Providers, this Summary of Changes is designed to guide the review of new and revised content contained in this updated version of the Provider Manual. The responsibility for thorough review of the Provider Manual content remains with the Provider.

Item#	Topic	Location	Summary of Changes
Page 50 (et seq.) Section A.2.d.i	Program Description	Part II Section 2 Operational & Clinical Standards for Georgia Crisis Response System (GCRS-DD)	Replaced Autism and Crisis Service Manager with DD Manager
Page 72 (et seq.) Section F.2.	Service Description & Utilization Criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder Crisis Service Homes	Part II Section 3 Operational & Clinical Standards for Autism Spectrum Disorder Crisis Service Homes	Replaced Autism Case Expeditor with Case Expeditor

**COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY: SUMMARY OF CHANGES
TABLE**

Date Posted to DBHDD Website and Official Effective Date	Communication Type	Location	Title
11/25/2020	Appendix K: Operational Guidelines	Appendix A	Appendix K: Operational Guidelines for the NOW and COMP Waiver Programs Response to COVID-19 Pandemic
11/02/2020	Provider Relations: Network News	Appendix A	Volume 33: Be Connected Newsletter
12/01/2020	Provider Relations: Network News	Appendix A	Volume 34: Be Connected Newsletter
12/22/2020	Special Bulletin	Appendix A	Be Informed Network Bulletin
1/04/2021	Provider Relations: Network News	Appendix A	Volume 35: Be Connected Newsletter

ALL POLICIES ARE POSTED IN DBHDD POLICYPSTAT LOCATED AT <http://gadbhdd.policystat.com>

Details are provided in the policy titled [Access to DBHDD Policies for Community Providers, 04-100](#).

The [DBHDD PolicyStat INDEX](#) helps to identify policies applicable for Community Providers.

The New and Updated policies are listed below. For 90 days after the date of revision, users can see the track changes version of a policy by clicking on [New and Recently Revised Policies](#) at the bottom of PolicyStat Home Page.

Questions or issues related to service delivery as outlined in the DBHDD Provider Manuals should be directed to your Provider Relations team: <https://dbhddapps.dbhdd.ga.gov/PIMS/Default.aspx>

Questions related to DBHDD policies located at <https://gadbhdd.policystat.com> should be directed to policyquestions@dbhdd.ga.gov.

Questions related to the Georgia Collaborative ASO functions such as those listed below can be directed to:

GACollaborativePR@beaconhealthoptions.com

- Provider Enrollment
- ASO Quality Reviews

Item#	Topic	Location	Summary of Changes
1.	COVID-19 2020: DBHDD Community Developmental Disability Services Policy Modifications - 9/21/2020	Part IV General Policies and Procedures	REVISED
2.	COVID-19 2020: DBHDD Community Developmental Disability Services Policy Modifications - 11/25/2020	Part IV General Policies and Procedures	REVISED: https://gadbhdd.policystat.com/policy/8922965/latest/
3.	CSU: Child and Adolescent Autism Spectrum Disorder, 01-353	Part IV General Policies and Procedures	NEW: https://gadbhdd.policystat.com/policy/8865082/latest/

Part I

Eligibility, Service Definitions and Service Guidelines for Developmental Disability Services

Provider Manual

For

Community Developmental Disability Providers

Fiscal Year 2021



**Georgia Department of Behavioral Health
and Developmental Disabilities
January 2021**

D·B·H·D·D

Eligibility, Service Definitions and Service Guidelines for Developmental Disability Services

Eligibility for Developmental Disability Services

To be eligible for Developmental Disabilities Home and Community-Based Waiver Program Services, individuals must meet disability and financial criteria. One of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Regional Field Offices determines disability waiver eligibility for individuals residing in that region. The Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) determines financial and Medicaid eligibility for services which are funded through Medicaid Waiver resources. Eligibility for the Medicaid Waiver programs is determined by DBHDD Regional Field Offices in accordance with waiver policies.

To be eligible for **developmental disability waiver services, an individual must meet the eligibility criteria below.** The contractor will deliver services to individuals who meet the following criteria:

1. **Most in Need:** The individual demonstrates:
 - a. Substantial risk of harm to self or others; or
 - b. Substantial inability to demonstrate community living skills at an age appropriate level; or
 - c. Substantial need for supports to augment or replace insufficient or unavailable natural resources.

AND
2. **Diagnosis:**
 - a. **Intellectual Disability:** The individual has a diagnosis of an intellectual disability based on onset before the age of 18 years and assessment findings from standardized instruments recognized by professional organizations (American Psychological Association, American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) of significantly sub-average general intellectual functioning and significantly impaired adaptive functioning defined as an intelligence quotient (IQ) of about 70 or below (approximately two standard deviations below the mean) and significantly impaired adaptive functioning (two or more standard deviations below the mean) in at least two of the following skill areas: self-care, communication, home living, self-direction, functional academic skills, social/interpersonal skills, use of community resources, work, leisure, health, and safety.

AND/OR
 - b. **Related Condition:** The individual has a diagnosis of a condition found to be closely related to an intellectual disability, as determined by a professional licensed to do so, and is attributable to cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or any other condition, other than mental illness, which results in impairment of general intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior similar to that of persons with an intellectual disability and meets the following criteria (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 42 Section 435.1010):
 - i. Is manifested before the individual attains age 22;
 - ii. Is likely to continue indefinitely;
 - iii. Results in substantial limitations in adaptive functioning (two or more standard deviations below the mean) in three or more of the following areas of functioning:
 - Self-care;
 - Receptive and expressive language;
 - Learning;
 - Mobility;
 - Self-direction; and
 - Capacity for independent living; and

The adaptive impairments must be directly related to the developmental disability and cannot be primarily attributed to mental/emotional disorders, sensory impairments, substance abuse, personality disorder, specific learning disability, or attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

Eligibility for State Funded Developmental Disability Services

Individuals who meet the above eligibility criteria for developmental disability waiver services are eligible to receive state funded developmental disability services. Individuals who do not meet the above developmental disabilities waiver criteria may receive state funded developmental disability services depending upon the availability of funding, priority of need. Please refer to the Provider Manual for DD State Funded Services located at: <https://gadbhdd.policystat.com/policy/1386258/latest/>

IDD/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICE DEFINITIONS (NOW/COMP WAIVER SERVICES):

1. All service descriptions funded through the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) and the New Options Waiver Program (NOW) are described in the Medicaid manual found at <https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/>, under COMP/NOW PART II and PART III
2. Services available through the COMP and NOW Waivers Program include:
 - Additional Staffing (COMP only)
 - Adult Nursing Services
 - Adult Nutrition Services
 - Adult Occupational Therapy Services
 - Adult Physical Therapy Services
 - Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services
 - Behavioral Supports Consultation
 - Behavioral Supports Services
 - Behavior Support Services Level 1 and Level 2 (COMP only)
 - Community Access Services
 - Community Guide Services
 - Community Living Supports (CLS) Services
 - Community Residential Alternative (COMP only)
 - Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services
 - Financial Support Services
 - Individual Directed Goods and Services
 - Interpreter Services (COMP only)
 - Natural Supports Training Services
 - Prevocational Services
 - Respite Services
 - Specialized Medical Equipment Services
 - Specialized Medical Supplies
 - Support Coordination and Intensive Support Coordination
 - Supported Employment Services
 - Transportation Services
 - Vehicle Adaptation Services

PART II

Standards for Developmental Disability Service Providers

Provider Manual

For

Community Developmental Disability Providers

- Section 1:** Community Service Standards for Developmental Disability Providers
- Section 2:** Operational and Clinical Standards for Georgia Crisis Response System (GCRS-DD)
- Section 3:** Operational & Clinical Standards for Autism Spectrum Disorder Crisis Support Homes
- Section 4:** Request for Conversion



**Georgia Department of Behavioral Health
and Developmental Disabilities
January 2021**

D·B·H·D·D

Part II

Section 1

Community Service Standards for Developmental Disability Providers

Vision:

Easy access to high-quality care that leads to a life of recovery and independence for the people we serve.

Mission:

Leading an accountable and effective continuum of care to support Georgians with behavioral health challenges, and intellectual and developmental disabilities in a dynamic health care environment.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES

DBHDD believes it is critical that services, supports, treatment and care respect the vision of the individual. Each agency or organization must incorporate this belief and practice into its service delivery to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in living a meaningful life in the community. Specifically, the provider must ensure:

- Person-centered service planning and delivery that address the balance of what is important to and for individuals.
- Capacity and capabilities, including qualified and competent providers and staff.
- Participant safeguards.
- Satisfactory participant outcomes.
- Systems of care that have the infrastructure necessary to provide coordinated services, supports, treatment and care.
- Participants' rights and responsibilities.
- Participant access.

The Standards that follow are applicable to the organizations that provide Developmental Disability services to individuals that are financially supported in whole or in part by funds authorized through DBHDD, regardless of the age or disability of the individual served.

Participant self-determination includes freedom, authority and responsibility and is considered key to achieving the vision of *a satisfying, independent life with dignity and respect for everyone*.

ORGANIZATIONAL PRACTICES

A. PROGRAM STRUCTURE

1. The organization has a description of its services that includes a description of:
 - a. The population served;
 - b. How the organization plans to strategically address the needs and desires of those served;
 - c. The services available to potential and current individuals; and
 - d. A detailed expectation and outcomes for services offered.
2. The organization has internal structures that support good business practices such as:
 - a. Clearly stated current policies and procedures for all aspects of the operation of the organization;

- b. Policies and corresponding procedures that direct the practice of the organization;

- c. Staff trained in organization policies and procedures;
 - d. Providing services according to benchmarked practices;
 - e. The level and intensity of services offered is within the organization's scope of services;
 - f. The identified services are offered timely as required by individual need; and
 - g. Administrative and clinical structures are clear and promote unambiguous relationships and responsibilities to support individual care. An accurate and updated organizational chart showing key areas of responsibility is provided to all employees. Employees are aware of established reporting relationships.
3. The organization has a formal code of conduct and other policies communicating appropriate ethical and moral behavioral standards and addressing acceptable operational principles and conflicts of interest.
- a. An ethical tone is established at the top of the organization and has been communicated throughout the organization.
 - b. The code of conduct directly addresses issues such as appropriate use of resources, conflicts of interest, and use of due professional care. The code provides a process for what employees must do if they become aware of unacceptable behavior.
 - c. The code of conduct is acknowledged by signature of all employees and contractors at least annually.
 - d. Appropriate disciplinary action is taken in response from departures from approved policies or violations of the code of conduct.
4. The program description identifies the minimum staff to individual served ratios for each service offered. In addition, the program description needs to address the following considerations:
- a. Staff ratios reflect the needs of individuals supported, implementation of behavioral procedures, best practice guidelines and safety considerations.
 - b. Staff ratios reflect considerations such as licensure waivers and special (exceptional) rates reflecting unique individual care needs, etc.
 - c. Define clearly in P&P and practice, what constitutes the staffing requirements and levels of observation procedures to meet the individual's clinical care and safety needs
 - d. Levels of observation include routine observations whereby staff is maintaining the general awareness of the individual's whereabouts and status by visually observing the individual at least every 30 minutes or as required.
 - e. Continuous/special observations involve increased levels of monitoring and documentation; staff is to maintain continuous visual observation at all times and remain in close enough to intervene and prevent actions that are unsafe to the individual or others.
 - i. Staff requirements for 1:1 observation: Arm's length is not necessarily 1:1 staff support, but the staff must be within arm's length distance while the individual is engaged in an activity. Staff is in close proximity at all times to be able to support and intervene as needed and the 1:1 staff support is exclusively focused on the individual and the staff cannot provide support to another individual or be engaged in any other activity at the time the 1:1 supports are mandated; and
 - ii. Staffing requirements for Line of Sight observation: Line of sight is not 1:1 staff support but the staff has the ability to always view the individual and intervene and provide support as needed; when multiple individuals are on line of sight, staffing ratios are increased to meet the care needs of each individual.
5. Applicable statutory requirements, rules, regulations, licensing, accreditation, and contractual/agreement requirements are evident in organizational policies, procedures and practices.
- a. Appropriate licenses are obtained for residential services, if applicable;
 - b. Licensure and other permits, when applicable, must be available at the agency or by the individual provider and open to view by the public;
 - c. Accreditation/compliance with community standards requirements meet contractual requirements;
 - d. All DD Providers must have current general liability insurance listing DBHDD as the certificate holder in the amount of \$1 million per occurrence and \$3 million aggregate; and

- e. The Provider must demonstrate full cooperation in allowing full and complete access by DBHDD and its agents and state and federal agencies to conduct reviews to evaluate and improve quality of service delivery, administrative performance and/or individual complaints.
- 6. There is a written budget which includes expenses and revenue that serves as a plan for managing resources. Utilization of fiscal resources is assessed in Quality Improvement Processes and/or by the Board of Directors.
- 7. The organization policy must state explicitly in writing whether or not research is conducted on individuals served by the organization.
 - a. If the organization wishes to conduct research involving individuals, a research design shall be developed and must be approved by:
 - i. The agency's governing authority;
 - ii. The Director of Division of Developmental Disabilities; and
 - iii. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) operated by the Department of Public Health (DPH) and its policies as provided in [Research, Protection of Human Subjects, and Institutional Review Board \(IRB\), 25-101](#).
 - b. The research design shall include:
 - i. A statement of rationale;
 - ii. A plan to disclose benefits and risks of research to the participating individual;
 - iii. A commitment to obtain written consent of the individuals participating; and
 - iv. A plan to acquire documentation that the individual is informed that they can withdraw from the research process at any time.
 - c. The organization using unusual medication and investigational experimental medications shall be considered to be doing research.
 - i. Policies and procedures governing the use of unusual medications and unusual investigational and experimental medications shall be in place;
 - ii. Policies, procedures, and guidelines for research promulgated by the DPH Institutional Review Board shall be followed;
 - iii. The research design shall be approved and supervised by a physician;
 - iv. Information on the medications used that shall be maintained include:
 - a) Medication dosage forms;
 - b) Dosage range;
 - c) Storage requirements;
 - d) Adverse reactions; and
 - e) Usage and contraindications.
 - v. Pharmacological training about the medication(s) shall be provided to nurses who administer the medications; and
 - vi. Medications utilized shall be properly labeled.
 - d. If research is conducted, there is evidence that involved individuals are:
 - i. Fully aware of the risks and benefits of the research;
 - ii. Have documented their willingness to participate through full informed consent; and
 - iii. Can verbalize their choice to participate in the research. If the individual is unable to verbalize or otherwise communicate this information, there is evidence that a legal representative, guardian or guardian ad litem has received this information and consented accordingly.

Organizations that provide developmental disability services must participate in the Georgia Developmental Disabilities Provider information website. The address is <https://www.georgiacollaborative.com/>.

- 8. **Children eighteen (18) and younger may not be served** with adults in residential programs. Situations representing exceptions to this standard must have written documentation from the DBHDD Regional Field Office such as:

- a. Exceptions must demonstrate that it would be disruptive to the living configuration and relationships to disturb the 'family' make-up of those living together.
- b. Emancipated minors and juveniles who are age seventeen (17) years may be served with adults when their life circumstances demonstrate they are more appropriately served in an adult environment.

B. OVERSIGHT OF CONTRACTED PROVIDERS/PROFESSIONALS BY THE ORGANIZATION

1. The organization is responsible for the Contracted Provider (s) such as Host Home Providers and/or Contracted Professionals for Nursing and Behavioral Services and DDP are in compliance with:
 - a. Contract/Agreement requirements, documented and maintained for review;
 - b. Standards of practice and specified requirements in the provider manual for DBHDD, including *Community Standards for All Providers*;
 - c. Licensure requirements (Provider shall hold the Community Living Arrangement License {or Personal Care Home Permit for providers approved prior to July 2011} by Healthcare Facility Regulations {HFR} for Community Residential Alternative services for all residential sites housing individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) as required by HFR).
 - d. Accreditation or Community Service Standards Quality Review requirements
 - e. Quality improvement and risk reduction activities; and
 - f. Contracting of Community Residential Alternative Service is Limited (Restricted) to Host Home Providers. Each Host Home require site specific enrollment.
2. There is documented evidence of active oversight of the Contracted Provider/Professional capacity and compliance to provide quality care to include monitoring of:
 - a. Financial oversight and management of individual funds;
 - b. Staff competency and training;
 - c. Mechanisms that assure care is provided according to the plan of care for each individual served; and
 - d. The requirement for a Host Home Study when contracting with a Host Home provider, to provide updating and meeting home study requirements for new members to include general health examination, screening for communicable disease, criminal records check/clearance, character references and training compliance.
3. All nursing services delivered by contracted provider(s) with a Private Home Care (PHC) license or Community Living Arrangements (CLA) license must at a minimum meet the requirements for contracting nursing services outlined in the NOW/COMP Waiver Manuals Part II and Part III and Rules and Regulations for PHC Nursing Services found at <https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/>. **Note:** All nursing services provided under a CLA license require site-specific nursing enrollment.
4. A report shall be made quarterly to the agency's Board of Directors regarding:
 - a. Services provided by Contracted/Subcontracted Provider/Professional; and
 - b. Quality of performance of the Contracted/Subcontracted Provider/Professional.
5. A report shall be made to the DBHDD Regional Field Office prior to the end of the first quarter and third quarter of the fiscal year that includes:
 - a. Name and contact information of all contracted providers;
 - b. The specific services provided by each contracted provider;
 - c. The number and location of individual supported by each contracted provider; and
 - d. Annualized amount paid to each contracted provider.

C. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

1. There is a well-defined quality improvement plan for assessing and improving organizational quality. The QI plan addresses:
 - a. Processes for how issues are identified;
 - b. What solutions are implemented;

- c. Any new or additional issues are identified and managed on an ongoing basis;
 - d. The internal structures minimize risks for individuals and staff;
 - e. The processes used for assessing and improving organizational quality are identified; and
 - f. The quality improvement plan is reviewed and updated at a minimum annually and this review is documented.
2. Areas of risk to persons served and to the organization are identified and monitored based on services, supports, treatment or care offered including, but not limited to:
- a. Incidents and accidents:
 - i. There is evidence that incidents are reported to the DBHDD Office of Incident Management as required by [Reporting Deaths and Other Incidents in Community Services, 04-106](#).
 - ii. There is evidence that internal incidents not required to be reported to DBHDD are recorded and monitored.
 - b. Health and Safety;
 - c. Complaints & Grievances;
 - i. The organization's policy and process for complaints and grievances should include the external process as defined in [Complaints and Grievances Regarding Community Services, 19-101](#).
 - d. Individual Rights Violations;
 - i. There is documented evidence that any restrictive interventions utilized must be reviewed by the organization's Rights Sub-Committee;
 - e. Practices that limit freedom of choice or movement;
 - f. Medication Management;
 - g. Infection Control;
 - h. Positive Behavior Support Plan tracking and monitoring to include restrictive interventions to include review for efficacy of plan and needed adjustments, recommendations and modifications are made in a timely manner;
 - i. Breaches of Confidentiality;
 - j. Protection of Health and Human Rights of persons with developmental disabilities;
 - k. Implementation of ISPs; and
 - l. Community Integration.
3. Indicators of performance are in place for assessing and improving organizational quality. The organization is able to demonstrate:
- a. The indicators of performance established for each issue:
 - i. The method of routine data collection and reporting;
 - ii. The method of routine measurement;
 - iii. The method of routine evaluation; and
 - iv. Target goals/expectations for each indicator;
 - b. Outcome Measurements determined and reviewed for each indicator on a quarterly basis;
 - c. The inclusion of cultural diversity competency practices is evident by:
 - i. Staff articulating an understanding of the social, cultural, religious and other needs and differences unique to the individual;
 - ii. Staff honoring these differences and preferences (such as worship or dietary preferences in supporting the individuals daily; and
 - iii. The inclusion of cultural competency in Quality Improvement Processes.
 - d. Distribution of Quality Improvement findings on a quarterly basis to:
 - i. Individuals served or their representatives including contracting Regional Field Office(s) as indicated in the plan;
 - ii. Organizational staff;
 - iii. The governing body; and
 - iv. Other stakeholders as determined by the governing body.

4. At least four individual records or the records of five percent (5%) of the total number of individuals served (whichever number is greater) are reviewed each quarter and the reviews are kept for a period of at least two years. Records of individuals who are “at risk” are included. Reviews include these determinations:
 - a. That the record is organized; complete, accurate and timely;
 - b. Whether services are based on assessment and need;
 - c. That individuals have choices;
 - d. Documentation of service delivery including individuals’ responses to services and progress toward ISP goal(s);
 - e. Documentation of health service delivery;
 - f. Medication management and delivery, including the use of PRN and over the counter PRN medications; and their effectiveness;
 - g. That approaches implemented for individuals with challenging behaviors are addressed as specified in the *Guidelines for Supporting Adults with Challenging Behaviors in Community Settings*. When a behavioral support plan is necessary, providers of developmental disability services develop these plans in accordance with the *Best Practice Standards for Behavioral Support Service* (www.dbhdd.georgia.gov); and
5. Appropriate utilization of human resources is assessed, including but not limited to:
 - a. Competency;
 - b. Qualifications;
 - c. Numbers and type of staff, for example, a behavior specialist, required based on the services, supports, treatment and care needs of persons served; and
 - d. Staff to individual ratios.
6. The organization has an advisory board made up of citizens, local business providers, individuals and family members. The Board:
 - a. Meets at least semi-annually;
 - b. Reviews items such as but not limited to:
 - i. Policies;
 - ii. Risk management reports; and
 - iii. Assess budget and utilization of fiscal resources.
 - c. Provides objective guidance to the organization.

D. MEDICATION AND HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT (CRITICAL)

1. A current copy of the physician(s) order or current prescription dated and signed within the past year is placed in the individual’s record for every medication administered or self-administered with supervision. These include:
 - a. Regular, on-going medications;
 - b. Controlled substances;
 - c. PRN (as needed) Over-the-counter (OTC) medications;
 - d. PRN medications (does not include standing orders for psychotropic medications for symptom management of behavior); or
 - e. Discontinuance order.
2. Clinicians electing to prescribe psychotropic medications are to do so in accordance with their credentialed privileges and established prescribing practices. The following are also required:
 - a. Informed consent for the medication is obtained and a signed copy is maintained in the clinical record. It is the responsibility of the physician/designee to complete the informed consent;
 - i. Psychotropic Medication requiring informed consent include: antipsychotic, anti-manic, antidepressant, anti-anxiety and anti-obsessive medications as well as other medications employed

- as treatment of psychiatric disorders. This does not include medications typically prescribed for extra-pyramidal side effects.
- b. The treating physician, physician assistant and/or nurse practitioner personally examines the individual to determine whether this person has the capacity to understand to consent for herself or himself;
 - c. If the individual does not have the capacity to consent for herself or himself, an appropriate substitute decision maker is identified based on the Order of Priority outlined in Georgia Medical Consent Law O.C.G.A. 31-9-2;
 - d. The risks/benefits are explained in language the individual can understand;
 - e. Medication education provided by the organization's staff should be documented in the clinical record; and
 - f. Education regarding the risks and benefits of the medication is documented.
3. The organization must have written policies, procedures, and practices specific to the type of services provided for all aspects of medication management including, but not limited to:
- a. Prescribing:
 - i. The physician's order or current prescription is defined as a prescription signed by one authorized to prescribe in Georgia; or
 - ii. Electronic prescriptions (e.g. E-scripts and Sure scripts), if applicable.
 - b. Authenticating orders: Describes the required time frame for obtaining the actual or faxed physician's signature for telephone or verbal orders accepted by a licensed nurse (if the provider agency nurse accepts the order telephonically).
 - c. Ordering, procuring medication and refills: Procuring initial prescription medication and over-the-counter medications within twenty-four hours of prescription receipt, and refills before twenty-four hours of the exhaustion of current medication supply.
 - d. Medication Labeling: Describes that all medications must have a label affixed by a licensed professional with the authority to do so. This includes sample medications.
 - e. Storing: Includes prescribed medications, floor stock medications, refrigerated medications, and controlled substances.
 - f. Security: Requires safe storage of medication as required by law including single and double locks, shift counting of the medications, individual dose sign-out recording, documented planned destruction, and refrigeration between 34 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit and daily temperature logs. All controlled substances are double locked and there is documented accountability of controlled substances at all stages of possession.
 - g. Dispensing: Describes the process allowed for pharmacists and/or physicians only. Includes the verification of the individual's medications from other agencies and provides a documentation log with the pharmacist or physician's signature and date when the medication was verified. Only physicians or pharmacists may re-package or dispense medications:
 - i. This includes the re-packaging of medications into containers such as "day minders" and medications that are sent with the individual when the individual is away from his residence.
 - ii. Note that an individual capable of independent self-administration of medication may be coached in setting up their personal "day minder".
 - h. Supervision of individual self-administration: Includes all steps in the process from verifying the physician's medication order to documentation and observation of the individual for the medication's effects, each time, and supervision of individual self-administration occurs. Makes clear that staff members may not administer medications unless licensed to do so, and the methods staff members may use to supervise or assist, such as via hand-over-hand technique, when an individual self-administers his/her medications. Where medications are self-administered, protocols are defined for training to support individual self-administration of medication.
 - i. Administration of medications: Administration of medications may be done only by those who are licensed in this state to do so.

- j. Recording: Includes the guidelines for documentation of all aspects of medication management. This includes adding and discontinuing medication, charting scheduled and as needed medications, observations regarding the effects of medications, refused and missing doses, making corrections, and a legend for recording. The legend includes initials, signature and title of staff member.
 - k. Disposal of discontinued or out-of-date medication: Includes via an environmentally friendly method of disposal by pharmacy.
 - l. Education to the individual and family (as approved by the individual) regarding all medications prescribed and documentation of the education provided in the clinical record.
 - m. All PRN or “as needed” medications will be accessible for each individual on site as per his/her prescriber(s) order(s) and as defined in the individual’s ISP. Additionally, the organization must have written protocols and documented practice that ensures safe and timely accessibility that includes, at a minimum, how medication will be stored, secured or refrigerated when transported to different programs and home visits.
 - n. Timeliness of medication administration/supervision: Organizations must adopt medication administration/supervision Policy and Procedure (P&P) based on accepted standards of practice that meet the individual safety needs, the nature of the prescribed medication and its specific clinical use. P&P must address protocols for obtaining/educating organizational staff in the specific individualized medication information from the individual’s primary physician, a prescribing practitioner or pharmacy for the importance of timeliness of medication administration/supervision of medications.
4. Organizational policy, procedures and documented practices stipulate that:
- a. If “health maintenance activities” are elected by an individual/guardian to be provided by Proxy Caregivers (means an unlicensed person trained to be a proxy caregiver functioning independently in a Licensed Residential Facility **OR** a Licensed Facility employs, contracts or refers proxy caregivers), the Licensed DD provider agencies, including co-employer agencies must abide by the Rules of Department of Community Health Healthcare Facility Regulation Chapter 111-80-100, Rules & Regulations for Proxy Caregivers used in licensed Healthcare facilities. The licensed DD provider agency/co-employer must:
 - i. Have a written informed consent in the individual’s record that designate the selected proxy caregiver to provide the actual health maintenance activities outlined in the written orders of the attending Physician, or an Advanced Practice Nurse or Physician Assistance working under a nurse protocol agreement or job description respectively;
 - ii. Have documentation that demonstrate necessary knowledge and skills by proxy caregiver to perform the health maintenance activities including identified specialized procedures for such individual as written in the plan of care. **Note:** There must be a separate skills checklist for each health maintenance activity that the proxy caregiver provides. In addition, the competency based skills checklists must reflect a testing of the knowledge and observation of the skills associated with the completion of all the discrete tasks necessary to complete the health maintenance activity in accordance with accepted standard of care;
 - iii. Health maintenance activities to be implemented by the proxy caregiver are clearly defined in the written care plan for the provision of health maintenance activity to include the frequency of trainings (at a minimum must occur no less frequently than annually), additional training necessitated by changes in the written plan and competency based evaluation requirements for the proxy caregiver. **Note:** A written plan of care form for the provision of health maintenance activities is made available by the Department of Community Health (DCH) Healthcare Facility Regulation for use. If another form is utilized, the form must contain all the required elements of this form;
 - iv. The organization’s policy, procedures, and documented practices clearly define the scope of what health maintenance activities can or cannot be provided by the proxy caregiver and that delivery of such activities are specified for each individual. Refer to Rules &

Regulations for Proxy Caregivers Chapter 111-80-100 for complete details of practices, including notification procedures for change in the condition of the individual which may require evaluation/treatment by a licensed healthcare professional, a back-up plan is in place in the event that the proxy caregiver is not available for any reason, and safety/security precautions to protect the individual supported. In addition, P&P must address Prohibited Assistance by Proxy Caregivers (e.g. of prohibited assistance by proxy caregivers such as mixing/compounding/converting or calculating medication doses, interpreting “PRN” (as needed) medication order when the order does not identify the individual’s behavior or symptoms which would trigger the need for the PRN medication;

- v. For Licensed Facilities using Proxy Caregivers to provide medication administration, if permitted, must maintain documentation that the facility has trained their proxy caregivers in accordance with the Medication Administration Training Curriculum established by DCH. A copy of this training provided by the DD residential provider agency/co-employer for the proxy caregiver in the staff file.
- b. There are safeguards utilized for medications known to have substantial risk or undesirable effects, to include:
 - i. Obtaining and maintaining copies of appropriate lab testing and assessment tools that accompany the use of the medications prescribed from the individual’s physician for the individual’s clinical record, or at a minimum, documenting in the clinical record the requests for the copies of these tests and assessments, and follow-up appointments with the individual’s physician for any further actions needed;
 - ii. For individual in residential services, there is documentation of a review of polypharmacy usage in order to ensure that intra-class and inter-class polypharmacy use for psychiatric reasons are justifiable, if applicable, using the following monitoring criteria:
 - Intra-class Polypharmacy monitoring reports includes individuals who are on more than one psychotropic medication in the same single class of medications (two (2) or more antipsychotics, antidepressants, mood stabilizers). e.g. the use of two (2) antidepressants to treat depression.
 - Inter-class Polypharmacy monitoring reports includes individuals who are on three (3) or more different classes of medications (antipsychotics, antidepressants, mood stabilizers). e.g. the use of an antipsychotic, an antidepressant and mood stabilizer to treat someone with Schizoaffective Disorder.
 - c. There are protocols for the handling of licit and illicit drugs brought into the service setting. This includes confiscating, reporting, documenting, educating, and appropriate discarding of the substances.
 - d. The organization defines requirements for timely notification to the prescribing professional regarding:
 - i. Medication errors;
 - ii. Medication problems;
 - iii. Medication reactions;
 - iv. Refusal of medication by the individual; and
 - v. Failure to administer/supervise on time medications.
 - e. There are practices for regular and ongoing physician review of prescribed medications including, but not limited to:
 - i. Appropriateness of the medication;
 - ii. Documented need for continued use of the medication;
 - iii. Monitoring the presence of side effects (Individuals on medications likely to cause Tardive Dyskinesia are monitored at prescribed intervals using an Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale (AIMS) testing);

- iv. Monitoring of therapeutic blood levels, if required by the medication such as Blood Glucose testing, Dilantin blood levels and Depakote blood levels;
 - v. Ordering specific monitoring and treatment protocols for diabetic, hypertensive, seizure disorder, and cardiac individuals, especially related to medications prescribed and required vital sign parameters for administration;
 - vi. Maintain individualized medication protocols for specific individuals receiving health maintenance activities; and
 - vii. Monitoring of other associated laboratory studies.
- f. There is a biennial assessment of agency practice of management of medications at all sites housing medications. An independent licensed pharmacist or licensed registered nurse conducts the assessment. The report shall include, but may not be limited to:
- i. A written report of findings, including corrections required;
 - ii. A photocopy of the pharmacist's license or a photocopy of the license of the Registered Nurse; and
 - iii. A statement of attestation from the independent licensed pharmacist or licensed Registered Nurse that all issues have been corrected.
- g. The organization needs to have policy which describes the process for developing individualized healthcare plans, monitoring, reporting and, if applicable, preventative healthcare maintenance, to include but not limited to the healthcare needs referenced below.
- i. Bowel and Bladder Management
 - ii. Gastrointestinal Management
 - iii. Neurological Management
 - iv. Skin Integrity Management
 - v. Endocrine Management
 - vi. Respiratory Management
 - vii. Cardiovascular Management
 - viii. Musculoskeletal Management
 - ix. Reproductive Management
 - x. Mental Health with Medication Management
 - xi. Preventative and Routine Healthcare Maintenance
 - xii. Other Specific Healthcare Plan
- h. Healthcare Plans are to be reviewed and revised as often as the severity of the individual's condition requires (i.e., change in medication, treatment, parameters, or condition) or at a minimum of annually (in conjunction with the ISP review). The review must be accompanied by an updated RN signature and date. Healthcare Plans do not expire. They are applicable to the individual until there is a condition change that results in an update or termination of the plan. For more information regarding healthcare plans see [Healthcare Plans for Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities \(I/DD\) in Community Settings. 02-266.](#)
5. The "Eight Rights" for each medication administration are defined with detailed guidelines for staff to implement within the organization to verify that right:
- a. Right person: check the name on the order and the individual and include the use of at least two identifiers.
 - b. Right medication: check the medication label against the order.
 - c. Right time: check the frequency and time to be given of the ordered medication and double check that the ordered dose is given at the correct time. Confirm when last dose was given.
 - d. Right dose: includes verification of the physician's medication order of dosage amount of the medication; with the label on the prescription medication container and the Medication Administration Record (MAR) document to ensure all are the same.
 - e. Right route: check the order and appropriateness of route ordered and confirm that the individual can take or receive the medication by the ordered route.

- f. Right position: the correct anatomical position for the medication method or route to ensure its proper effect, instillation and retention. If needed, individual should be assisted to assume the correct position.
 - g. Right documentation: document the administration/supervision after the ordered medication is given on the MAR; and
 - h. Right to Refuse Medication: includes staff responsibilities to encourage compliance, document the refusal, and report the refusal to the administration, nurse administrator, and physician.
6. A Medication Administration Record (MAR) is in place for each calendar month that an individual takes or receives medication(s):
- a. Documentation of routine, ongoing medications occur in one discreet portion of the MAR and include but may not be limited to:
 - i. Documentation by calendar month that is sequential according to the days of the month;
 - ii. A listing of all medications taken or administered during that month including a full replication of information in the physician's order for each medication:
 - a) Name of the medication
 - b) Dose as ordered;
 - c) Route as ordered;
 - d) Time of day as ordered; and
 - e) Special instructions accompanying the order, if any, such as but not limited to:
 - Must be taken with meals;
 - Must be taken with fruit juice;
 - May not be taken with milk or milk products.
 - iii. If the individual is to take or receive the medication more than one time during one calendar day:
 - a) Each time of day must have a corresponding line that permits as many entries as there are days in the month;
 - iv. All lines representing days and times preceding the beginning or ending of an order for medications shall be marked through with a single line;
 - v. When a physician discontinues (D/C) a medication order, that discontinuation is reflected by the entry of "D/C" at the date and time representing discontinuation; followed by a mark through of all lines representing days and times that were discontinued.
 - b. Documentation of medications that are taken or received on a periodic basis, including over the counter medications, occur in a separate discreet portion of the MAR and include but may not be limited to:
 - i. Documentation by calendar month that is sequential according to the days of the month;
 - ii. A listing of each medication taken or received on a periodic basis during that month including a full replication of information in the physician's order for each medication:
 - a) Name of medication;
 - b) Dose as ordered;
 - c) Route as ordered;
 - d) Purpose of the medication; and
 - e) Frequency that the medication may be taken.
 - iii. The date and time the medication is taken or received is documented for each use.
 - iv. When 'PRN' or 'as needed' medication is used, the PRN medications shall be documented on the same MAR after the routine medications and clearly marked as "PRN" and the effectiveness is documented.
 - c. Each MAR shall include the legend that clarifies:
 - i. The identity of the authorized staff's initials using full signature and title;
 - ii. The reasons that a medication may not be given, is held or otherwise note received by the individual, such as but not limited to:

“H”	=	Hospital
“R”	=	Refused
“NPO”	=	Nothing by mouth
“HM”	=	Home Visit
“DS”	=	Day Service

E. ADEQUATE AND COMPETENT STAFF (CRITICAL)

1. Unless otherwise specified by DBHDD policy or within the contract/agreement with DBHDD, one or more professionals in the field must be attached to the organization as employees of the organization or as consultants on contract. The professional(s) attached to the organization have experience in the field of expertise best suited to address the needs of the individual(s) served (Refer to Professional Designation Section G).
2. When medical and/or psychiatric services involving medication are provided, the organization receives direction for that service from a professional with experience in the field, such as medical director, physician consultant, or psychiatrist.
3. DDP services must be rendered by a qualified individual DDP employed by or under contract with the agency. At least one agency employee or professional under contract with the agency must be a DDP (Refer to Professional Designation Section G for a list of professionals who qualify to be a DDP).
4. The DDP staff file must include the following:
 - a. A signed DDP job functions that meet the DDP requirements for oversight and professional consultation;
 - b. A specified schedule for each site and sufficient contract hours (not a PRN staff) to meet the individual’s needs of the assigned caseload must be maintained on site;
 - c. There is documentation of attestation by the DDP that the scheduled or contracted hours do not conflict with his/her work with another provider agency;
 - d. A copy of diploma, license or certification to verify qualifications for performing DDP job functions is maintained; and
 - e. Annual evaluation of adequacy of the DDP deliverable relative to the agency functions and needs as part of QI activities.
5. DDP documentation requirements must include the following:
 - a. Agencies will identify for the DDP’s ongoing review any participant receiving clinical services (nursing, therapy(s), behavioral services) and any participant with changes in functional, medical, behavioral or social status;
 - b. There is documentation to verify all necessary face-to-face participant’s visits, other contact or communication with or on behalf of the participants in the participant’s record;
 - c. Documentation will contain the purpose of the visit or contact, assessment or evaluation, training, plan for intervention, and any changes in service delivery such as change in staff recommendations;
 - d. DDP documentation must meet documentations requirements of date, location of service delivery, signature (title), beginning and ending time when the service was provided.
6. Organizational policy and practice demonstrates that appropriate professional staff shall conduct the following services, supports, care and treatment, including but not limited to:
 - a. Reviewing individuals clinical documentation as delineated in the I/DD Case Management System [I/DD Connects] and any other relevant documentation as appropriate;
 - b. Overseeing the services, supports, care and treatment provided to individuals;
 - c. Supervising the formulation of the individual service plan or individual recovery plan;
 - d. Conducting diagnostic, behavioral, functional and educational assessments;
 - e. Designing and writing Positive Behavior Support Plans;
 - f. Implementing assessment, care and treatment activities as defined in professional practice acts; and

- g. Supervising high intensity services such as screening or evaluation, assessment, and residential positive behavior support services.
7. Providers must ensure an adequate staffing pattern to provide access to services in accordance with service guidelines and professional designations. Refer to Service Guidelines in this Provider Manual for specific staffing requirements.
 8. The type and number of professional staff and all other staff attached to the organization are:
 - a. Properly trained, licensed or credentialed in the professional field as required;
 - b. Present in numbers to provide adequate supervision to staff;
 - c. Present in numbers to provide services, supports, care and treatment to individuals as required;
 - d. In 24 hour or residential care settings, at least onestaff is trained in Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) and first aid and is on duty at all times on each shift;
 - e. DD providers using Proxy Caregivers must receive training that includes knowledge and skills to perform any identified specialized health maintenance activity. Documentation includes evidence that proxy caregivers are trained in accordance with the Medication Administration Training Curriculum established by DCH.
 - f. Experienced and competent to provide services, supports, care and treatment and/or supervision as required; and
 - g. Behavior Support Consultant and provider of Behavior Support Services have documentations of proficiency trainings in behavioral support courses completed within six (6) months of enrollment as a provider of services.
 9. The organization must have procedures and practices for verifying licenses, credentials, experience and competence of staff:
 - a. There is documentation of implementation of these procedures for all staff attached to the organization; and
 - b. Licenses and credentials are current as required by the field.
 10. Federal law, state law, professional practice acts and in-field certification requirements are followed regarding:
 - a. Professional or non-professional licenses and qualifications are required to provide the services offered. If it is determined that a service requiring licensure or certification by State Law is being provided by an unlicensed staff, it is the responsibility of the organization to comply with [Professional Licensing or Certification Requirements and the Reporting of Practice Act Violations, 04-101](#).
 - b. Laws governing hours of work such as but not limited to the Fair Labor Standards Act.
 11. Job descriptions are in place for all staff that include:
 - a. Qualifications for the job;
 - b. Duties and responsibilities;
 - c. Competencies required;
 - d. Expectations regarding quality and quantity of work; and
 - e. Documentation that the individual staff has reviewed, understands, and is working under a job description specific to the work performed within the organization.
 12. Processes for managing staff information and records which should include but not be limited to:
 - a. Criminal records checks in accordance with [Criminal History Records Checks for DBHDD Network Provider Applicants, 04-104](#) (including process for reporting CRC status change);
 - b. Driver's license checks to include Motor Vehicle Records (MVR) checks; and
 - c. Annual TB testing (for all staff providing direct support).
 - d. Provisions for and documentation of:
 - i. Timely orientation of staff;
 - ii. Periodic assessment and development of training needs;
 - Development of activities responding to those needs; and
 - iii. Annual work performance evaluations.
 - e. Provisions for sanctioning and removal of staff when:

- i. Staff are determined to have deficits in required competencies;
 - ii. Staff is accused of abuse, neglect or exploitation.
 - f. Administration of staff policies without discrimination.
- 13. All staff, direct support volunteers, and direct support consultants shall receive competency-based trainings in the following:
 - a. Orientation requirements are specified for all staff and are provided **prior to direct contact with individuals** and are as follows:
 - i. The purpose, scope of services, supports, care and treatment offered including related policies and procedures;
 - ii. HIPAA and Confidentiality of individual information, both written and spoken;
 - iii. Rights and Responsibilities of individuals;
 - iv. Requirements for recognizing and mandatory reporting suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of any individual:
 - To the DBHDD;
 - Within the organization;
 - To appropriate licensing agencies (Healthcare Facility Regulation) and for in home services (Adult Protective Services); and
 - To law enforcement agencies.

For more information regarding reporting requirements, see [Reporting Deaths and Other Incidents in Community Services, 04-106](#). Please note Attachment B includes information on incident reporting requirements to other agencies.
 - b. Within the first sixty (60) days from date of hire, all staff having direct contact with individuals shall receive training in the following which shall include, but not be limited to:
 - i. Person centered values, principles and approaches;
 - ii. A holistic approach for providing care, supports and services for the individual;
 - iii. Medical, physical, behavioral and social needs and characteristics of the individuals served;
 - iv. Human Rights and Responsibilities (*);
 - v. Promoting positive, appropriate and responsive relationships with persons served, their families and stakeholders;
 - vi. The utilization of:
 - Communication Skills (*);
 - Behavioral Support and Crisis Intervention techniques that are nationally benchmarked techniques for safe utilization of emergency interventions of last resort (*); and
 - The Georgia Crisis Response System (GCRS) to access crisis services.
 - vii. Ethnic, and Cultural Diversity Policies;
 - viii. Fire safety (*);
 - ix. Emergency and disaster plans and procedures (*);
 - x. Techniques of Standard Precautions to include:
 - Preventative measures to minimize risk of infectious disease transmission;
 - Use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE);
 - Sharps Safety (with sharp containers disposed of according to state and local regulated medical waste rules);
 - Environmental Controls for cleaning and disinfecting work surfaces;
 - Skills Guides for handwashing, cleaning up spills, gloves use, and what to do with contaminated supplies;
 - Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquettes for cough, congestion, runny nose or increase production of respiratory secretions; and
 - Approaches to individual education to include incident reporting and follow-up.
 - xi. First aid and safety;
 - xii. BCLS including both written and hands on competency training is required;

- xiii. Specific individual medications and their side effects (*);
- xiv. Suicide Prevention Skills Training (such as AIM, QPRP);
- xv. Ethics and Corporate Compliance training is evident.
- xvi. Training to work with individuals who have co-occurring are dually diagnosed, as appropriate; and
- xvii. Training provided on proper body mechanics for lifting/transferring/positioning as a basic requirement to assist in performing activities of daily living safely. In addition, prior to working with each individual, training on the individualized specific condition as written in each individual's care plan protocol should be conducted, if applicable. (*)
- xviii. A minimum of 16 hours of training must be completed annually from date of hire to include the trainings noted by an asterisk (*) in 13.b.

14. The organization details in policy by job classification:

- a. Competency-based trainings that must be refreshed annually from date of hire;
- b. Procedures for validating staff competency within the designated orientation period as outlined in organizational policy and thereafter annually. All competency validations documentation to be maintained in the staff staff file;
- c. Additional training required for professional level staff; and
- d. Additional training/recertification (if applicable) required for all other staff.

15. Regular review and evaluation of the performance of all staff is documented at a minimum annually by managers who are clinically, administratively and experientially qualified to conduct evaluations on the staff's Knowledge, Skills & Abilities (KS &A) to deliver person-centered services.

16. It is evident that the organization demonstrates administration of staff policies without discrimination.

OUTCOMES FOR PERSONS SERVED

A. INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, PROTECTIONS (CRITICAL)

1. There is evidence of the individual or legal guardian's signature on notification that all individuals are informed about their rights and responsibilities:
 - a. At the onset of services, supports, care and treatment;
 - b. At least annually during care;
 - c. Through written information that is well prepared in a language/format understandable by the individual; and
 - d. How confidentiality will be addressed including but not limited to who they wish to be informed about their services, supports, care and treatment.
2. The organization has policies and promotes practices that:
 - a. Do not discriminate;
 - b. Promote receiving equitable supports from the organization;
 - c. Provide services, supports, care and treatment in the least restrictive environment possible;
 - d. Emphasize the use of teaching functional communication, functional adaptive skills to increase independence, and using least restrictive interventions that are likely to be effective;
 - e. Incorporate Clients Rights and the Human Rights Council policy found at www.dbhdd.ga.gov, as applicable to the organization; and
 - f. Delineates the rights and responsibilities of persons served.
3. In policy and practice, the organization makes it clear that under no circumstances will the following occur:
 - a. Threats of harm or mistreatment (overt or implied);
 - b. Corporal punishment;
 - c. Fear-eliciting procedures;
 - d. Abuse or neglect of any kind;
 - e. Withholding basic nutrition or nutritional care; or

- f. Withholding of any basic necessity such as clothing, shelter, rest or sleep.
- 4. Federal and state law and rules are evident in policy and practice including, but not limited to:
 - a. For **all community based programs**, practices promulgated by DBHDD or the Rules or Regulations for Clients Rights, Chapter 290-4-9 are incorporated into the care of individuals served. Issues addressed include but are not limited to:
 - i. Care in the least restrictive environment;
 - ii. Humane treatment or habilitation that affords protection from harm, exploitation or coercion; and
 - iii. Unless adjudicated incompetent by a court of law, be considered legally competent for any purpose without due process of law, including to maintain:
 - Civil;
 - Political;
 - Personal; and
 - Property rights.
 - b. For **all DD Crisis programs service adults, children or youth**, practices promulgated by DBHDD, the Rules and Regulations for Clients Rights, Chapter 290-4-9 and Operational and Clinical Standards for Georgia Crisis Response System (GCRS-DD) are incorporated into the treatment of adults, children and youth served in the crisis programs.
- 5. There are no barriers in accessing the services, supports, care and treatment offered by the organization, including but not limited to:
 - a. Geographic;
 - b. Architectural;
 - c. Communication;
 - i. Language access is provided to individuals with limited English proficiency or who are sensory impaired;
 - ii. All applicable DBHDD policies regarding Limited English Proficiency and Sensory Impairment are followed. They include [Nondiscrimination and Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities and Individuals with Limited English Proficiency, 15-100](#), and [DBHDD Field Office Access Coordinators, 15-103](#).
 - d. Attitudinal;
 - e. Procedural; and
 - f. Organizational scheduling and availability.
- 6. The following provisions apply to services for individuals with hearing loss, or who are deaf-blind. Providers of services to individuals who either identify as deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing, or whom the provider believes may be deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing, must provide accommodations appropriate to allow those individuals to access services. Such accommodations include, but are not limited to:
 - a. appropriate physical plant measures such as
 - i. visual fire alarms,
 - ii. visual door knockers for areas where the individuals may desire privacy, and
 - iii. closed-captioning or subtitles for televised programming;
 - b. staff training in American Sign Language (ASL) or in such other form of manual communication as the individual may use to communicate; such training must be sufficient to allow staff who provide direct care to the individual to communicate clearly with the individual (both to understand what the individual is saying to them and to be understood by the individual);
 - c. for individuals who communicate in American Sign Language (ASL), interpreters capable of interpreting for the individual at ISP meetings and in other settings where needed.
- 7. Providers must promptly notify DBHDD's Office of Deaf Services (DeafServices@dbhdd.ga.gov, Tel: 404.232.1624) if the individual either identifies as deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing, or if the provider believes the individual may be deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing. The Office of Deaf Services will arrange for a Communication Assessment of the individual and prepare a Communication Assessment Report

(CAR). Providers must implement accommodations recommended in the CAR within the time frames identified in the CAR.

8. There is evidence of organizational person-centered planning and service delivery that demonstrates:
 - a. Sensitivity to individual differences (including disabilities) and preferences;
 - b. Practices and activities that reduce stigma; and
 - c. Interactions that is respectful, positive and supportive.
9. The organization must have written policies and procedures regarding the visitation rights of individuals, including a requirement that any reasonable restrictions must be based on the seriousness of the individual's mental or physical condition as ordered in writing by the attending physician. Such orders shall state the type and extent of the restriction. The order shall be reviewed for changes as needed and renewed at least annually. Additional orders shall follow the same procedure. The organization must meet the following requirements:
 - a. Inform each individual (or guardian, or parent or custodian of a minor, as applicable) of his or her visitation rights, including any clinical restriction of such rights, when he or she is informed of his or her other rights under this section;
 - b. Inform each individual (or guardian, or parent or custodian of a minor, as applicable) of the right, subject to his or her consent, to receive visitors whom he or she designates, including, but not limited to, a spouse, a domestic partner (including a same sex domestic partner), another family member, or a friend, and his or her right to withdraw or deny such consent at any time. However, the parent, guardian or custodian of a minor may restrict his or her visitation rights;
 - c. Not restrict, limit, or otherwise deny visitation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability;
 - d. Ensure that all visitors enjoy full and equal visitation privileges consistent with the preferences of the individual;
 - e. Not restrict visitation by an individual's attorney or personal physician on the basis of the individual's physical or mental condition;
 - f. Visitors/guardians are also expected to adhere to any reasonable restrictions as ordered in writing by the attending physician in the area of diet; and
 - g. If visitation facilitates/results in problematic behaviors, reasonable restrictions may be ordered and incorporated into the Safety Plan.
10. Access to Appropriate services, supports, care and treatment is available regardless of:
 - a. Age;
 - b. Race, National Origin, Ethnicity;
 - c. Gender;
 - d. Religion;
 - e. Social Status;
 - f. Physical Disability;
 - g. Mental Disability;
 - h. Gender Identity; and
 - i. Sexual Orientation.

B. BEHAVIORAL SUPPORT PRACTICES (CRITICAL)

1. In policies, procedures and practices, the organization outlines and defines the adaptive, supportive, medical protection devices and the restrictive interventions that are implemented or prohibited by the organization and licensure requirements. These devices include but are not limited to:
 - a. Use of adaptive supportive devices or medical protective devices (devices which restrain movement but are applied for the protection of accidental injury, required for medical treatment or for corrective/supportive needs):
 - i. May be used in any service, support, care and treatment environment;
 - ii. Use is defined by a physician's order (order not to exceed twelve (12) calendar months);

- iii. Written order to include rationale and instructions for the use of the device;
 - iv. Authorized in the individual service plan (ISP);
 - v. Are used for medical and/or protection against injury and not for treatment of challenging behaviors(s); and
 - vi. Renewal order of device requires documentation to justify continued use for a period not to exceed twelve (12) calendar months.
- b. Time out (also known as withdrawal to a quiet area):
- i. Under no circumstance is egress physically or manually restricted;
 - ii. Time out periods must be brief, not to exceed 15 minutes;
 - iii. Procedure for time out utilization is incorporated in the behavior support plan; and
 - iv. The justification for use and implementation details for time out utilization is documented.
- c. Manual Hold/Restraint (also known as Personal Restraints): The application of physical force, without the use of any device, for the purpose of restricting the free movement of a person's body:
- i. May be used in all community settings except residential settings licensed as Personal Care Homes;
 - ii. Circumstances of use must represent an emergency safety intervention of last resort affecting the safety of the individual or of others;
 - iii. Brief handholding (less than 10 seconds) support for the purpose of providing safe crossing, safety or stabilization does not constitute a personal hold;
 - iv. If permitted, Manual/Personal Restraint (ten seconds or more), shall not exceed five (5) minutes and use of personal restraint is documented;
 - v. Use of manual/personal restraints must be outlined as an approved intervention in his/her safety plan; and
 - vi. If manual/personal restraints are implemented more than three (3) times in a six (6) month period, there must be corresponding procedures to teach the individual skills that will decrease/eliminate the use of personal restraints.
- d. Mechanical Restraint (also known as Physical Restraints): A device attached or adjacent to the individual's body that one cannot easily remove and that restricts freedom of movement or normal access to one's body or body parts. Mechanical/Physical restraints are prohibited in community settings.
- e. Seclusion: The involuntary confinement of an individual alone in a room or in any area of a room where the individual is prevented from leaving, regardless of the purpose of the confinement. The practice of "restrictive time-out" (RTO) is seclusion and may not be utilized except in compliance with the requirement related to seclusion. The phrase "prevented from leaving" includes not only the use of a locked door, but also the use of physical control or verbal threats to prevent the individual from leaving. Seclusion is not permitted in developmental disability services.
- f. Chemical restraint may never be used under any circumstance.**
- i. Chemical restraint is defined as a medication or drug that is:
 - Not a standard treatment for the individual's medical or psychiatric condition;
 - Used to control behavior; and
 - Used to restrict the individual's freedom of movement.
 - ii. Examples of chemical restraint are the following:
 - The use of over the counter medications such as Benadryl for the purpose of decreasing an individual's activity level during regular waking hours;
 - The use of an antipsychotic medication for a person who is not psychotic but simply 'pacing' or agitated.
- g. PRN anti-psychotic medications for behavior control are not permitted. See; Appendix I for list of medications.
2. The approach to developing a positive behavior support plan (including a safety plan) and treatment for individuals demonstrating challenging behaviors should be consistent with the definitions and protocols in

the *Guidelines for Supporting Adults with Challenging Behaviors in Community Settings* and *Best Practice Standards for Behavioral Support Services* found at <http://dbhdd.georgia.gov/documents/guidelines-supporting-adults-challenging-behaviors-community-settings>. Behavior Support activities outlined in the PBSP is guided by an overall emphasis on not only decreasing target behaviors but also concurrently increasing skills in appropriate areas. The primary emphasis of the plan should be on pro-active skill building and prevention of challenging behaviors. Refer to service description for Behavior Supports Services in NOW/COMP Waiver requirements.

3. The PBSP and Safety Plan for challenging behaviors should be a collaborative effort among each provider providing services for the individual to include Host Home and Community Access Services Providers. The providers must work to develop and implement one plan that includes any modification and/or interventions specific to the setting but provide a holistic strategy for all settings requiring Behavior Support Services for implementation for each service site and the modification must be addressed and approved prior to finalizing the plan. The final approved PBSP is incorporated by reference into the ISP. A copy of the individual's PBSP must be available at all service sites for implementation. The provider is responsible for training and coaching in the setting where the target behaviors occur.
 - a. A positive behavior support plan should be developed and implemented for individuals with I/DD who receive psychotropic medications for symptom management of challenging behavior that continues to pose a significant risk to the individual, others, or the environment (e.g., self-injury, physical aggression, property destruction) and is not specifically related to mental illness or epilepsy requiring treatment with psychotropic medications. The positive behavior support plan must minimally include:
 - i. An operationally defined behavior(s) for which the medication is intended to affect;
 - ii. Measuring target behaviors which shall constitute the basis on which medication adjustments will be made; and
 - iii. A focus on teaching replacement behaviors in an effort to replace the use of medication with behavioral programming.
 - b. A positive behavior support plan is not required for individuals receiving psychotropic medication to treat mental illness (e.g., schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder) or epilepsy when the record documents that the medication addresses the symptoms of the mental illness or epilepsy.
4. When positive behavior support plan is used to reduce challenging behaviors there must evidence that the following issues have been addressed. The plan is:
 - a. Individualized (Person Centered Planning);
 - b. Based on a functional assessment;
 - c. One that has addressed potential medical causes;
 - d. Developed and overseen by a qualified professional (Refer to the Outcomes for Persons Served Section G for Professional Designations Categories of Psychologist, Behavior Specialists and Board Certified Behavior Analyst);
 - e. PBSP utilizes non-punitive, non-restrictive procedures & interventions;
 - f. Inclusive of methods outlined to teach alternative appropriate behaviors that will achieve the same results as the challenging behavior(s);
 - g. Inclusive of rationale for the following:
 - i. Use of identified approaches;
 - ii. The time of their use;
 - iii. An assessment of the impact on personal choice of the individual;
 - iv. The targeted behavior; and
 - v. How the targeted behavior will be recognized for success.
 - h. Implemented by trained and competent staff as documented by individual who developed the PBSP/Safety Plan and trained the staff;
 - i. Has monitoring plans for review, analyzing trends, and summarizing the effectiveness of the plan and termination criteria. In addition, PBSP are routinely monitored to ensure provider

- compliance with prescribed data collection & interventions;
 - j. Consent provided by the individual and his or her legal guardian;
 - k. Discussed with the individual and family/natural supports (as permitted by the individual);
 - l. Developed in accordance with *Best Practice Standards for Behavioral Support Services for Providers of Developmental Disability Services* (www.dbhdd.ga.gov); and
 - m. All behavioral services to include Behavior Support Consultation and Behavior Support Services adhere to the service description outlined in Part III of the NOW and COMP Manuals located at <https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/>.
5. Providers must document the following in the record of each participant receiving Behavioral Support Consultation Services and Behavior Support Services:
 - a. Specific activity, training, or assistance provided;
 - b. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;
 - c. Location where the service was delivered;
 - d. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title (if applicable) of the person providing services;
 - e. Progress towards goal(s) outlined in ISP; and
 - f. Description of outcome specific to each target behavior intervention to include but not limited to behavioral changes, acquisition of new replacement skills, ability to increase community integration and other positive life outcomes.
 6. Intrusive or restrictive procedures must be clearly justified through documentation of less restrictive procedures ineffectiveness and/or the need for more intrusive procedures due to the safety or health risks presented by the targeted behaviors. These procedures are authorized, incorporated into the PBSP and/Safety Plan, approved by ISP interdisciplinary team, reviewed by organization's Rights Committee and supervised by qualified professional(s) and may not be in conflict with Federal or State Laws, Rules and Regulations, Clients Rights or Department standards to include but not limited to the document *Guidelines for Supporting Adults with Challenging Behaviors in Community Settings* and the *Best Practice Standards for Behavioral Support* when developing a positive behavior support/safety plan.
 7. When Enhanced Service Delivery is approved for specialized behavioral supports, training and skilled service delivery, the following must be addressed in the BSP/safety plan that includes:
 - a. Person-Centered Behavior Supports Planning (PCBS);
 - b. Programmatic guidelines for staff that addresses the individual's preferences and values;
 - c. Collaborative teamwork by all service delivery providers to assist the behavioral professional conducting the functional behavioral assessment across settings (such as residential, day service, supported employment);
 - d. Development of interventions that will be most effective in each setting or situation
 - e. Lifestyle and competency improvements based on the individual's strengths, skills, abilities, personal preferences and choices;
 - f. Safety checks, staff monitoring and ratio are clearly outlined and defined (such as 1:1 support, 2:1 support, line of sight, and arm's length, 1:1 inclusive line of sight);
 - g. A Crisis Plan to support the exceptional behavioral or medical needs;
 - h. There is documented evidence of a clinical assessment and validation of behavior support needs. The clinical assessment is based on HRST & SIS eligibility criteria. E.g., HRST score of 4 on Item Q for 1:1 staffing; SIS score of seven (7) or higher for behavior support; and
 - i. There is at a minimum quarterly documentation by contracted behavioral consultants to verify implementation of the enhanced supports services and the efficacy of the BSP/Safety Plan. The documentation includes at a minimum the summarization and analyzes of the behavioral data collected, the effectiveness of the additional direct 1:1 staffing supports at various settings and training of replacement behaviors.

8. Providers must have processes in place to implement crisis intervention as needed. The staff must be trained to respond to a crisis situation that occurs at the service site and have an agency's crisis plan, that at a minimum addresses:
 - a. Approved interventions to be utilized by staff;
 - b. Availability of additional resources to assist in diffusing the crisis;
 - c. If the acute crisis presents a substantial risk of imminent harm to self and others, that community based crisis services to include the Georgia Crisis Response System (GCRS) serves as an alternative to emergency room care, calling 911, institutional placement, and/or law enforcement involvement (including incarceration) is implemented;
 - d. Protocols to access community-based crisis services to include the Georgia Crisis Response System must be included in agency's policy and procedures with staff trained to implement this protocol; and
 - e. Notification process by Direct Support Staff that includes informing the designated on-call management staff and/or Director.
9. All organizations must have the capacity to address individual's behavioral needs. If the cause of the challenging behavior cannot be determined or satisfactorily addressed by the provider, there should be evidence of consultation with an outside professional who is licensed or qualified through education, supervised training and experience to address the behavior needs of the individual. Those authoring such plans should minimally meet professional criteria as a Psychologist, Behavioral Specialist or a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (Refer to Professional Designations, Section G. for professional qualifications).
10. If the need for behavior supports is identified, the individual or guardian is given a choice to select the qualified person to develop the PBSP and/or Safety plan.

CI. RESPECTFUL SERVICE ENVIRONMENT:

1. Services, supports, care or treatment approaches support the individual in:
 - a. Living in the most integrated community setting appropriate to the individual's requirement, preferences and level of independence;
 - b. Exercising meaningful choices about living environments, providers of services received, the types of supports, and the manner by which services are provided;
 - c. Obtaining quality services in a manner as consistent as possible with community living preferences and priorities; and
 - d. Inclusion and active community integration is supported and evident in documentation.
2. Services are provided in an appropriate environment that is respectful and ensures the privacy of individuals supported or served. (For Host Homes and Community Access Services sites refer to [Process for Enrolling, Matching, and Monitoring Host Home/Life-Sharing Sites for DBHDD Developmental Disabilities Community Service Providers, 02-704](#) and Physical Environment NOW and COMP Manual located at <https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/>. The environment is:
 - a. Clean;
 - b. Age appropriate;
 - c. Accessible (individuals who need assistance with ambulation shall be provided bedrooms that have access to a ground level exit to the outside or have access to exits with easily negotiable ramps or accessible lifts. The home shall provide at least two (2) exits, remote from each other that are accessible to the individuals served);
 - d. Individual's rooms are personalized;
 - e. Adequately lighted, ventilated, and temperature controlled;
 - f. There is sufficient space, equipment and privacy to accommodate;
 - g. An area/room for visitation; and
 - h. Telephone use for incoming and outgoing calls that is accessible and maintained in working order for persons served or supported.

- i. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requiring facilities to be readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities is addressed, if applicable. Refer to 2010 Standard ADA Compliance for accessible design.
3. The environment is safe:
 - a. All local and state ordinances are addressed:
 - i. Copies of inspection reports are available;
 - ii. Licenses or certificates as applicable are current and available as required by the site or the service;
 - iii. An automatic extinguishing system (sprinkler) shall be installed per city/county requirements for residential settings excluding host homes not governed by other federal, state and county rules and regulations, if applicable; and
 - iv. Approved smoke alarms shall be installed in all sleeping rooms, hallways and in all normally occupied areas on all levels of the residences according to national and city safety codes/standards and maintained properly as described in the user manual. Smoke alarms especially in the bedrooms shall be tested monthly and practice documented. The facility shall be inspected annually to meet fire safety code and copies of inspection maintained.
 - b. Installation of fire alarm system and inspection of equipment meets safety code.
 - c. Fire drills are conducted for individuals and staff:
 - i. Once a month at alternative times; including;
 - ii. Twice a year during sleeping hours if residential services;
 - iii. All fire drills shall be documented with staffing involved;
 - iv. DBHDD maintains the right to require an immediate demonstration of a fire drill during any on-site visit.
 4. Food guidelines are in place and are being implemented for safe food consumption and storage of food in refrigerator, freezer and cupboards to maintain temperature between 34 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit, expiration dates on food items to include open items and the prevention of foodborne illnesses. When food service is utilized, required certifications related to health, safety and sanitation are available. For more information on food safety please see the FDA guidelines at: <https://www.fda.gov/Food/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/ucm253954.htm>. A three (3) day supply of non-perishable emergency food and water is available for all individuals supported in residences. A residence shall provide for at least one gallon of water per person a day. A residence shall arrange for and serve special diets as prescribed.
 5. Policies, plans and procedures are in place that addresses Emergency Evacuation, Relocation, Preparedness and Disaster Response. Providers adhere to [Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Disaster Recovery Requirements for Community Providers, 04-102](#). Supplies needed for emergency evacuation are maintained in a readily accessible manner, including individuals' information, family contact information and current copies of physician's orders for all individual's medications.
 - a. Plans include detailed information regarding evacuating, transporting and relocating individuals that coordinate with the local Emergency Management Agency and at a minimum address:
 - i. Medical emergencies;
 - ii. Missing persons;
 - Georgia's Mattie's Call Act provides for an alert system when an individual with I/DD, dementia, or other cognitive impairment is missing. Law requires residences to notify law enforcement within thirty (30) minutes of discovering a missing individual.
 - iii. Natural and man-made disasters;
 - iv. Power failures;
 - v. Continuity of medical care as required;
 - vi. Notifications to families or designees; and
 - vii. Continuity of Operation Planning (COOP) to include identifying locations and providing a signed agreement where individuals will be relocated temporarily in case of damage to the

site where services are provided. COOP must also include plans for sheltering in place (for more information go to:

<http://www.georgiadisaster.info/PersonsWithDisabilities/disasterpreparedness.html>.

- b. Emergency preparedness notice and plans are:
 - i. Reviewed annually to include a signed and dated document of the renewal of the Continuity of Operation Plan (COOP) for the location(s) specified in the COOP each fiscal year.
 - ii. Tested at least quarterly for emergencies that occur locally on a less frequent basis such as, but not limited to flood, tornado or hurricane; and
 - iii. Drilled with more frequency if there is a greater potential for the emergency.
6. Residential living support service options:
 - a. Are integrated and established within residential neighborhoods;
 - b. Are single family dwellings;
 - c. Have space for informal gatherings;
 - d. Have personal space and privacy for persons supported; and
 - e. **Are understood to be the “home” of the person supported or served.**
7. Video/Camera monitoring **may not be used by the provider** in the following instances:
 - a. In an individual’s personal residence as it is an invasion of privacy and is strictly prohibited;
 - b. In residential settings/homes operated as a CLA/Host Home/PCH by a provider in areas such as bedrooms, bathrooms and changing areas;
 - c. In the private areas of non-residential programs (day programs), such as bathrooms/changing areas; and
 - d. In lieu of staff presence.
8. There are policies, procedures, and practices for transportation of persons supported or served in residential services and in programs that require movement of persons served from place to place:
 - a. Policies and procedures apply to all vehicles used, including:
 - i. Those owned or leased by the organization;
 - ii. Those owned or lease by subcontractors; and
 - iii. Use of personal vehicles of staff.
 - b. Policies and procedures include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Authenticating licenses of drivers and MVR upon hire and annually;
 - ii. Proof of current vehicle insurance (agency and staff to include staff vehicle riders within agency policy, if applicable);
 - iii. Routine maintenance schedule;
 - iv. Requirements for evidence of driver training;
 - v. Safe transport of persons served that includes documentation of boarding and exit time of individual with to and from location of planned trip and not leaving individuals unattended in the vehicle;
 - vi. Requirements for maintaining an attendance log of persons while in vehicles;
 - vii. Safe use of lift, seat belts, tie downs and any other safety equipment if applicable;
 - viii. Availability of first aid kits and seat belt cutter;
 - ix. Fire suppression equipment; and
 - x. Emergency preparedness (availability of a portable phone for emergency calls) to include process for handling and reporting an incident and accident.
9. Locks on exterior doors in **ALL** community settings (including, but not limited to Community Living Arrangements, Personal Care Homes, Host Home/Life-Sharing sites, and Day Services sites) must comply with the following provisions:
 - a. **ALL** locks used on any exterior door must be capable of being unlocked from the inside by the individuals receiving services in that setting, without the need for obtaining assistance from provider staff or any other person.

- b. Neither the lock nor any mechanism or control for operating the lock may be placed in a location that is inaccessible to or concealed from any individual receiving services in the setting.
- c. No exterior door may be fitted with any lock that requires a key, key card, badge, combination, or passcode to unlock it from the inside.

CII. Infection Control Practices are Evident in Service Settings:

1. The organization, at a minimum, has a basic Infection Control Plan which is reviewed annually for effectiveness and revision, if needed. The Plan addresses:
 - a. Standard Precautions;
 - b. Hand Washing Guidelines;
 - c. Proper Storage of Personal Hygiene items; and
 - d. Specific common illnesses/infectious diseases likely to be emergent in the particular service settings. (For more information go to <https://www.cdc.gov/>).
2. The organization has policies, procedures and practices for controlling and preventing infections in the service setting. There is evidence of:
 - a. Guidelines for environmental cleaning and sanitizing;
 - b. Guidelines for safe food handling and storage;
 - c. Guidelines for the proper disposal of biohazardous materials and sharps;
 - d. Guidelines for laundry that include the collection, sorting, transporting, washing and storage in a manner that prevents the spread of infections and contamination of the environment; and
 - e. Guidelines for food preparation.
3. Procedures for the prevention of infestation by insects, bed bugs, rodents or pests shall be maintained and conducted continually to protect the health of individuals served.
4. No vicious/dangerous animals shall be kept. Any pets living in the service setting must be healthy and not pose a health risk to the individual supported. All pets must meet the local, state, and federal requirements to include the following:
 - a. All animals that require rabies vaccinations annually must have current documentation of the rabies inoculation;
 - b. Exotic animals must be obtained from federally approved sources; and
 - c. Parrots and Psittacine family birds must be USDA inspected and banded.

D. A HOLISTIC PERSON-CENTERED APPROACH TO CARE, SUPPORT AND SERVICES

I. Assessments:

1. Individualized services, supports, care and treatment determinations are made on the basis of an assessment of needs with the individual. The purpose of the assessment is to determine the individual's hopes, dreams or vision for their life and to determine how best to assist the individual in reaching those hopes, dreams or vision, including determining appropriate staff to deliver these services. Assessments should include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. The individual's:
 - i. Hopes and dreams, or personal life goals;
 - ii. Perception of the issue(s) of concern;
 - iii. Strengths;
 - iv. Needs;
 - v. Abilities; and
 - vi. Preferences.
 - b. Medical history;
 - c. A current health status report or examination in cases where:
 - i. Medications or other ongoing health interventions are required;
 - ii. Chronic or confounding health factors are present;

- iii. Medication prescribed as part of DBHDD services has research indicating necessary surveillance of the emergence of diabetes, hypertension, and/or cardiovascular disease;
 - iv. Allergies or adverse reactions to medications have occurred; or
 - v. Withdrawal from a substance is an issue.
 - d. Appropriate diagnostic tools such as impairment indices, psychological testing, or laboratory tests;
 - e. Social history;
 - f. Family history;
 - g. School records (for school age individuals);
 - h. Collateral history from family or persons significant to the individual, if available:
 - i. NOTE: When collateral history is taken, information about the individual **may not be shared** with the person giving the collateral history unless the individual has given specific written consent; and
 - i. Review of legal concerns including:
 - i. Advance directives;
 - ii. Legal competence;
 - iii. Legal involvement of the courts; and
 - iv. Legal status as adjudicated by a court.
- 2. Additional assessments should be performed or obtained by the provider if required to fully inform the services, supports, care and treatment provided. These may include but are not limited to:
 - a. Assessment of trauma or abuse;
 - b. Suicide risk assessment;
 - c. Functional assessment;
 - d. Cognitive assessment;
 - e. Behavioral assessments;
 - f. Spiritual assessment;
 - g. Assessment of independent living skills;
 - h. Cultural assessment;
 - i. Recreational assessment;
 - j. Educational assessment;
 - k. Vocational assessment;
 - l. Nutritional assessment; and
 - m. Nursing assessment (Note: Required for nursing services to identify healthcare risks).
- 3. Policies, procedures and practice describe processes or referral of the individual based on ongoing assessment of individual need:
 - a. Internally to different programs or staff; or
 - b. Externally to services, supports, care and treatment not available within the organization, including but not limited to:
 - i. Health care for:
 - a) Routine assessment such as annual physical examinations;
 - b) Chronic medical issues;
 - c) Ongoing psychiatric issues;
 - d) Acute and emergent needs:
 - Medical;
 - Psychiatric;
 - ii. Diagnostic testing such as psychological testing or labs; and
 - iii. Dental services.

II. Individual Service Plan (ISP):

1. An individualized service plan is developed by the individual (along with any representatives), a Support Coordinator, a State Services Coordinator or a Planning List Administrator with input from the service providers.
2. Provider signature on the ISP signature page indicates provider agreement to service delivery as outlined in the ISP.
3. The individual's signature on the ISP indicates the acceptance of the ISP, and is required unless the individual has been adjudicated an adult who is incapacitated in which case the ISP must be signed by the legal guardian or other substitute decision maker appointed by the court to act on the individual's behalf.
4. Detailed information about the ISP development process, meeting, and meeting participant roles is defined in [The Service Planning Process and Individual Service Plan Development, 02-438](#).
5. The ISP must list the services to be provided in the service summary.
6. No service will be reimbursed unless listed on the Individual Service Plan approved by the DBHDD Regional Field Office clinical staff.
7. Each goal/objective is supported by the services provided. Statement of goal(s) or objectives of the individual are:
 - a. Specific to the desired outcomes;
 - b. Measurable for progress;
 - c. Achievable skills;
 - d. Relevant to service provision; and
 - e. Time-limited with specified target dates.
8. The frequency or intensity that the specific service, support, care and treatment will be given or provided is stated within the ISP and Individual 360.
9. There is clear authorization of the plan:
 - a. Refer to definitions of service included in this Provider Manual to determine who must authorize the plan:
 - i. Part I, Section 2: *DD Consumer Eligibility, Access and Planning List, Service Definitions and Service Guidelines*.
10. A physician reviews the plan when it includes medical care and treatment or for individuals with a high level of medical need typically indicated by a Health Risk Screening Tool Healthcare Level 3 or above.
11. Documents to be incorporated by reference into an Individual Service Plan include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Medical updates as indicated by physician orders or notes (diagnosis are indicated to ensure treatment of medical conditions such as obesity and diabetes);
 - b. Version Change as required when a portion of the plan requires reassessment or changes;
 - c. A behavior support plan and/or a safety plan for individuals demonstrating challenging behaviors; and
 - d. A PBSP and safety plan for individuals who received psychotropic meds for symptom management.
12. Wellness of individuals is facilitated through incorporation of wellness goals within the individual plan as assessed and recommended or requested by the individual.
13. There is evidence that the person's data from documentation has been reviewed, analyzed for trends, and summarized to determine the progress toward goal(s) **at least quarterly**.
14. Individualized plans or portions of the plan must be reassessed as indicated by the following:
 - a. Changing needs, circumstances and responses of the individual, including but not limited to:
 - i. Any life change;
 - ii. Change in provider;
 - iii. Change of address;
 - iv. Change in service type or frequency; and
 - v. Change in medical, behavioral, cognitive or physical status.
 - b. As requested by the individual;
 - c. As required by re-authorization;
 - d. At least annually; and

- e. When goal(s) are no longer relevant to the individual.

ISP Annual Review: Each ISP must be reviewed and/or edited annually or more often as needed to reflect all life changes, progress or lack of progress to identify changes in outcome, review changes in medical/psychological or social services and to identify new problems or goal(s).

III. Documentation

1. The individual record is a legal document, information in the record should be:
 - a. Organized;
 - b. Complete;
 - c. Current;
 - d. Meaningful;
 - e. Succinct; and
 - f. Essential to:
 - i. Provide adequate and accurate services, supports, care and treatment;
 - ii. Tell an accurate story of services, supports, care and treatment rendered and the individual's response;
 - iii. Protect the individual; their rights; and
 - iv. Comply with legal regulation.
 - g. Dated, timed, and authenticated with the authors identified by name, credential and by title:
 - i. Notes entered retroactively into the record after an event or a shift must be identified as a "late entry";
 - ii. Documentation is to be done each shift or service contact by staff providing the service;
 - iii. If notes are voice recorded and typed or a computer is used to write notes that are printed, each entry must be dated and the physical documentation must be signed and dated by the staff writing the note. Notes should then be placed in the individual's record; and
 - iv. If handwritten notes are transcribed electronically at a later date, the former should be kept to demonstrate that documentation occurred on the day billed.
 - h. Written in black or blue ink;
 - i. Red ink may be used to denote allergies or special precautions;
 - j. Corrected as legally prescribed by:
 - i. Drawing a single line through the error;
 - ii. Labeling the change with the word "error";
 - iii. Inserting the corrected information; and
 - iv. Initialing and dating the correction.
2. At a minimum, the individual's information shall include:
 - a. The name of the individual, precautions, allergies (or no known allergies – NKA) and "volume #x of #y" on the front of the record;
 - i. Note that the individual's name, allergies and precautions must be flagged on the medication administration record.
 - b. Individual's identification and emergency contact information;
 - c. Financial information;
 - d. Rights, consent and legal information including but not limited to:
 - i. Consent for service (written agreement);
 - ii. Release of information documentation;
 - iii. Any psychiatric or other advanced directive;
 - iv. Legal documentation establishing guardianship;
 - v. Evidence that individual rights are reviewed at least one time a year; and
 - vi. Evidence that individual responsibilities are reviewed at least one time a year.
 - e. All medical care received, including hospitalizations, ER visits, procedures, lab reports, office visits, etc.;
 - f. Screening information and assessments, including but not limited to:

- i. Functional, psychological and diagnostic assessments.
 - g. Individual service plan, including:
 - i. Identified goal(s) (in measurable terms);
 - ii. Interventions or activities occurring to achieve the goal(s);
 - iii. The individual's response to the interventions or activities (progress notes, tracking sheets, learning logs or data);
 - iv. A projected plan to modify or decrease the intensity of services, supports, care and treatment as goal(s) are achieved; and
 - v. Discharge planning is begun at the time of admission that includes specific objectives to be met prior to decreasing the intensity of service or discharge.
 - h. Discharge summary information provided to the individual and new service provider, if applicable, at the time of discharge includes:
 - i. Strengths, needs, preferences and abilities of the individual;
 - ii. Services, supports, care and treatment provided;
 - iii. Achievements;
 - iv. Necessary plans for referral; and
 - v. A dictated or hand-written summary of the course of services, supports, care and treatment incorporating the discharge summary information provided to the individual and new service provider, if applicable, must be placed in the record within 30 days of discharge.
 - i. The organization must have policy, procedures and practices for Discharge/Transfer/immediate transfer due to medical or behavioral needs of individuals in all cases. Agency employees, subcontractors and their employees and volunteers who abandon an individual are subject to administrative review by the contracting Regional Field Office(s) representing DBHDD to evaluate increasing new admission capacity further or continuing the relationship with the provider agency.
 - j. All relocation/discharge of individuals within or outside the agency must have prior approval from the contracting Regional Field Office representing DBHDD. A copy of the approval must be maintained in the individual record.
 - k. Progress notes describing progress toward goal(s), including:
 - i. Implementation of interventions specified in the plan;
 - ii. The individual's response to the intervention or activity based on data; and
 - iii. Date, location and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided.
 - iv. For continuity of care, at a minimum the current ISP review span progress notes must be maintained on site.
 - l. Event notes documenting:
 - i. Issues, situations or events occurring in the life of the individual;
 - ii. The individual's response to the issues, situations or events;
 - iii. Relationships and interactions with family and friends, if applicable;
 - iv. Missed appointments including:
 - Findings of follow-up; and
 - Strategies to avoid future missed appointments.
 - v. Records or reports from previous or other current providers; and
 - vi. Correspondence.
3. A provider must ensure that DBHDD, DCH, Healthcare Facility Regulation (as applicable) and Support Coordination are provided updated, accurate information which includes but is not limited to the following:
- a. Correct address of the agency/business location.
 - b. Correct street address of the service location, if different from above.
 - c. Current phone number(s).
 - d. Name of contact person(s) Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program VI-19.
 - e. Data on subcontractors providing direct member care.

- f. Enrolled providers are required to furnish written notice to the DBHDD Provider Enrollment Unit, DCH, the Support Coordination agency, and individual supported within ten (10) calendar days change in provider data. Changes requiring written notice include, but are not limited to the following:
 - i. Address of the provider agency administrative business office.
 - ii. Address of the service location.
 - iii. Payee changes.
 - iv. Change in permit/license issued by Healthcare Facility Regulation Section.
 - v. If the contact person for the administrative or service location changes, the provider must notify the DBHDD applicable region within 30 calendar days of the change.
4. The provider must maintain on file a copy of all approved authorizations for additional service units or approvals and have such documents available for review by DBHDD and/or DCH. The original letter may be maintained at the provider office location, but a copy of the approval documents and all supporting documentation relevant to service delivery must be maintained in the individual record at the service delivery site(s). The provider must notify the Regional Services Administrator or designee when there is any change to services authorized. During reviews or monitoring by state agencies, a copy of authorization letters as well as all documentation of need is provided to the review team. All special authorizations are approved for a specified time and expire on the date indicated on the approval letter.
5. The individual's response to the services, supports, care and treatment is a consistent theme in documentation.
 - a. Frequency and style of documentation are appropriate to the frequency and intensity of services, supports, care and treatment; and
 - b. Documentation includes record of contacts with persons involved in other aspects of the individual's care, including but not limited to internal or external referrals.
6. Community integration and inclusion into the larger natural community is supported and evident. Terms "Integration and Inclusion" mean:
 - a. Use of community resources that are available to other citizens;
 - b. Providing the opportunity to actively participate in community activities and types of employment as citizens without disabilities;
 - c. The organization has community partnerships for capacity building and advocacy of activities to achieve this goal of integration;
 - d. The organization must provide supports and inclusion activities that show respect for the individual's dignity, personal preference and cultural differences; and
 - e. There is documentation of individualized preferences, person-centered integration, informed choice, autonomy and inclusion in the community;
 - f. Building of community relationships (natural/paid/unpaid); and
 - g. Supporting individual's choice as measured by the amount of control an individual has over his/her life.
 - h. Supervised Apartment Living Arrangements such as scattered and cluster arrangements must meet all standards for integrated settings and comply with all state and local zoning regulations (such as setting attributes & choice) (Refer to [Community Integration in Residential Service Options and Supervised Apartment Living Arrangements for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, 02-601](#) for details).
7. There is a process for ongoing communication between staff members working with the same individuals in different programs, activities, schedules or shifts.

IV. Information Management System That Protect Individual Information and is Secure, Organized and Confidential:

1. The organization has clear policies, procedures and practices that support secure, organized and confidential management of information, to include electronic individual records, if applicable.

2. All individuals determine how their right to confidentiality will be addressed including but not limited to who they wish to be informed about their services, supports and treatment. Maintenance and transfer of both written and spoken information is addressed:
 - a. Personal individual information;
 - b. Billing information; and
 - c. All service related information.
3. The organization has a Confidentiality and HIPAA Privacy policy that clearly addresses state and federal confidentiality laws and regulations, including but not limited to federal regulations on “Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records” at 42 C.F.R. Part 2 (as applicable) and state laws at O.C.G.A. §§ 37-3-166 (MH), 37-4-125 (DD) and 37-7-166 (AD) as applicable. The organization has a Notice of Privacy Practices that gives the individual adequate notice of the organization’s policies and practices regarding use and disclosure of their Protected Health Information (PHI). The notice should contain mandatory elements required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA, Title II). In addition, the organization addresses:
 - a. HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules, as outlined at 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164 are specifically reviewed with staff and individuals;
 - b. Appointment of the Privacy Officer;
 - c. Training to be provided to all staff;
 - d. Posting of the Notice of Privacy Practices in a prominent place; and
 - e. Maintenance of the individual’s signed acknowledgement of receipt of Privacy Notice in their record;
 - f. Provision of the rights of individuals regarding their PHI as defined in federal and state laws and in HIPAA, including but not limited to:
 - i. Right to access to one’s own record.
 - ii. Right to request an amendment.
 - iii. Right to request communications by alternative means.
 - iv. Right to request restriction of access by others.
 - g. Identification of its Business Associates, and obtaining Business Associate agreements with Business Associates, in compliance with HIPAA requirements.
 - h. Identification of violations of confidentiality or HIPAA and follow up to include compliance with all requirements of HIPAA at 45 C.F.R. sections 164.400 through 164.414:
 - i. Reporting of violations to the Privacy Officer.
 - ii. Risk assessment of the violation as required by HIPAA provisions.
 - iii. Determination of whether the violation constitutes a “breach” as defined by HIPAA.
 - iv. Notifications of breaches to the individual(s) affected, to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and if necessary to the media, in compliance with HIPAA requirements.
 - i. Corrective Actions for sanctions of employee(s) as necessary, mitigation of harm to any individual and preventing risks to PHI.
4. A record of all disclosures of Protected Health Information (PHI) is kept in the medical record, so that the organization can provide an accounting of disclosures to the individual for 6 years from the current date. The record must include:
 - a. Date of disclosure;
 - b. Name of entity or person who received the Protected Health Information;
 - c. A brief description of the Protected Health Information disclosed;
 - d. A copy of any written request for disclosure; and
 - e. Written authorization from the individual or legal guardian to disclose PHI, where applicable.
5. Authorization for release of information is obtained when Protected Health Information of an individual is to be released or shared between organizations or with others outside the organization. All applicable DBHDD policies and procedures and HIPAA Privacy Rules (45 CFR parts 160 and 164) related to disclosure and authorization of Protected Health Information are followed. Information contained in each release of information must include:

- a. Specific information to be released or obtained;
 - b. The purpose for the authorization for release of information;
 - c. To whom the information may be released or given;
 - d. The time period that the release authorization remains in effect (reasonable based on the topic of information, may not exceed a year); and
 - e. A statement that authorization may be revoked at any time by the individual, to the extent that the organization has not already acted upon the authorization.
6. Exceptions to use of an authorization for release of information are clear in policy:
 - a. Disclosure may be made if required or permitted by law;
 - b. Disclosure is authorized as a valid exception to the law;
 - c. A valid court order or subpoena are required for mental health or developmental disability records;
 - d. A valid court order and subpoena are required for alcohol or drug abuse records;
 - e. When required to share individual information with the DBHDD or any provider of treatment or services for the individual under contract or LOA with the DBHDD; or
 - f. In the case of an emergency treatment situation as determined by the individual's physician, the chief clinical officer can release Protected Health Information to the treating physician or psychologist.
 7. The organization has written operational procedures, consistent with legal requirements governing the retention, maintenance and purging of records.
 - a. Records are safely secured, maintained, and retained for a minimum of six (6) years from the date of their creation or the date when last in effect (whichever is later);
 - b. Protocols for all records to be returned to or disposed of as directed by the contracting regions after specified retention period or termination of contract/agreement; and
 - c. Compliance with HIPAA Security Rule provisions to the degree mandated by or appropriate under the Security Rule to protect the security, integrity and availability of records.
 8. The organization has written policy, protocols and documented practice of how information in the record is transferred when an individual is relocated or discharged from service to include but not be limited to:
 - a. A complete certified copy of the record to DBHDD or the provider who will assume service provision, that includes individual's Protected Health Information, billing information, service related information such as current medical orders, medications, behavior plans as deemed necessary for the purposes of the individual's continuity of care and treatment;
 - b. Unused Special Medical Supplies (SMS), funds, personal belongings, burial accounts; and
 - c. The time frames by which transfer of documents and personal belongings will be completed.
 9. Assessments, ISPs, and documentation required by Medicaid are to be retained in the individual's records for six (6) years.

E. MANAGEMENT-SUPERVISION-SAFEGUARDING OF POSSESSIONS, VALUABLES, PERSONAL FUNDS, AND DAY TO DAY LIVING EXPENSES IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

1. Providers adhere to [Supervision and Protection of Personal Funds and Belongings in Intellectual and Developmental Disability Residential Services, 02-702](#).

F. FAITH OR DENOMINATIONALLY BASED ORGANIZATIONS WHO RECEIVE FEDERAL OR STATE MONIES ADDRESS ISSUES SPECIFIC TO BEING A FAITH OR DENOMINATIONALLY BASED ORGANIZATION IN THEIR POLICIES AND PRACTICE

1. Individuals or recipients of services are informed about the following issues relative to faith or denominationally based organizations:
 - a. Its religious character;
 - b. The individual's freedom not to engage in religious activities;
 - c. Their right to receive services from an alternative provider;
 - i. The organization shall, within a reasonable time after the date of such objection, refer the individual to an alternative provider.

2. If the organization provides employment that is associated with religious criteria, the individual must be informed.
3. In no case may federal or state funds be used to support any inherently religious activities, such as but not limited to:
 - a. Inherently religious activities;
 - b. Religious instruction; or
 - c. Proselytizing.
4. Organizations may use space in their facilities to provide services, supports, care and treatment without removing religious art, icons, scriptures or other symbols.
5. In all cases, rules found at 42 CFR Parts 54, 54a and 45 CFR Parts 96, 260 and 1050 *Charitable Choice Provisions and Regulations: Final Rules* shall apply.

G. PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS: When the requirement for a degree in a course of study is referenced, the degree must be from an accredited college or university.

1. Developmental Disability Professional (DDP):

All DDP services rendered by a provider agency must be provided by an individual qualified to be a DDP. The DDP may be employed by or be under professional contract with the provider agency. Refer to the Professional Designations Section G in the DBHDD Provider Manual for Community DD Providers Part II Section 1 of the Community Service Standards for a list of Professionals who qualify to be a DDP.

At least one agency employee or professional under contract with the agency must:

- a. Be a Developmental Disability Professional (DDP), and
- b. Have responsibility for overseeing the delivery of waiver and/state services to participants with the focus on overall quality of service delivery by the provider agency.

The same individual may serve as the agency Director and DDP, provided the staff member meets the professional qualifications of each position. The duties of each role must be delivered and documented separately. Documentation related to particular activities will be delineated by the use of either professional designation following the staff member's signature.

2. The Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) Job Functions:

Each Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) has a specified schedule with sufficient hours to meet the oversight role required by the level of need for individual(s) supported which includes but is not limited to:

- a. Overseeing the services and supports provided to participant for general guidance to the provider agency in areas of compliance and quality improvement;
- b. Assuring that the supports provided are within the scope of the agency's service enrollment and experience to assure effective delivery;
- c. Assuring that the services address the participant's needs and adhere to the application of person-centered values, choice and participant's rights;
- d. Providing, arranging or overseeing curricula used in staff training and directed to service delivery in the context of the individual's goal(s) and objectives;
- e. Recommend other needed services/supports or changes to the delivery model using a continuous quality improvement approach;

- f. Providing consultation to the provider agency in ISP implementation strategies that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, realistic and time limited in order to meet the needs and personal goal(s) of the participant;
- g. Assess areas of risks either individually or overall risks to persons supported through agency practice, policy or lack of policy or procedures/protocols. Providing risk mitigation strategies to the provider agency;
- h. Reviewing that functional assessments are in place to support formulation of the participant’s plan for delivery of all waiver services that include:
 - i. The Health Risk Screening Tool;
 - ii. The Supports Intensity Scale;
 - iii. Functional Behavioral Evaluation;
 - iv. Others (E.g., Nursing, OT, PT etc.) as needed or required.
- i. Oversee high intensity services if applicable that address health and safety risks for the participant’s that includes:
 - i. The implementation and effectiveness of Behavior Support Plans;
 - ii. The implementation and effectiveness of the Participant’s Crisis Plan; and
 - iii. Identifying ongoing supports as needed (medical and /or behavioral) in collaboration with agency staff, staff of other agencies providing supports to the participants mutually served or other members of the healthcare team.

3. Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) Requirements:

The provision of DDP oversight and service provision must be documented in the Participant’s record when DDP services are needed for an individual participant.

The DDP staff file must include the following documents:

- a. A signed DDP job description or contract that meet the DDP requirements for oversight and professional consultation;
- b. A specified schedule for each site and sufficient contract hours (not a PRN staff) to meet the agency’s need for general oversight and quality improvement activities as well as consultation and/or evaluation of individual participants as needed;
- c. There is documentation of attestation by the DDP that the scheduled or contracted hours do not conflict with his/her work with another provider agency;
- d. A copy of diploma, license or certification to verify qualifications for performing DDP job functions is maintained in the staff file; and
- e. Annual evaluation of adequacy of the DDP deliverables relative to the agency functions and needs as part of QI activities.

Note: A DDP is not scheduled to work only on a PRN (pro re nata) basis.

Documentation Requirements for DDP:

Agencies will identify for the DDP’s ongoing review any participant receiving clinical services (nursing, therapy(s), behavioral services) and any participant with changes in functional, medical, behavioral or social status.

There is documentation to verify all necessary face-to-face participant’s visits, other contact or communication with or on behalf of the participants in the participant’s record. Documentation will contain the purpose of the

visit or contact, for assessment or evaluation, training, plan for intervention, and any changes in service delivery.

DDP documentation must meet documentations requirements of date, location of service delivery, signature (title), beginning and ending time when the service was provided.

Required Training for Developmental Disability Professionals:

In addition to the initial orientation requirements for new employees listed in the NOW and COMP Policy Manual Part II located at <https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/> other required trainings for DDPs' in their first year of employment include:

- a. Individual Service Planning (Person-Centered);
- b. Support Intensity Scale overview;
- c. Health Risk Screening Tool on line training overview; and
- d. The provider agency must also show participation and document the participation of each DDP employed or under contract, a **minimum of eight (8) hours per year** of DBHDD sponsored or other training in the area of developmental disabilities in the DDP employee's file or require and maintain the documentation of participation in such training on an annual basis from any DDP independent contractors.

Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) Competency:

The provider will be responsible for monitoring and ensuring the DDP meets his/her above assigned responsibilities utilizing the below performance indicators.

Performance indicators of the responsibilities listed are as follows:

- a. Consulted with, supervised, trained and/or provided guidance to direct support staff regarding implementation of service to comply with person-centered values and techniques. Documentation of consultation may be maintained in the form of training agenda, staff meetings, etc. This documentation shall include the signature, title/credentials, timed (beginning and end time of delivery of training or in-service support) and date. Copy maintained by the provider agency;
- b. Assist and provide feedback to the provider in reviewing the quality of the services delivered;
- c. Provide technical assistance to the provider agency in corrective action requirements and participate in response regardless of the origin of the Corrective Action Plan requirement;
- d. Participate in the agency's Quality Improvement Plan and Risk Management Reviews based on qualifications and training background; provide medical and behavioral recommendations and guidance as needed.

4. The following Professionals qualify to be a Developmental Disability Professional:

- a. **Advanced Practice Nurse:** A registered professional nurse licensed in the State of Georgia, who meets those educational, practice, certification requirements, OR any combination of such requirements, as specified by the Georgia Board of nursing AND includes certified nurse midwives,

nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists in psychiatric/mental health, AND others recognized by the board AND o has one year experience in treating persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

- b. **Behavior Specialist/Consultant:** A behavior specialist or consultant who has completed a Master's degree in psychology, school psychology, counseling, social work, education, or a related field OR licensure/certification as a Licensed Professional Counselor, Psychologist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, or Psychiatrist AND a minimum of 12 coursework hours or training certification hours in behavior functional assessment or analysis, data collection and analysis, plan development, behavior interventions, training, and implementation, AND has one year of experience in a treatment and/or community setting working with individuals with I/DD.
- c. **Board Certified Behavior Analysis (BCBA):** A BCBA who has completed a Master's degree, with 225 hours of approved graduate coursework, AND 1500 hours of experience in the field with 5% of those hours being supervised by a BCBA, AND has received a passing score on the Behavior Analysis Certification Board Exam, AND maintains a prescribed number of continuing education units annually AND has one year of experience in providing services to individuals with I/DD.
- d. **Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA):** A person who has completed an acceptable bachelor's degree from an accredited university, acceptable 180 hours of undergraduate and/or graduate coursework in behavior analysis, and have a period of 1000 hours defined supervised practical experience in the field with 5% of those hours being supervised by a BCBA, AND current Assistant Behavior Analysis Board Certification in good standing with the Behavior Analysis Certification Board, AND maintains a prescribed number of continuing education units annually, AND has one year of experience in providing services to individuals with I/DD. BCaBAs provide behavior services under the supervision of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and may supervise the work of Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs).
- e. **Educator:** An educator with a degree in education from an accredited program that includes a concentration in Special Education in college coursework OR teaching certificate in Special Education, AND has one year of experience in teaching individuals with I/DD.
- f. **Human Services Professional:** A human services professional with at least a bachelor's degree in human services field including but not limited to: sociology, special education, rehabilitation counseling, and psychology AND has one year of experience in providing human services to individuals with I/DD.
- g. **Master's or Doctoral Degree Holders:** A person with a Master's or Doctoral degree in one of the behavioral OR social sciences AND with specialized training in developmental disabilities as evidenced by college coursework AND has one year of experience in providing services to individuals with I/DD.
- h. **Physical or Occupational Therapist:** A physical or occupational therapist licensed in the State of Georgia AND has one year of experience in treating individuals with I/DD.
- i. **Physical or Occupational Therapy Assistant:** A physical or occupational therapy assistant certified by the American Physical Therapy Association American Occupational Therapy Association or another comparable body AND has one year of experience in treating individuals with I/DD.

- j. **Physician:** A physician licensed in the State of Georgia to practice medicine or osteopathy AND has one year of experience in treating individuals with I/DD.
- k. **Physician's Assistant:** A skilled person qualified by academic and practical training to provide patients' services not necessarily within the physical presence but under the personal direction or supervision of a physician, AND has one year experience in treating individuals with I/DD.
- l. **Psychologist:** A holder of a Doctoral degree in Psychology from an accredited university or college, AND who is licensed as a Psychologist in the State of Georgia AND has one year of experience in providing services to individuals with I/DD.
- m. **Registered Nurse (Associate Degree or Diploma):** A registered nurse who is authorized by a license to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse, who holds an associate or diploma degree in nursing, AND has one year experience in treating individuals with I/DD.
- n. **Registered Nurse (Bachelor's Degree):** A registered nurse who is authorized by license to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse AND who holds a Bachelor's degree in nursing with one year experience in treating individuals with I/DD.
- o. **Speech Pathologist or Audiologist:** A speech pathologist or audiologist licensed in the State of Georgia AND has one year of experience in treating individuals with I/DD.
- p. **Therapeutic Recreation Specialist:** A therapeutic recreation specialist who graduated from an accredited program AND has one year experience in providing therapeutic recreational services to individuals with I/DD.
- q. **Social Worker:** A social worker who holds at minimum a Bachelor of Social Work degree from a college or university accredited or approved by the Council on Social Work Education or another comparable body AND has one year experience in providing services to individuals with I/DD.

H. WAIVERS TO STANDARDS

The organization may not exempt itself from any of these standards or any portion of the provider manual. All requests for waivers of these standards must be done in accordance with [Requests for Waivers of Service Requirements Contained in DBHDD Provider Manuals or PolicyStat. 04-107.](#)

I. For DD Providers Utilizing Proxy Caregivers and Health Maintenance Activities

Licensed provider agencies, including co-employer agencies, must abide by the Rules and Regulations for Proxy Caregivers used in Licensed Healthcare Facilities, Chapter 111-8-100 (Go to www.dch.georgia.gov/hfr-laws-regulations). The policies and procedures specified below are applicable to all providers:

Health Maintenance Activities Definition: Health maintenance activities, which are limited to those activities that, but for a disability, a person could reasonably be expected to do for himself or herself. Such activities are typically taught by a registered professional nurse, but may be taught by an attending physician, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, or directly to a person and are part of ongoing care. Health maintenance activities are those activities that do not include complex care such as administration of intravenous medications, central line maintenance (i.e., daily management of a central line, which is intravenous tubing inserted for continuous access to a central vein for administering fluids and medicine and for obtaining diagnostic information), and complex wound care; do not require complex observations or critical decisions; can be safely performed and have reasonably precise, unchanging directions; and have outcomes or results that are reasonably predictable. Any activity that requires nursing judgment is not a health

maintenance activity. Health maintenance activities are not considered the practice of nursing. Health maintenance activities are specified for an individual participant in written orders of the attending physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant.

1. **Written Plan of Care Requirements:** Health maintenance activities are as defined in the written plan of care that implements the written orders of the attending physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant and specifies the frequency of training and evaluation requirements for the proxy caregiver, including additional training when changes in the written plan of care necessitate added duties for which such proxy caregiver had not previously been trained. The written plan of care is developed by a licensed healthcare professional in accordance with the written orders by an attending physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant. This written plan of care for health maintenance activities must be maintained in the individual's record and available for the proxy caregiver.
2. **Written Informed Consent:** A participant or individual legally authorized to act on behalf of the individual must complete a written informed consent designating a proxy caregiver (proxy caregivers functioning independently in licensed residential facilities or licensed facilities delivering services through proxy caregivers) and delegating responsibility to such proxy caregiver to receive training and to provide health maintenance activities to the individual pursuant to the written orders of an attending physician, an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant working under a nurse protocol agreement or job description.
3. **Requirements for Individuals Providing Health Maintenance Activities:** Individuals who provide health maintenance activities in accordance with the above conditions must meet the following:
 - a. Be selected by the individual or a person legally authorized to act on behalf of the individual to serve as the individual's proxy caregiver.
 - b. Receive training by licensed healthcare professionals who are licensed and authorized under Georgia Law to perform certain healthcare practices, that teaches the proxy caregiver the necessary knowledge and skills to perform the health maintenance activities documented in the individual's written plan of care as defined above. The training must include the knowledge and skills to perform any identified specialized procedures for the individual.
 - c. Ensure that the proxy caregiver is familiar with emergency evacuation procedures.
4. **Non-Covered Health Maintenance Activities:** Health maintenance activities that meet any of the following are non-covered:
 - a. Complex care such as administration of intravenous medications, central line maintenance and complex wound care.
 - b. Provided by an individual without written informed consent designating that individual as a proxy caregiver and delegating responsibility to such proxy caregiver to receive training.
 - c. Provided without the written orders of an attending physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant working under a nurse protocol agreement or job description, respectively, pursuant to Georgia Code Section 43-34-25 or 43-34-23.
Provided without written plan of care as defined above. Provided by individuals who do not meet the requirements specified above.

Appendix I:

Antipsychotic Medications	
Generic	Trade
Aripiprazole	Abilify
Chlorpromazine	Thorazine
Chlorprothixene	Taractan
Clozapine	Clozaril
Fluphenazine	Permitil, Prolixin*
Haloperidol	Haldol*
Loxapine	Serentil
Mesoridazine	Lidone
Molindone	Moban
Olanzapine	Zyprexa
Paliperidone	Invega*
Perphenazine	Trilafon
Pimozide (for Tourette's)	Orap
Quetiapine	Seroquel
Risperidone	Risperdal*
Thioridazine	Mellaril
Thiothixene	Navane
Trifluoperazine	Stelazine
Trifluopromazine	Vesprin
Ziprasidone	Geodon
Mood Stabilizer Medications	
Generic	Trade
Lithium Carbonate	Eskalith or Lithonate
Divalproex Sodium	Depakote
Tiagabine	Bagatril
Levetiracetam	Keppra
Lamotrigine	Lamitalc
Gabapentin	Neurontin
Carbamazepine	Tegretol
Oxcarbazepine	Trileptal
Topiramate	Topomax
Zonisamide	Zonegran
Verapamil	Calan
Clonidine	Catapres
Propranolol	Inderal
Mexiletine	Mexitil
Guanfacine	Tenex

***Also has a sustained release injectable form**

PART II

Section 2

Operational and Clinical Standards for Georgia Crisis Response System (GCRS-DD)

Provider Manual

For

Community Developmental Disability Providers

Fiscal Year 2021



**Georgia Department of Behavioral Health
and Developmental Disabilities
January 2021**

D·B·H·D·D

Operational and Clinical Standards for Georgia Crisis Response System (GCRS-DD)

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Georgia Crisis Response System (GCRS) provides community-based crisis services that support individuals with I/DD in their communities as an alternative to institutional placement, emergency room care, and/or law enforcement involvement, including incarceration. By design, these services, hereinafter referred to as “intensive in-home” and “intensive out-of-home,” are a measure of last resort and provided on a time-limited basis to ameliorate the presenting crisis. As an intended outcome of these services, the interventions should enhance the family and/or caregiver’s ability to meet the needs of the individual and minimize the need for the individual to leave his/her home in order to resolve the presenting crisis.

The individual’s assessment, completed by Mobile Crisis, is an essential part of this service delivery system in that it determines the appropriate response for the presenting crisis. Entry into this system takes place through the Georgia Crisis and Access Line, available toll-free 24/7. Intake staff determine if an individual meets the criteria for Mobile Crisis dispatch.

A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. All intensive in-home and intensive out-of-home providers must comply with the Community Service Standards for Developmental Disabilities Providers found in the *DBHDD Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disabilities Providers* as applicable for crisis services, as well as the Operational and Clinical Standards for GCRS.
 - a. Prior to operation, a compliance review of the GCRS, to include intensive in-home and intensive out-of-home, should be conducted.
 - b. When the provider is found in compliance with the aforementioned standards, a one-year certificate is provided to operate these services. The certificate is non-transferrable and for each specific site. Note: At any time, DBHDD may request a special compliance review to assess the provider’s compliance with these standards. In addition, individuals receiving intensive out-of-home services shall receive additional clinical oversight to ensure that their medical and behavioral needs are met.
2. The following requirements are applicable to organizations that provide crisis support services to individuals, family members, caregivers, and/or DD waiver provider agencies that access the Georgia Crisis Response System. This system should be utilized for an acute crisis that may present with a substantial risk of imminent harm to self or others or behavior with seriously negative consequences. As a result, the situation may require interventions/actions beyond those outlined in the individual’s Behavior Support Plan/Safety Plan, if applicable. To support individuals in the most integrated, inclusive settings, it is preferred that intensive in-home is rendered, if clinically indicated, prior to referring an individual to intensive out-of-home. Intensive out-of-home is not to be used as respite or to address housing instability absent a behavioral crisis as assessed by Mobile Crisis.
 - a. Intensive in-home and intensive out-of-home staff will coordinate with the individual’s current provider(s), when applicable, for assessment and to recommend any changes in services. Mobile Crisis assesses individuals ages 4 and older who meet eligibility criteria for dispatch. Intensive in-home serves individuals ages 4 and older, while intensive out-of-home is available only to adults ages 19 and older and children ages 10 through 18. Decisions regarding interventions are based on an assessment to ensure that the least restrictive interventions likely to be successful are utilized and to justify the need for any restrictive interventions and/or or placements, i.e. referrals to intensive out-of-home

supports, Crisis Stabilization Units, or other recommended care that meets the needs of the individual.

- b. Plans intended to modify behavior over time (not including agency's crisis plans) will not be developed unless appropriate behavioral assessments are completed, the individual and caregiver are willing to accept this support, and the staff who develop the plans are able to provide follow-up support, replacement activities and training.
- c. Discharge planning should begin at intake and continue throughout utilization of intensive crisis supports. The discharge planning process should include collaboration with all applicable parties, family members/provider(s), Support Coordination, and Regional Field Office staff, including the Planning List Administration and Intake and Evaluation (I&E) teams. The social work staff in the Crisis Response System must coordinate this process with the oversight of a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). The discharge process from intensive out-of-home is governed by an established transition process with clearly defined responsibilities of all involved stakeholders.
- d. If an individual is referred to the intensive out-of-home support, the Mobile Crisis Provider is responsible for arranging transportation for the individual to the intensive out-of-home site. Upon discharge from this service, the crisis provider is responsible for arranging transportation or transporting the individual to their place of residence or new provider, if applicable.
 - i. In addition to current reporting requirements, DD crisis providers must send an email to the DD Crisis Manager/Director of DD Field Operations, and both the Regional Services Administrators of the individual's region of origin and the region of the intensive out-of-home site within 24 hours of admission or discharge. In addition, information for the current or potential provider to be included such as the providers/agency's name, contact information and address. Documented evidence of notification will be maintained by the intensive out-of-home provider. This provider is also required to input the individual's information in the I/DD Crisis Beds Inventory Status Board on BHL Web within 24 hours of admission. The same requirements apply at discharge.

B. Intake Requirements

1. Refer to [Provider Manual for Community Behavioral Health Providers, 01-112](#) for definition of Mobile Crisis.

C. Intensive In-Home and Out-of-Home Staffing Requirements

1. The crisis provider will have sufficient staff at all times to provide intensive in-home and out-of-home services simultaneously.
 - a. Staffing composition must include, at minimum, an LCSW/LPC, behavior specialist, RN, and sufficient direct support staff. The crisis provider may supplement this staff with additional direct support staff, MSW, RN, LPN, and Safety Officers. A psychiatrist should remain available for consultation.
 - b. The use of proxy care in intensive out-of-home services is strictly prohibited.
 - c. The crisis provider is required to notify the DD Crisis Manager/staff vacancies that impact service delivery and may be required to submit an interim staffing plan.

2. All licensed or certified team members are required to comply with [Professional Licensing or Certification Requirements and the Reporting of Practice Act Violations, 04-101](#) maintaining valid/current license or certification.
3. The LCSW/LPC provides clinical oversight of service provision and ensures that all documentation is completed in compliance with these standards and related policies.
4. All applicable DBHDD policies regarding Limited English Proficiency and Sensory Impairment are followed (i.e. [Nondiscrimination and Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities and Individuals with Limited English Proficiency, 15-100](#), and [DBHDD Field Office Access Coordinators, 15-103](#)). In addition, crisis providers must consult with the Office of Deaf Services, in accordance with policy, for additional evaluation and support, if needed.

D. Case Management by Crisis Provider:

1. Once the presenting crisis has been stabilized, individuals receiving intensive in-home or intensive out-of-home support shall also receive case management provided by the provider. Case management continues until the individual is safely transitioned. Individuals receiving intensive out-of-home services are automatically eligible for Intensive Support Coordination during their admission and for at least 30 days post-transition.
2. Case management is a time-limited service that connects the individual in crisis to the necessary services and supports to ameliorate the crisis situation, collaborate with the individual, Intensive Support Coordination, provider/family, behavioral health providers, behavior support providers, and other community-based providers for the development of a discharge plan.

E. Intensive Crisis Support Services Requirements:

1. The Crisis Provider must maintain and develop protocols that describe processes for the provision of intensive crisis supports. At a minimum, the description must include the following processes:
 - a. Accessing Intensive Crisis Supports;
 - b. Types of Intensive Crisis Supports it plans to provide;
 - c. Procedures for utilizing Intensive Crisis Supports both in and out of the individual’s home.:
and
 - d. Follow-up recommendations for on-going individual care that includes Family and/or Provider supports, linkages and training.
2. When behavioral interventions are necessary, Crisis Response staff follow applicable *Best Practice Standards for Behavioral Support Services* and the Community Service Standards for Developmental Disability Providers found in the *Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disabilities Providers as applicable to crisis supports services. The Guidelines for Supporting Adults with Challenging Behavior in Community Settings* provides additional information to consider when developing intervention strategies. (The standards and guidelines are found at [Provider Information: Provider Toolkit](#)).
3. With the oversight of a licensed clinician, the Mobile Crisis Team determines and documents the existing level of crisis that requires the initiation of intensive crisis supports. Referrals to intensive crisis supports are initiated through Mobile Crisis. Please note, the individual must have evidence of a DD diagnosis in order to access these services.
 - a. The criteria to receive intensive in-home include:
 - i. The Mobile Crisis Team is not able to mitigate the crisis in a reasonable amount of time OR

- ii. The crisis was resolved but environmental variables and/or the individual's lack of adaptive behavioral responses make another crisis imminent AND
 - iii. The caregiver or DD service provider is not capable of providing necessary intervention and protection for the individual or others living with the individual AND
 - iv. The intensive in home crisis supports will enable the individual to avoid institutional placement (such as a placement in a behavioral health hospital, nursing home, jail or correctional facility).
 - b. The criteria to receive intensive out-of-home include:
 - i. All of the intensive in-home supports criteria AND
 - ii. The safety of others living in the home with the individual or others living in the community cannot be maintained through the use of Intensive In-Home Supports with written justification based on clinical observation and/or assessment OR
 - iii. Extensive physical environmental modifications are needed because of the crisis and the individual cannot safely reside in the home with Intensive In-Home Supports while modifications are completed.
 - iv. May not be used as respite or to address housing instability absent a behavioral crisis as assessed by the Mobile Crisis Team. In addition, this service will not be used to address allegations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation in which funding from Child/Adult Protective Services or other state agencies is available.
- 4. When the individual meets the following criteria, he/she must be discharged from the service with an accompanying written discharge plan indicating at a minimum that:
 - a. The crisis has been resolved and a plan has been developed that identifies early interventions to prevent future crisis or allows current caregivers, family or staff to maintain safety should future crises arise AND
 - b. Family and/or all providers providing direct supports have been trained and can implement all components of the plan AND
 - c. The individual has met the discharge criteria and the plan of discharge was developed in collaboration with and reviewed with family, Support Coordination, Regional Field Office staff and/or DD service provider(s) OR
 - d. The individual exhibits medical conditions requiring more intensive medical care that cannot be provided through intensive crisis supports.
- 5. Prior to admission, the crisis provider will review the rules and procedures of this service as part of the consent for treatment. If the individual's family, caregivers, friends, or other visitors do not comply with the rules such that it causes, or has the potential to cause, a significant disruption to the milieu and/or safety risk to the individuals and staff, the crisis provider reserves the right to restrict and/or prohibit visits. In the event this occurs, the crisis provider should provide education about the rules and establish a plan to resume visits, provided it is safe and therapeutically beneficial for the individual.
- 6. In addition, individuals who spend more than 48 consecutive hours, planned or unplanned, in the care of natural or paid caregivers without the assessed need by the out-of-home provider to return to this service for further stabilization or additional opportunities for transition preparedness, will be discharged from this service. Exceptions will apply to those individuals who must have routine trial visits in preparation for transition.
- 7. If the individual will be admitted from an inpatient or acute care setting (i.e., ER), the individual must be free from the administration of chemical restraint (i.e., PRN psychotropic, anxiolytic,

sedative medication) and the application of physical restraint (i.e., 2-point and 4-point restraints) for at least 24 consecutive hours prior to admission. Intensive out-of-home is not an environment or service that should be used for psychiatric stabilization.

F. Intensive In-Home Support Requirements:

1. Intensive In-Home Support services include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Implementation of behavioral intervention strategies, under the direction of the crisis provider behavior specialist/clinician and, when applicable, in collaboration with behavior service providers already working with the individual, to include any effective interventions outlined in the individual's current behavioral support and/or safety plan. Other in-home supports include the provision of one-to-one support to address the crisis; modeling of interventions with family and/or provider staff; identification of needed supports for individuals dually diagnosed, assistance with simple environmental adaptations as necessary to maintain safety; and, when necessary, accompanying the individual to appointments related to the crisis supports.
 - b. The provision of a staffing pattern up to 24 hours per day, seven (7) days per week, with the intensity of the staff supports decreasing over seven (7) calendar days. When an individual is in the care of paid caregivers, intensive in-home should only be provided when the residential/CLS provider confirms the staffing ratio required by the individual's ISP. In-home services are not to be used for staffing coverage.
 - c. Maintenance of stakeholder's involvement in the response to the crisis, in order to restore the individual to pre-crisis supports and/or provider services.
 - d. Training provided by qualified professionals, including behavioral specialists to support crisis stabilization and the return of the individual to pre-crisis services and supports, to include:
 - i. Demonstration of interventions to the family/caregiver and/or existing DD service provider (if applicable);
 - ii. Implementation of these interventions by the family/caregiver and/or existing DD service provider (if applicable); and
 - iii. Decrease dependence on restrictive services such as hospital emergency rooms and jails and to focus on effective crisis plans that are more proactive than reactive and to prevent or manage crisis with as little a change in their day-to-day community life.
2. Documentation of Intensive In-Home Support services is to:
 - a. Occur on a daily basis;
 - b. Include a description of the behavioral interventions utilized; and
 - c. Indicate the training process and identity of the trained caregiver or staff that will support the individual upon termination of crisis supports.
3. As a time-limited response, intensive in-home services should not exceed seven (7) calendar days. Extensions beyond seven (7) calendar days are the exception and are not typical. However, clinical follow-up by the behavior specialist or clinician is allowed for up to fourteen (14) days when the need is justified and documented appropriately.
 - a. Exceptions to this timeframe are to be based on extraordinary circumstances assessed daily by the provider.
 - b. Extensions beyond 7 calendar days are to be approved by the DD Crisis Manager or designee. Note: As soon as the crisis provider's staff indicates the need, the DD Crisis Manager or

designee engages and reviews all necessary information for an individual whose circumstances determine the need for this exception.

4. Intensive In-Home providers must develop and maintain operational protocols for the service. At a minimum, protocols must include detailed descriptions of processes that address:
 - a. Stabilization interventions that emphasize positive approaches and protect the health and safety of the individuals, and include the utilization of professional consultation; training available to individuals, family members, and providers; utilization of existing positive behavior support plan and safety plans; ongoing assessment of health and safety needs by qualified professionals; and the role of direct support professionals when working in an individual's home;
 - b. Referral and/or transport to intensive out-of-home crisis supports. Note: Justification for why out-of-home crisis supports is recommended needs to be included in the referral;
 - c. Referral to hospital emergency department to include justification for the referral.
5. **Training Requirements:** Training records are to be maintained, which document that all Crisis Response System staff (in-home and out of home) have participated in training (that includes applicable DBHDD Community Services Standards required trainings) and there is documentation to demonstrate their competence in all crisis protocols and relevant applicable trainings that includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Single Point of Entry (SPOE):
 - i. Mobile crisis dispatch criteria
 - ii. Telephonic crisis intervention
 - b. Mobile team members and intensive support staff are trained in protocols for:
 - i. Assessing the crisis (specific I/DD training in treating and diagnosing problems)
 - ii. Onsite service operations determination for any risks
 - iii. Referral decision criteria
 - iv. Required crisis intervention curriculum
 - Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) www.crisisprevention.com
 - Handle with Care Behavior Management System, Inc. www.handlewithcare.com
 - Mindset <http://interventionsupportservice.com/>
 - Safe Crisis Management www.jkmtraining.com
 - Safety- Care (QBS, Inc.) www.qbscompanies.com
 - v. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
 - vi. First Aid
 - vii. Documentation standards and expectations
 - viii. Person Centered Planning
 - ix. Training in working with I/DD population with dual/co-occurring diagnosis, and
 - x. Training in Trauma Informed Care for individuals with I/DD.

G. INTENSIVE OUT-OF-HOME SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR CRISIS SUPPORT HOMES

The intent of Intensive Out-of-Home Supports is to stabilize the individual through nursing and behavioral supports, on a time-limited basis. Intensive Out-of-Home Supports are to be provided in the DD Crisis Support Homes, which may provide crisis supports to no more than four individuals simultaneously. Individuals under the age of 18 years cannot be served in an Adult DD Crisis Support Home. There is currently no required licensure for the DD Adult Crisis Support Homes. However, each DD Crisis Support Home (both Adult and Child & Adolescent) must receive an initial DBHDD

compliance review, which is valid for six months, and approximately, after six months of serving individuals, a full compliance review will be conducted. Provider will adhere to [Accreditation and Compliance Review Requirements for Providers of Developmental Disability Services, 02-703](#).

Referrals to this service are initiated by Mobile Crisis and reviewed/approved by the DD Crisis Manager or designee.

G-1. DD CRISIS SUPPORT HOME PROTOCOL FOR OPERATIONS

1. Intensive out-of-home providers must develop and maintain protocols for the DD Crisis Support Homes that include but are not be limited to:
 - a. Criteria for determining when and if a referral to an out-of-home crisis support is necessary;
 - b. Staffing plan to include the minimum staffing of a registered nurse, a licensed professional nurse, day, evening and night staff, a behavior specialist, and a psychologist;
 - c. Transportation plan to and from home(s);
 - d. The availability of a licensed clinical social worker to assist crisis support home staff with case management and discharge planning services, to ensure that appropriate referrals and/or coordination of services are part of the transition back to the home environment.
 - e. Accessing emergency health services;
 - f. Medication Management;
 - g. Utilization of an individual's health care plan and protocols;
 - h. Utilization/development/revision of an individual's behavior support plan and/or safety plan, when applicable;
 - i. Identification of needed BH/DD supports for individuals with dual diagnosis; and
 - j. Coordination with an individual's family, support coordinators, residential providers, behavioral support professionals, Regional Field Office, and health care providers, as applicable. The focus of the collaboration is to enable the individual to return home or to the previous placement as appropriate.
2. In addition, the protocols must meet the following:
 - a. For anyone not currently receiving I/DD services, provider must contact the Regional Field Office within 24 hours of admission to initiate eligibility determination.
 - b. Intensive out-of-home support should be used a time-limited, goal directed service and never viewed as a residential option.
 - c. Discharge is determined by the individual's behavioral stability and availability of community-based supports identified to appropriately address the individual's assessed needs. Although admission is not intended to be greater than 30 days, the Division acknowledges that stability is an individual construct and, as a result, some individuals may require longer – or shorter – lengths of stay.
 - d. DD Crisis Manager reviews the status of all transitions at least biweekly and monitors progress as reflected in the crisis transitions process. The DD Crisis Manager addresses transition barriers with the Intensive Support Coordinator and crisis provider.
3. The development of a discharge plan is to be person-centered, beginning at intake and noting:
 - a. An evaluation of additional supports and services by Intensive Support Coordinator
 - b. Intensive support team has trained the staff in post-crisis services placement and/or family members regarding any interventions utilized in the out-of-home crisis placement that will be needed upon transition back home.
4. Upon discharge from this service, the individual may:

- a. Return to his/her family home or provider placement;
 - b. Experience a permanent change in provider location. For individuals in waiver services, a permanent change in provider location will require an assessment evaluation as a result of an approved Individual Service Plan (ISP) version change based upon the long-term interests of the individual and in accordance with DBHDD policies.
5. Support services and discharge planning case management are to be documented daily by appropriate staff.
 6. Records of pre-service and annual training of Crisis Support Home staff, including names of persons trained, the training source, content, dates, length of training, and copies of certificates received and persons attending must be kept and be readily available.
 7. Intensive out-of-home services are voluntary. As such, an individual and/or his/her legal guardian has the right to request discharge at any time. In this event, the crisis provider should adhere to the following escalation protocol:

Presents with <u>no</u> plan or access to supports ¹	Presents <u>with</u> a plan and access to supports ²
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clinical/supervisory staff will meet with the individual to explore reasons for wanting to leave the crisis home. 2. Clinical/supervisory staff will ask the individual what supports are needed in order to feel safe/supported in the crisis home and will implement supports, within reason. 3. Clinical/supervisory staff will review replacement behaviors and/or coping skills with the individual and use de-escalation strategies to address the situation. 4. Clinical/supervisory staff will discuss options and related consequences if the individual (a) decides to remain in the crisis home and (b) decides to voluntarily discharge from this service. 5. Clinical/supervisory staff will document the individual's response to all interventions. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clinical/supervisory staff will meet with the individual to explore options as identified by the individual. 2. Clinical/supervisory staff will support the individual in informed decision-making, contemplating consequences of (a) remaining in the crisis home and (b) discharging from the crisis home. 3. If individual maintains his/her decision to discharge, clinical/supervisory staff will engage the individual in thoughtful planning and will confirm individual's residence post-discharge. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Crisis provider should offer intensive in-home for a period post-discharge if the environment allows for such intervention. 4. Clinical/supervisory staff will document the individual's response to all interventions.
Required communication from the crisis provider:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clinical/supervisory staff will call and email the I/DD Crisis Manager and Intensive Support Coordinator (a) within 2 hours if de-escalation strategies are proving to be ineffective or (b) within 4 hours if de-escalation strategies are proving to be effective, with the latter serving as notification of the individual's actions. Clinical/supervisory staff will provide hourly updates to the I/DD Crisis Manager via email or phone call, based on their judgment, until the situation is resolved. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. If an individual requests discharge to a homeless shelter, the I/DD Crisis Manager should be notified within an hour of this request. 2. In turn, the I/DD Crisis Manager will notify RSA (region of origin), Regional Field Operations Director, Office of Transitions, and Intensive Support Coordinator via email (or phone call, depending on the situation) for further consultation and planning. 	

G-2. DD CRISIS HOME PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT REQUIREMENTS:

¹ Expresses a *desire* to leave the crisis home, displays behaviors that indicate a desire to discharge (i.e., elopement attempts) but has no actionable plan

² Expresses a *plan* to discharge, with access to resources, money, and/or supports

1. A residence must be constructed, arranged, and maintained so as to provide adequately for the health, safety, access, and well-being of the individual and meet ADA requirements for accessibility and safety.
2. A Crisis Support Home must provide for common living space, dining and private sleeping areas;
 - a. The living and sleeping areas for an individual must be within the same building;
 - b. Supportive devices must be installed as necessary to enable the individual to achieve a greater degree of mobility and safety from falling;
 - c. The general floor plan of the home provides for optimal line of sight observations throughout the home. Blind spots shall be addressed through use of unbreakable convex viewing mirrors that allow visual access by staff;
 - d. All DD Crisis Support Homes must provide an area that affords privacy for the individual and visitors. There must be common spaces, such as living and dining rooms, for use by the individual without restriction;
 - e. Common areas of the residence must be large enough to accommodate the individual without crowding. The areas must be comfortably furnished;
 - f. Upon request, the residence must provide a means of locked storage for the valuables or personal belongings of the individual;
 - g. The residence must provide laundering facilities on the premises for individual's personal laundry;
 - h. All stairways and ramps must have sturdy handrails, securely fastened not less than 30 inches nor more than 34 inches above the center of the tread. Exterior stairways, decks, and porches must have handrails on the open sides unless the surface of the deck or porch is so close to ground level that it does not pose a significant risk of injury to the individual to fall from the deck or porch. If railings include balusters, the spacing should not allow for an individual to put their head through them.
 - i. Floor coverings must be intact, safely secured, and free of any hazard that may cause tripping;
 - j. All areas including hallways and stairs must be lighted sufficiently. Lights shall have flush mounted lighting fixtures that are tamper proof with Lexan or other strong translucent materials. Light switches and electrical outlets shall be secured with non-tamper type screws.
 - k. The following exterior conditions must be maintained;
 - i. Entrances and exits, sidewalks, and escape routes must be maintained free of any obstructions that would impede leaving the residence quickly in the case of fire or other emergency. All such entrances and exits, sidewalks, and escape routes must be kept free of any hazards such as ice, snow, or debris,
 - ii. The yard area, if applicable, must be kept free of all hazards, nuisances, refuse, and litter, and
 - iii. The residence must have its house number displayed, to be easily visible from the street.
 - iv. The home must provide for an outside area where individuals may have access to fresh air and exercise. The area must provide privacy from public view and be constructed/designed to minimize elopement from the area.

3. The following minimum standards for bedrooms must be met:

- a. Bedrooms must have sufficient space to accommodate, without crowding, the individual, the individual's belongings, and the minimum furniture of a bed and dresser;
 - b. The individual's bedroom must have at least one window (screened and in good repair for ventilation) and a closet. In addition, all windows shall be protected with a safety film preferably textured for privacy (so curtains/drapes will not be required) to protect against glass breakage, hold glass pieces in place in an impact situation or prevent dangerous flying glass pieces. For newer house construction or replacement of windows, the use of Tempered glass/Lexan/Plexiglass is required.
 - c. Bedrooms for individuals must be separated from halls, corridors, and other rooms by floor to ceiling walls. Hallways must not be used for sleeping;
 - d. The floor plan must be such that no person other than the occupant of that bedroom must pass through a bedroom in order to reach another room;
 - e. The bedroom occupied by the individual must have doors that can be closed. For bedrooms that have locks on doors, both the occupant and staff must be provided with keys to ensure easy entry. Double-cylinder locks (locks requiring a key on both sides) may not be used on the bedroom of an individual. Doors shall not be locked from within and shall be capable of swinging outward or be mounted so that the door can be removed from outside if the door is barricaded from the inside;
 - f. A room must not be used as a bedroom where more than one-half of the room height is below ground level. Bedrooms which are partially below ground level should have adequate natural light and ventilation and be provided with two useful means of egress;
 - g. When an individual is discharged, the room and its contents must be adequately cleaned;
 - h. Each bedroom must contain a standard, non-portable bed measuring at least 36 inches wide and 72 inches long with comfortable springs and a clean mattress. The mattress must be not less than five (5) inches thick or four (4) inches of a synthetic construction. The use of beds with springs, cranks, rails or wheels including hospital beds, rollaway beds, cots, bunk beds, stacked, hide a beds and day beds is prohibited; and
4. Beds and other furniture capable of being used to barricade a door shall be secured to the floor or wall. The following minimum standards apply to bathroom facilities:
- a. At least one functional toilet, lavatory, and bathing or showering facility must be provided for every four individuals residing in a Crisis Support Home;
 - b. At least one fully handicap accessible bathroom must be available;
 - c. Flush mounted safety grab bars must be installed in all showers and area near the toilet;
 - d. Non-skid surfacing or strips must be installed in all showers, tubs and bathing areas;
 - e. Bathrooms and toilet facilities must have a window that can be opened or must have forced ventilation;
 - f. Toilets, bathtubs, and showers must provide for individual privacy;
 - g. Shower head fixture in bathrooms shall be recessed or have a smooth curve from which items cannot be hung and/or bear weight;
 - h. There shall be no overhead metal rods, fixtures, privacy stalls supports or protrusions capable of carrying more than a thirty (30) pound load;
 - i. Mirrors shall not be common glass. A polycarbonate mirror, fully secured and flat mounted to the wall is required. Polished metal mirrors shall not be permitted;
 - j. The toilet shall be a flushometer-type, not residential with water tank and cover; and
 - k. Access to a bathroom shall not be through another individual's bedroom.

G-3. CRISIS SUPPORT HOME FURNISHINGS AND FIXTURES:

1. Furnishings in the living room, bedroom, and dining room, including furnishings provided by the individual, must be maintained in good condition, intact, and functional.
2. Furnishings and housekeeping standards must be such that a residence presents a clean and orderly appearance. The Crisis Support Home must provide the following bedroom furnishings based on safety:
 - a. An adequate closet or wardrobe;
 - b. Lighting fixtures sufficient for reading and other activities;
 - c. A bureau, bed, dresser, or the equivalent and preferably weighted throughout the home site; and
 - d. The furnishings shall be of durable materials not capable of breakage into pieces that could be used as weapons and must not present a hanging risk.
3. The Crisis Support Home must provide to each individual clean towels, washcloths at least twice weekly, and more often if soiled.
4. The Crisis Support Home must provide bedding for each individual including two sheets, a pillow, a pillowcase, and a minimum of one blanket and bedspread. The Crisis Support Home must maintain a linen supply for not less than twice the bed capacity and must adapt the supply to meet any special needs of an individual.

G-4. CRISIS SUPPORT HOME PHYSICAL PLANT, HEALTH, AND SAFETY STANDARDS

1. Each Crisis Support Home must provide a safe and healthy environment for its individuals, and where subject to fire and safety standards promulgated by Office of the Safety Fire Commissioner, such Crisis Support Home must comply with those standards.
2. Each Crisis Support Home must comply and remain in compliance with all state and local ordinances for fire safety in residences of that size and function. In the absence of or in addition to any such local ordinances, the following requirements must be met:
 - a. Wall-mounted electric outlets and lamps or light fixtures must be maintained in a safe and operational condition;
 - b. Cooking appliances must be suitably installed in accordance with approved safety practices;
 - c. Space heaters must not be used;
 - d. Fire screens and protective devices must be used with fireplaces, stoves, heaters, and air-conditioning units;
 - e. If natural gas or heating oil is used to heat the residence, or if a wood-burning fireplace is in the residence, the residence must be protected with carbon monoxide detectors;
 - f. Each residence must have at least one charged, 5 lb. multipurpose ABC fire extinguisher on each occupied floor and in the basement that must be readily accessible. These extinguishers must be checked annually by a fire safety technician and monthly by the staff of the Crisis Support Home to ensure they are charged and in operable condition;
 - g. Exterior doors must be equipped with locks that do not require keys to open the door from the inside;
 - h. An automatic extinguishing system (sprinkler) shall be installed per city/county requirement for residential settings not governed by other federal, state and county rules and regulations, if applicable; and
 - i. An approved smoke alarm with battery backup shall be installed in all sleeping rooms, hallways and in all normally occupied areas on all levels of the residences per safety code. The smoke alarms when activated/tested must initiate an alarm that is audible in the

sleeping rooms. All smoke alarms shall be tested monthly and practice documented. The facility shall be inspected annually to meet fire safety code and copies of inspection maintained. Note: For individuals with special needs such as hearing impairment or deep sleepers who have difficulty in waking to a typical smoke alarm, an alternate safety plan must be addressed in policy and implemented in their sleeping room such as using a Smart Strobe Light smoke alarm or an alarm designed to give reliable early warning of the present of smoke when both audible and visual alarms are required. Strobe type smoke alarms are not recommended for individuals who have epilepsy/seizure disorder.

3. Water and sewage systems must meet applicable federal, state, and local standards and regulations.
4. Floors, walls, and ceilings must be kept clean and in good repair.
5. Kitchen and bathroom areas must be cleaned with disinfectant and maintained to ensure cleanliness and sanitation.
6. The storage and disposal of biomedical wastes and hazardous wastes must comply with applicable federal and state rules and standards.
7. The storage and disposal of garbage, trash, and waste must be accomplished in a manner that will not permit the transmission of disease, create a nuisance, or provide a breeding place for insects or rodents. Waste must be removed from the kitchen as necessary and from the premises at least weekly.
8. No animals/pets may be kept at the residence with the exception of a service animal;
9. Poisons, caustics, and other dangerous materials must be stored in clearly labeled and appropriate containers, safeguarded in an area away from medication storage areas and from food preparation and storage areas and secured as required by the capacity of the individuals.
10. The Crisis Support Home must be equipped and maintained so as to provide a sufficient amount of hot water for the use of the individuals. Heated water provided for use by individuals must not exceed 120 degrees Fahrenheit at the hot water fixture, unless a cooler temperature is required by the needs of the individual. **A water temperature monitor or a scald valve must be installed where necessary to ensure the safety of the individuals.**
11. There must be clearly accessible route(s) for emergencies throughout the residence.
12. The temperature throughout the residence must be maintained by a central heating system or its equivalent at ranges that are consistent with individual's health needs. No individual must be in any area of the residence that falls below 65 degrees or that exceeds 82 degrees Fahrenheit.
13. There must be a supply of first-aid materials available with a minimum of the following: bandages, antiseptic, gauze, tape, thermometer, and gloves.
14. No weapons shall be kept in the Crisis Support Home.
15. The Crisis Support Home staff shall have access to provide 24/7 non-emergency transportation as needed.

G-5. CRISIS SUPPORT HOME RECORD MANAGEMENT

1. All records must be kept in accordance with requirements of the Community Service Standards for Developmental Disability Providers found in the *Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers as applicable to crisis supports services*.

G-6. CRISIS SUPPORT HOME DOCUMENTATION OF SERVICES

1. Providers must document the following in the record of each individual based on the plan to support the individual as determined by the assessment team. The following must be on file for each individual:
 - a. Dates (beginning and ending) of service
 - b. Completed intake/evaluation documents (Medical and/or Behavioral Assessment)
 - c. Determined model of support
 - d. Discharge plan
2. Additionally, documentation of Intensive Out-Of-Home Support services is to:
3. Occur on a daily basis;
4. Include a description of the behavioral interventions utilized;
5. Indicate the training process and identity of the trained caregiver or staff that will support the individual upon termination of crisis supports.

G-7. CRISIS SUPPORT HOME INDIVIDUAL FILES AND INFORMATION

1. All individual files and information must be kept in accordance with requirements of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities current Provider Manual, Section t, Section I, Community Standards for All Providers.

G-8. INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS IN A CRISIS SUPPORT HOME

1. All services delivered should be in accordance with Client's Rights Chapter 290- 4-9 and [Human Rights Council for Developmental Disability Services, 02-1101](#).

G-9. ABUSE IN A CRISIS SUPPORT HOME

1. It is expressly prohibited to mistreat; abuse; neglect; exploit; seclude; and apply physical restraint as punishment, for staff convenience, or to restrict movement to all youth in this service.
2. All staff must receive training on critical incident reporting as outlined in [Reporting Deaths and Other Incidents in Community Services, 04-106](#).
3. Provider will comply with the definitions of seclusion and physical restraint contained in this manual.
4. Refer to Part II, Section 1, in this manual for additional details.

G-10. REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION OF DEATHS AND CRITICAL INCIDENTS IN A CRISIS SUPPORT HOME

1. Death and/or critical incidents of individuals in service must be reported to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities according to [Reporting Deaths and Other Incidents in Community Services, 04-106](#) found in the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities PolicyStat Webpage (<http://gadbhdd.policystat.com>).

G-11. CRISIS SUPPORT HOME SERVICES

1. Each Crisis Support Home must provide room, meals, and crisis services that are commensurate with the needs of the individuals to include special diets. Services must be provided by appropriately qualified staff members.
2. Personal hygiene assistance must be given to those individuals who are unable to keep themselves neat and clean.

3. The Crisis Support Home administrator or his or her designee must teach each individual the techniques of "Standard Precautions," as appropriate to the individual's ability, or must support each individual in the performance of the techniques of "Standard Precautions," including washing his or her hands thoroughly after toileting, sneezing, or any other activity during which the individual's hands may become contaminated.
4. The routine of the residence must be such that an individual may spend the majority of his or her non-sleeping hours out of the bedroom if he or she so chooses. Activities/positive coaching or modeling training must be provided to increase positive replacement behaviors according to each individual's plan of care as determined by the MCT.
5. The Crisis Support Home administrator or his or her designee must be available to any person within the Crisis Support Home, including each individual served.

G-12. NUTRITION SERVICES IN A CRISIS SUPPORT HOME

1. A minimum of three regularly scheduled, well-balanced meals must be available seven days a week. Meals must be served in the early morning (breakfast), at midday (lunch), and the evening (supper), with the last meal taking place no earlier than 5:00 P.M. Meals must meet the general requirements for nutrition found in the recommended Daily Diet Allowances, Food and Nutrition Board, National Academy of Sciences or a diet established by a registered dietitian. Meals must be of sufficient and proper quantity, form, consistency, and temperature. Food for at least two nutritious snacks must be available and offered mid-afternoon and evening. All food groups must be available within the residence and represented on the daily menu.
2. All foods, while being stored, prepared, or served, must be protected against contamination and be safe for human consumption in accordance with accepted standards for food safety.
3. Food received or used in a Crisis Support Home must be clean, wholesome, free from spoilage, adulteration, and mislabeling, and safe for human consumption.
4. A Crisis Support Home must have a properly equipped kitchen to prepare regularly scheduled, well-balanced meals unless it arranges for meals to be provided by a permitted food service establishment. In such case, a copy of required certification related to health, safety, sanitation is available.
5. A Crisis Support Home must maintain a three-day supply of non-perishable foods and water for emergency needs for all individuals receiving services in the Crisis Support Home and staff assigned. Items for individualized special diet included, if applicable.
6. A Crisis Support Home must arrange for and serve special diets as prescribed.
7. The Crisis Support Home shows evidence of individual choice and participation in the planning of meals, as appropriate.

G-13. MEDICATION MANAGEMENT IN A CRISIS SUPPORT HOME

1. All medication must be kept and administered in accordance with requirements of the Community Service Standards for Developmental Disability Providers found in the *Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers as applicable to crisis supports services*. **Note:** A Crisis Support Home shall not utilize staff in the Proxy Caregiver Role.

G-14. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN FOR CRISIS SUPPORT HOME:

1. In the case of a natural disaster (i.e. tornado, flood, hurricane etc.) the crisis provider must develop a plan in compliance with [Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Disaster Recovery Requirements for Community Providers, 04-102](#). Crisis providers must notify the DD Crisis Manager and Director of Field Operations of any need to evacuate a home.

H. Intensive Out-of-Home Support Requirements for Children and Adolescents (C&A):

1. Children and Adolescent between ages 10-18 years needing intensive out of home case management must be served in a Child & Adolescent (C&A) out-of-home site. The intent of this service is to provide nursing and behavioral support on a time-limited basis. The C&A out-of-home site must receive an initial DBHDD compliance review, which is valid for six months, and approximately, after six months of serving individuals, a full compliance review will be conducted. Providers will adhere to [Accreditation and Compliance Review Requirements for Providers of Developmental Disability Services, 02-703](#).
2. The C&A Home provider must comply with the Community Service Standards for Developmental Disability Providers found in the *Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers as applicable to crisis supports services*. C&A Home supports will be available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. It is critical that children and adolescents remain in their family home environment and thus extraordinary circumstances must exist in order to place children and adolescent in this level of support.
3. Referrals to this service are initiated by Mobile Crisis and reviewed and approved by the Autism and I/DD Crisis Services Manager or designee.

H-1. C&A HOME PROTOCOL FOR OPERATION

1. C&A providers must develop and maintain protocols that include but are not be limited to:
 - a. Criteria for determining when and if a referral to a C&A Home is necessary
 - b. Staffing plan to include the minimum staffing of an RN, Behavior Specialist, C&A coordinator, C&A staff, and a Psychiatrist.
 - c. Transportation plan to and from home(s)
2. In addition, the protocols must meet the following:
 - a. Intensive out-of-home support should be used a time-limited, goal directed service and never viewed as a residential option.
 - b. Discharge is determined by the individual's behavioral stability and availability of community-based supports identified to appropriately address the individual's assessed needs. Although admission is not intended to be greater than 30 days, the Division acknowledges that stability is an individual construct and, as a result, some individuals may require longer – or shorter – lengths of stay.
 - c. The DD Crisis Manager reviews the status of all transitions at least biweekly and monitors progress as reflected in the crisis transitions process. The DD Crisis Manager addresses transition barriers with the Intensive Support Coordinator and crisis provider.
3. The development of a discharge plan is to be person-centered, beginning at intake and noting:
 - a. An evaluation of additional supports and services by the Intensive Support Coordinator
 - b. Referral for intake and evaluation by the Regional Field Office I & E Team, to determine eligibility and most in need of services, for individuals not in waiver services.

- c. Intensive Out-of-Home support staff have trained the staff in post-crisis services placement and/or family members regarding all interventions utilized in the out-of-home crisis placement; coordination with the family and/or DD service provider on a plan for return to school/educational activities.
4. Upon discharge from the C&A Crisis Home, the individual may:
 - a. Return to his/her family home or provider placement;
 - b. Experience a permanent change in provider location. For individuals in waiver services, a permanent change in provider location will require an assessment evaluation as a result of an approved Individual Service Plan (ISP) version change based upon the long-term interests of the individual and in accordance with DBHDD policies.
 5. Support services and discharge planning case management are to be documented daily by appropriate staff.
 6. Records of pre-service and annual training of C&A Home staff, including names of persons trained, the training source, content, dates, length of training, and copies of certificates received and persons attending must be kept and be readily available.
 7. The applicable Regional Field Office is to be immediately notified of the child/youth's admission into the C&A home.
 8. The C&A provider is to collaborate with to all applicable parties (Families/Caregivers, Support Coordination Agencies, Provider Agencies, and/or Regional Field Office I & E Teams) in order to establish a comprehensive discharge plan. A discharge plan may include "step downs" to a host home model and then back to family or provider with scheduled maintenance respite in place. The C&A home provider will be required to follow DBHDD and agency policies and procedures. The Home Provider will be required to follow a plan of support determined by the assessment team. Additional support will be provided if authorized.

H-2. C&A HOME RECORD MANAGEMENT

1. All records must be kept in accordance with requirements of the Community Service Standards for Developmental Disability Providers found in the *Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers as applicable to crisis supports services*.

H-3. C&A HOME DOCUMENTATION OF SERVICES

1. Providers must document the following in the record of each individual based on the plan to support the individual as determined by the assessment team. The following must be on file for each individual:
 - a. Dates (beginning and ending) of service
 - b. Completed intake/evaluation documents (Psychiatrist, Medical and/or Behavioral Assessment)
 - c. Determined model of support
 - d. Discharge plan
2. Additionally, documentation of Intensive Out-Of-Home Support services is to:
 - a. Occur on a daily basis;
 - b. Include a description of the behavioral interventions utilized;
 - c. Indicate the training process and identity of the trained caregiver or staff that will support the individual upon termination of crisis supports.

H-4. C&A HOME INDIVIDUAL FILES AND INFORMATION

1. All individual files and information must be kept in accordance with requirements of the Community Service Standards for Developmental Disability Providers found in the *Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers as applicable to crisis supports services*.

H-5. INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS IN A C&A HOME

1. All services delivered should be in accordance with Client's Rights Chapter 290- 4-9.

H-6. ABUSE IN A C&A HOME

1. It is expressly prohibited to mistreat; abuse; neglect; exploit; seclude; or apply physical restraint as punishment, for staff convenience, or to restrict movement to all youth in this service.
2. All staff must receive training on critical incident reporting as outlined in [Reporting Deaths and Other Incidents in Community Services, 04-106](#).
3. Provider will comply with the definitions of seclusion and physical restraint contained in this manual.

H-7. REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION OF DEATHS AND CRITICAL INCIDENTS IN A C&A HOME

1. Death and/or critical incidents of individuals in service must be reported to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities according to [Reporting Deaths and Other Incidents in Community Services, 04-106](#) found in the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities PolicyStat Webpage (<https://gadbhdd.policystat.com/>).

H-8. NUTRITION SERVICES IN A C&A HOME

1. A minimum of three regularly scheduled, well-balanced meals must be available seven days a week. Meals must be served in the early morning (breakfast), at midday (lunch), and the evening (supper), with the last meal taking place no earlier than 5:00 P.M. Meals must meet the general requirements for nutrition found in the recommended Daily Diet Allowances, Food and Nutrition Board, National Academy of Sciences or a diet established by a registered dietitian. Meals must be of sufficient and proper quantity, form, consistency, and temperature. Food for at least two nutritious snacks must be available and offered mid-afternoon and evening. All food groups must be available within the residence and represented on the daily menu.
2. All foods, while being stored, prepared, or served, must be protected against contamination and be safe for human consumption in accordance with accepted standards for food safety.
3. Food received or used in a C&A Home must be clean, wholesome, free from spoilage, adulteration, and mislabeling, and safe for human consumption.
4. A C&A Home must have a properly equipped kitchen to prepare regularly scheduled, well-balanced meals unless it arranges for meals to be provided by a permitted food service establishment. In such case, a copy of required certification related-health, safety, sanitation is available.
5. A C&A Home must maintain a three-day supply of non-perishable foods and water for emergency needs for all individuals receiving services in the Crisis Support Home and staff assigned.
6. A C&A Home must arrange for and serve special diets as prescribed.
7. The C&A Home shows evidence of individual choice and participation in the planning of meals, as appropriate.

H-9. MEDICATION MANAGEMENT IN A C&A HOME

1. All medication must be kept and administered in accordance with requirements of the Medication and Healthcare Management Section in the Community Service Standards for Developmental Disability Providers found in the *Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers as applicable to crisis supports services*.

I. Quality Assurance and Standard Compliance Requirements

1. The DD Crisis Providers of the Crisis System shall develop and maintain performance indicators and outcome data as part of their quality management system that will assist DBHDD and Georgia Crisis Access Line (GCAL) to monitor and generate monthly reports of the Georgia Crisis Response System (GCRS-DD) to make quality improvement decisions based on data collected.
2. The DD Crisis Providers' quality assurance data system shall at a minimum include the following performance indicators and outcomes:
 - a. Intensive in-home:**
 - i. Names of individuals supported for in home supports
 - ii. Admit and discharge dates;
 - iii. Total # of hours of direct support provided by staff name and supporting documentation; and
 - iv. Plans developed for follow-up post discharge;
 - b. Intensive out-of-home:**
 - i. Occupancy rate for each site;
 - ii. Individuals at each site on last day of month (admit date, LOS, discharge date, planned disposition, discharge activities documentation for the month and any barriers to discharge); and
 - iii. Individuals discharged for this month (admit date/discharge date, LOS, discharge disposition, date discharged, planned follow-up activities to support individual/family/provider post discharge and discharge plan uploaded to CIS).
3. The DD Crisis Provider must participate in data collection and generate monthly quality assurance reports for the crisis services provided for submission to DBHDD. In addition to the monthly data reports, the DD Crisis Providers may be requested to provide additional data/ad hoc reports as needed.
4. DD Crisis Providers must develop an internal risk management system that addresses the QI standards areas found in the Community Service Standards for DD Providers under Section C. Quality Improvement and Risk Management (areas 2 a-j).

J. STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

1. Qualifications and Standards of intensive crisis supports professional staff:
2. Qualifications of Professional Social Worker (as defined for the purposes of the Georgia Crisis Response System must meet the following standards):
 - a. Clinical social work licensure (LCSW/LPC) issued by the State of Georgia that is current and unrestricted AND
 - b. Advanced skill in crisis intervention, conducting assessments and/or evaluations, and developing interventions using accepted standards of care AND
 - c. Knowledge of federal, state, and local programs that have been developed for people with developmental disabilities including eligibility criteria and how to access these services AND

- d. Advocacy experience and knowledge of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act and their legal mandates as they relate to special education programs and the rights of people with disabilities.
3. Professional Social Worker Standards:
 - a. Social workers must adhere to the values and ethics of the social work profession, utilizing the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics as a guide to ethical decision making.
 - b. Social workers must adhere to clinical practice guidelines outlined in the NASW Standards for Clinical Social Work in Social Work Practice.
 - c. In accordance with the NASW Standard for Continuing Professional Education and the Georgia State Composite Board's licensure requirements for Continuing Education Units, clinical social workers should obtain any applicable certifications for crisis intervention curricula approved by DBHDD.
 4. Qualifications of Registered Nurse (as defined for the purposes of the Georgia Crisis Response System must meet the following standards):
 - a. Must be a Registered Nurse with an unrestricted license to practice nursing in the state of Georgia AND
 - b. Have experience in caring for individuals with I/DD who are in crisis.
 5. Professional Registered Nurse Standards:
 - a. The Registered Nurse is committed to promoting health through assessment, nursing diagnosing, planning, intervention, evaluation and treatment of human responses when faced with a crisis. The Registered Nurse employs a purposeful use of self as its art and a wide range of nursing, psychosocial and neurobiological theories and research evidence as its science.
 - b. The Registered Nurse will adapt the American Nurses Association Code of Nursing standards and use these standards as comprehensive holistic assessment prior to engaging in any plan to resolve a crisis. The Registered Nurse will be directly involved in all aspect of crisis intervention by utilizing the nursing process.
 6. Qualifications of Licensed Practical Nurse (as defined for the purposes of the Georgia Crisis Response System must meet the following standards):
 - a. Must be a Practical Nurse with an unrestricted license to practice nursing in the state of Georgia under the supervision of a Registered Nurse; AND
 - b. Have experience in caring for individuals with I/DD who are in crisis.
 7. Professional of Licensed Practical Nurse Standards:
 - a. The Licensed Practical Nurse must accept the responsibilities as an accountable member of the health care team; AND
 - b. Shall function within the limits of educational preparation and experience as related to assigned duties; AND
 - c. Function with other members of the health care team in promoting and maintaining health, preventing diseases and disabilities in order to obtain optimal health, utilizing the nursing process under the supervision of the Registered Nurse.
 8. Qualifications of Behavioral Specialist (as defined for the purposes of the Georgia Crisis Response System must meet the following standards):
 - a. Possess a minimum of a Master's degree in psychology, behavior analysis, education, social work or a related field; AND
 - b. Possess specialized training and education in behavioral analysis and positive behavioral supports for people with developmental disabilities by provision of evidence of a minimum of

- thirty-five (35) hours of training and education in behavior analysis and behavioral supports for individuals with I/DD, which may include college transcripts and/or copies of training certificates or evidence of national certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst through documentation of a certificate from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board; AND
- c. Have at least two years' experience in behavioral supports evaluation and services for people with developmental disabilities and/or dually diagnosed.
9. Behavior Specialist Standards: Behavior Specialists are to adhere to the *Best Practice Standards for Behavioral Support Services*.
 10. Qualifications of Physician (M.D; D.O; etc.):
 - a. Graduate of medical or osteopathic college; AND
 - b. Licensed by the Georgia Composite Board of Medical Examiners
 11. Qualifications of Psychiatrist (M.D; etc.):
 - a. Graduate of medical or osteopathic college and a resident in psychiatry approved by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology; AND
 - b. Licensed by the Georgia Composite Board of Medical Examiners

K. Definitions

1. **Crisis Services:** Occur through intensive on-site or off-site supports. This system is designed to be the measure of last resort for an individual with I/DD undergoing an acute crisis presenting substantial risk of imminent harm to self or others and serve as an alternative to emergency room care, law enforcement involvement, and/or institutional placement. Crisis services are time-limited and present-focused in order to address the immediate acute crisis and develop appropriate links to alternate services.
2. **Crisis Support Home:** A home that serves up to four (4) individuals who are experiencing an emotional/behavioral change and/or distress that leads to a disruption of essential functions, which have not responded to Intensive-In-Home Support services.
3. **Developmental Disability:** An individual is determined to have developmental disability by a professional licensed to make this determination. The developmental disability is attributable to a significant intellectual disability, or any combination of a significant intellectual disability and physical impairments. The developmental disability manifests before the individual attains age 22 years and is likely to continue indefinitely.
4. **Case Management by Crisis Services:** Is a time-limited service that connects the individual in crisis to the necessary services and supports to ameliorate the acute crisis situation, coordinates with stakeholders to assure the development of a discharge plan from crisis support services, and ensures follow up on recommended supports/services.
5. **Mobile Crisis:** Refer to [Provider Manual for Community Behavioral Health Providers, 01-112](#) for definition of Mobile Crisis.
6. **Safety Officer:** An individual who provides support related to safety issues during the provision of GCRS-DD service. This individual is to have safety related training and dressed in a safety related uniform. A GCRS-DD safety officer must not carry any form of a weapon (such as a gun, any form of a "Billy club", baton", hand cuffs, Taser gun).
7. **Child & Adolescent (C&A):** A C&A Home is to serve no more than four children ages 10 thru 18 years of age, who are diagnosed with a developmental disability and are undergoing an acute crisis that presents a substantial risk of imminent harm to self or others. Placement in a C&A home is to only occur as a last resort and after a clinical determination for this level of placement has occurred.

Part II

Section 3

Operational and Clinical Standards for Autism Spectrum Disorder Crisis Support Homes

DBHDD Provider Manual

For

Community Developmental Disability Providers

Fiscal Year 2021



**Georgia Department of Behavioral Health
and Developmental Disabilities
January 2021**

D·B·H·D·D

SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND UTILIZATION CRITERIA

The Autism Spectrum Disorder Crisis Support Home (ASD CSH) is a service that provides stabilization support for up to three (3) children/youth who are experiencing a serious emotional/behavioral change or distress that leads to a disruption of essential functions, and/or which may compromise the child/youth's ability to remain in their home or community. The intent of this service is to stabilize the child/youth through the use of crisis intervention techniques and behavioral supports on a time-limited basis. A behavioral support plan related to the crisis episode must be created/updated and utilized while the child/youth resides in the ASD CSH.

The intended outcomes for this service are: 1) The crisis-related behavior is stabilized to the extent that the child/youth can safely return to his or her home/community; 2) The child/youth's caregiver has received training on behavioral interventions for use in the home/community and the support needed to use these interventions successfully; and 3) The child/youth and caregiver/family have received referrals and assistance with linkage to any services and supports needed to maintain the child/youth's progress and to increase the likelihood that the child/youth will be able to successfully remain in his or her own home/community.

A. TARGET POPULATION

1. A child or adolescent (hereinafter referred to as a "youth") between the ages of 10 through 17; **and**
2. For whom there is documented evidence of an ASD diagnosis made by a professional qualified to render diagnoses under Georgia law, or
3. Individualized Education Program (IEP) indicates eligibility of classification of ASD services.

B. ADMISSION CRITERIA

The youth must meet the following criteria in each of the primary categories (1-4) that follow:

1. HARM

Mobile Crisis has intervened but continues to have concern for safety and/or stabilization. However, the youth does not demonstrate the risk acuity to meet admission criteria for Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) level of care; and one or more of the following:

- a. Presents with a behavioral risk of harm to self or others (without clear intent to cause harm); **and/or**
- b. There has been at least one episode of a seriously problematic behavioral issue that, if continued and/or intensified, may compromise the youth's ability to remain in their home/community.

2. COPING/CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Youth needs temporary relief from their current environment/environmental stressors; **and** one or more of the following:

- a. Youth demonstrates insufficient resources or skills necessary to cope with current stress or crises; **and/or**
- b. Youth demonstrates lack of judgment and/or impulse control or cognitive/perceptual abilities to manage current stress or crises.

3. DISTRESS/DISRUPTION

Youth presents with an emotional/behavioral change or distress that is causing a major disruption to essential baseline youth and caregiver/family functioning such that the youth is at risk of longer-term out-of-home placement at a higher level of care.

4. CLINICAL/LEVEL OF NEED

Youth needs short-term, voluntary (not 1013), out-of-home care that includes crisis intervention, and for whom another level of care is not appropriate.

C. CONTINUING STAY CRITERIA

1. Youth continues to meet admission criteria as defined above; **and**
2. A behavioral support plan related to the crisis episode has been created/updated and implemented, but the crisis-related behavior has not stabilized to the extent that the youth can safely return to his or her home/community; **and**
3. A higher level of care is not indicated.

D. DISCHARGE CRITERIA

1. Youth no longer meets admission criteria, is stabilized, and an adequate discharge/continuing support/care plan has been established; **or**
2. The youth's legal guardian requests discharge; **or**
3. The youth's behavior has not stabilized and a higher level of care is indicated; **or**
4. The youth meets any of the Clinical Exclusion criteria post-admission and a higher level of care is indicated.

E. CLINICAL EXCLUSIONS

1. Youth has acute symptoms of a psychotic disorder; and/or suicidal thoughts/behavior with realistic means by which to carry out the behavior;
2. Youth has had episodes of wandering, bolting³, or other elopement behavior in the past 45 days that have placed the youth at imminent risk to self or others, or such behavior occurs post-admission to the CSH;
3. Youth has a known history of sexually inappropriate behavior that may place other residents at risk, or such behavior occurs post-admission to the CSH;
4. Youth has significant verified or suspected underlying medical issues that may require a higher level of care for the purpose of increased medical supervision/intervention, or such issues become known post-admission to the CSH;
5. Youth requires **total care** (i.e. total physical assistance) to complete all Activities of Daily Living (ADLs); **and**
6. Youth's behavior must be the issue causing the crisis, not an issue emanating from the caregiver or environment.
7. In addition to the above, if the youth is admitted from an inpatient or acute care setting, (s)he must be free from the administration of chemical restraint (e.g., PRN psychotropic, anxiolytic, sedative medication) and the application of physical restraint (e.g. 2- and 4-point restraints) for at least 24 consecutive hours immediately prior to admission. It should not impede the ASD CSH from initiating the referral/admission process, with the understanding that admission cannot occur until this requirement is met.

F. SERVICE EXCLUSIONS

1. The following services may not be provided simultaneously with the ASD CSH service:
 - a. PRTF;
 - b. CSU;
 - c. Inpatient hospitalization;
 - d. Any other behavioral health (BH) residential or I/DD residential services.
2. Youth in formalized care settings (i.e. oversight provided by paid professional caregivers) may be admitted at the discretion of the DD Crisis Manager, or designee, upon evaluation from the Mobile Crisis Team.

G. REQUIRED COMPONENTS

1. Referrals to this service will only be accepted from Mobile Crisis and, in special circumstances, as a request of the Division of Developmental Disabilities. DD Crisis Manager,

³ In this context, "bolting" differs from "wandering" as an elopement behavior, in that wandering is a slower or more meandering movement away from a place of safety, whereas bolting is a sudden and fast-paced movement (e.g. running/sprinting/darting), usually toward something of interest or away from something considered by the individual to be aversive (perhaps in nervousness, fear, or irritation/agitation). "Bolting behavior" is discussed often in the ASD literature and may be more common in youth with ASD versus other diagnoses. In the literature, bolting is discussed as a particular concern due to the higher likelihood of resultant accidents (e.g. bolting into traffic), stemming from the lower opportunity for a caregiver or others to observe and respond in a timely manner.

- or designee, will review all referrals and notify the ASD CSH provider to proceed with admission accordingly. The ASD CSH provider will admit all youth approved for this service.
2. The provider is required to place new admissions on the I/DD Crisis Beds Inventory Status Board (BHL Web) within 24 hours of admission.
 3. If youth has an I/DD waiver, the provider must work with the youth's Support Coordinator to ensure that an appropriate service and support array is available to the youth upon discharge.
 4. Provider must develop and maintain policies and procedures for the ASD CSH.
 5. Three (3) regularly scheduled/shift staff must be present in each ASD CSH at all times.
 6. Telemedicine is allowed for a variety of supportive ASD CSH functions, specifically observation, consultation, plan development and caregiver training. All professionals must adhere to relevant regulatory requirements for service provision as set forth by their professional standards and Georgia law.
 7. Provider must engage collaboratively with any community providers, including outpatient ASD service provider(s), currently serving the youth. The ASD CSH provider will obtain the guardian's authorization to communicate with these providers.
 8. In collaboration with the guardian/caregiver – and Case Expeditor, as needed – the ASD CSH provider will make a diligent effort to refer the youth to community services, including outpatient ASD service provider(s), to address ongoing support needs. The ASD CSH provider must document their efforts in the youth's record.
 9. ASD CSH provider must contact the youth's school system within 48 hours of admission to plan for implementation of the youth's IEP and to arrange for needed/required educational services while the youth is in the ASD CSH.
 10. Prior to admission, the ASD CSH provider must obtain a Consent to Treatment signed by the youth's legal guardian, which must include, but not be limited to the following elements:
 - a. Signed acknowledgement by the legal guardian that admission to, continued stay in, and discharge from in the ASD CSH are subject to medical necessity criteria that must be adhered to;
 - b. Signed acknowledgement by the legal guardian and caregiver if different that their involvement in the youth's treatment planning and interventions is required;
 - c. Signed acknowledgement by the legal guardian that they are expected to either directly provide or arrange for transportation of the youth from the ASD CSH upon discharge. The ASD CSH provider may assist the guardian with these arrangements, with the understanding that this provider is not responsible for providing transportation at discharge.

H. STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

1. The ASD CSH must use a team approach for staffing and service delivery. Minimum staffing for the team shall include:
 - a. A FTE Program Manager (minimum of a bachelor's level in a human services field), whose time may be split between the two homes. The Program Manager is responsible for functions involving daily operations of the homes, such as ensuring

adequate staffing coverage on each shift, ensuring that each home has the furnishings, equipment and supplies needed to operate, etc.;

- b. A registered nurse (RN) to supervise the administration of medication, complete health assessments, and provide oversight to LPNs, among other duties as consistent with O.C.G.A. 43-26-1 et seq., Georgia Nurse Practice Act;
 - c. One (1) LPN per shift for the administration of medication and participation in the delivery of healthcare services and other specialized tasks under the supervision of an RN and in accordance with O.C.G.A. 43-26-1 et seq., Georgia Nurse Practice Act;
 - d. One Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) per shift, resulting in 24 hour coverage;
 - e. One or more Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) to equal 1 FTE, whose time may be split between the two ASD CSHs;
 - f. A FTE case manager (minimum of a bachelor's level in a human services field), whose time may be split between the two ASD CSHs. The case manager is responsible for functions involving the successful discharge and transition of each youth back to their home/community or to a more appropriate level of care, such as contacting/collaborating with existing providers of supports and services in the community, arranging for supports and services that may not have previously existed but that are necessary for successful discharge/transition, ensuring the parent/caregiver/family has the support needed for a successful transition, etc.;
 - g. A consulting psychiatrist must be available for medical consultation, medication consultation/orders, and assessments as needed. These services may be provided via telemedicine;
 - h. A referral arrangement with a licensed psychologist, as needed; and
 - i. There must be a minimum of two (2) direct care staff on site at all times, but no less than a 1:1 staff to consumer ratio shall be maintained at all times.
2. The service fails to meet model-integrity in the absence of any key position. It is understood that there may be periodic vacancies of key clinical/programmatic positions, specifically BCBA, case manager, program manager, nurse, RBT, and consulting psychiatrist/psychologist. In this event, the ASD CSH provider must submit written notification to the DD Crisis Manager, Autism Project Coordinator, and Director/Office of Transitions of any such turnover within 24 hours of the awareness of a staff vacancy. The provider must submit a written plan for the provision of immediate coverage (as accepted below) and recruitment with timeline.

3. The provider must arrange for continuation of the critical functions related to a key position via one of the following means:
 - a. Documentation that there is a temporary contract in place for the position with an external professional who fully meets the qualifications for that position; **or**
 - b. Documentation that there is another fully qualified professional who is typically employed elsewhere in the agency, but who is providing the position functions temporarily; **or**
 - c. Specific to the BCBA position, if the provider cannot comply with either item a or b above, a combination of one or more licensed psychologists, or a combination of one or more licensed psychologists and a BCaBA may be used to provide short-term coverage for the BCBA position's functions. This option may only be used as a last resort, and for this to be allowed, the agency must provide the following to the DD Crisis Manager, Autism Project Coordinator, and Director/Office of Transitions: documentation that recruitment is underway and other options were first exhausted. Aggressive recruitment shall be evidenced by documentation in administrative files of position advertising.
 - d. In the event that a position cannot be filled within 90 days OR in the event that there is no ability to provide the coverage articulated in items a-c, there shall be written notification to the State DBHDD Office (Division of DD Director, Assistant DD Director, Director/Office of Transitions, DD Crisis Manager, and Autism Project Coordinator) and the associated Regional Field Office of the intent to cease billing for the service and begin transitioning currently admitted children/youth to other services that will be able to meet their needs.
4. All licensed or certified team members are required to comply with [Professional Licensing or Certification Requirements and the Reporting of Practice Act Violations, 04-101](#) and the Professional Licensing and Certification Requirements of Practice Act, as well as maintenance of valid or current license or certification.
5. A Case Expeditor, supervised by the Autism Project Coordinator, will:
 - a. monitor service provision through routine announced and unannounced site visits, and
 - b. serve as an engaged member of each youth's identified transition team (generally comprised of the ASD CSH team, the youth, family/caregiver, established care providers, representatives from the school system, Support Coordinator when applicable, and any others, including Regional Field Office representatives, whose participation is deemed necessary) as evidenced by:
 - i. Participation in all formal discharge planning meetings,
 - ii. Assistance with service linkage, when clinically indicated and/or requested by the case manager,

- iii. Post-transition follow-up at a frequency determined by the transition team but not to exceed 60 days, and
 - iv. Participation in routine case consultation with ASD CSH clinical staff.
6. The activities of the Case Expeditor supplement – and do not supercede – the responsibilities of the ASD CSH’s clinical team, most notably the case manager and BCBA, as outlined in job descriptions and these standards.

I. CLINICAL OPERATIONS

1. A BCBA must begin a behavioral assessment of each youth within 36 hours of admission to help inform the development of an individualized crisis plan and to initiate the process of developing a behavioral support plan.
2. A nurse must evaluate each youth within 12 hours of admission. The nurse shall also perform medication management functions and conduct other assessments/evaluations as needed within their scope of practice. An LPN must work under the supervision of a RN. Note: All treatment for youth in the ASD CSH provided by an LPN who receive oversight supervision from RNs must adhere to the requirements as outlined in [Registered Nursing Oversight in I/DD Community Settings, 02-808](#).
3. As part of the needs assessment, provider must work to identify needed BH and/or I/DD supports for youth with co-occurring diagnoses.
4. Crisis Management/Intervention:
 - a. Immediately upon admission, and until an individualized crisis plan has been developed, the provider must implement its internal policies and procedures/protocols for the management of crisis situations and for ensuring the health and safety of its staff and the youth served.
 - b. Within two (2) days of admission, an individualized crisis plan must be developed (or updated if one already exists) and implemented for each youth served.
 - c. Within five to seven (5-7) days of admission, the results of a preliminary behavioral assessment must be available to inform the development of an individualized behavioral support plan which is primarily focused on the crisis-related behavior.
 - d. Within seven to nine (7-9) days of admission, the preliminary draft of an individualized behavioral support plan must be developed or updated (with BCBA oversight) and finalized/implemented within ten to twelve (10-12) days of admission.
5. Upon admission, the provider must begin implementation of a new or revised individualized discharge plan. The case manager must assist each youth and

caregiver/family with identifying and accessing needed services/supports post-discharge and must update/coordinate with any existing supporting providers.

6. Provider must work with the youth's caregiver/family/support system (as applicable) to begin to evaluate and address needed training in behavioral and/or crisis de-escalation techniques/supports. Provider will work with the youth's community outpatient provider(s) to facilitate any needed continuation of this training post-discharge.
7. A daily activity schedule (per shift) must be posted in the ASD CSH and available to external reviewers. A significant portion of the daily schedule must consist of structured activities. These activities should be related to skills training and education (to enhance positive/functional behavior and reduce challenging behavior) and be consistent with each youth's needs as identified in his or her behavioral support/crisis plan.

J. DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Provider will meet all requirements of the Administrative Services Organization (ASO) and as articulated in this manual Part II, Section 1, D, III.
2. Provider will adhere to any documentation requirements set forth in their contract related to quality management, utilization management, etc.
3. Youth receiving ASD CSH services shall be reported as a per diem encounter based upon occupancy at 11:59 PM. Youth entering and leaving the ASD CSH on the same day (prior to 11:59 PM) will not have a per diem encounter reported.
4. The notes for the program must have documentation to support the per diem, including admission/discharge time, shift notes, and specific consumer interactions.
5. Additionally, the provider must document the following in each youth's record:
 - a. Specific activity, training, or assistance provided daily, to include description of behavioral interventions;
 - b. Date and the start and end times when services were provided;
 - c. Verification of service delivery, including first and last names and titles (if applicable) of the staff providing the service/training;
 - d. Progress toward goals outlined in the behavioral support plan and/or care plan; and
 - e. Description of outcomes specific to each target behavior and related interventions and goals training, including, but not limited to, behavioral changes, acquisition of

replacement skills, ability to increase community integration, and other positive outcomes.

K. REPORTING AND BILLING REQUIREMENTS

1. Admission requires approval from the DD Crisis Manager or designee. Utilization management will occur through the Division of Developmental Disabilities.
2. The provider will post all applicable information as required to the I/DD Crisis Beds Inventory Status board on BHL Web.
3. The provider must report information on all youth served.
4. The provider shall submit per diem encounters for all youth served.
5. Span claiming in the ASO system may occur for this service, meaning that the start and end date are not the same on a given service claim line. The span dates may cross months (start date and end date on a given service line may begin in one month and end in the next).

L. MEDICAID REQUIREMENTS

None. This is not a Medicaid billable service.

M. CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. There is currently no licensure required for the operation of an ASD CSH. However, prior to operation, each ASD CSH must receive an initial DBHDD compliance review by the Office of Provider Certification & Services Integrity, Division of Accountability & Compliance. If the provider is found in compliance, OPCI issues a six (6) month provisional certificate. At six (6) months, the provider receives a full certification visit conducted by OPCI, at which time the provider may be issued a one (1) year certificate. At one (1) year, a certification visit is conducted; the provider may be issued a certificate for up to five (5) years if determined to be in substantial compliance. [Accreditation and Compliance Review Requirements for Providers of Developmental Disability Services, 02-703](#).
2. The certificate is non-transferrable and is for the specific site. Note: At any time, DBHDD may request a special compliance review to assess the provider's compliance with the applicable DBHDD community service standards and ASD standards referenced in this document.

N. ORGANIZATIONAL PRACTICES

1. The provider must have policies and procedures (P&P) that address, at minimum, the following:

- a. Description of services for how ASD crisis services are provided, types of assessments, use of evaluation tools, management of crisis situations, development of behavioral/safety/crisis plans utilizing evidence-based practices;
- b. Quality improvement processes for assessing and improving quality of supports;
- c. Risk management plan that identifies and monitors risk issues on an ongoing basis;
- d. Admission and discharge process;
- e. Staff P&P that outlines staffing qualification requirements, protocols for hiring practices, and competency and background checks. Note: Providers must adhere to [Criminal History Records Checks for DBHDD Network Provider Applicants, 04-104](#);
- f. Utilization/development/revision of a youth's behavioral support plan and/or safety plan to include how behavioral needs are monitored daily to include data collection and efficacy of behavioral interventions and replacement behavioral training;
- g. Monitoring and evaluation of services that demonstrate respect for the youth's rights, choices, and person-centered planning. The use of aversive techniques, such as denial of meals and sleep, is strictly prohibited and should be reflected in the provider's P&P; and
- h. Transportation plan to appointments and community activities. Vehicle(s) must be operated only by provider staff who have received the required defensive driving training and possess a valid Georgia driver's license.
- i. ASD CSH provider must maintain policies and procedures for all vehicles used in this service, as required by DBHDD Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers, to include:
 - i. Authenticating licenses of drivers and MVR upon hire and annually;
 - ii. Proof of current vehicle insurance (agency and staff, to include staff vehicle riders within agency policy, if applicable);
 - iii. Routine maintenance schedule;
 - iv. Requirements for evidence of driver training;
 - v. Safe transport of youth served that includes documentation of boarding and exit time of youth with to and from location of planning trip and not leaving youth unattended in the vehicle;
 - vi. Requirements for maintain an attendance log of persons while in vehicle;
 - vii. Safe use of lift, seat belts, tie downs, and any other safety equipment if applicable;
 - viii. Availability of first aid kits and seatbelt cutter;

- ix. Fire suppression equipment; and
- x. Emergency preparedness (availability of portable phone for emergency calls) to include process for handling and reporting an incident and accident.

2. Person-centered planning for treatment and therapies that includes:

- a. Identification of known and possible behavior patterns that are exhibited during a crisis, as well as environmental stressors that will escalate to an acute crisis. The focus of plans should emphasize crisis prevention through the manipulation of antecedent strategies, proactive skill building, and prevention of acute crisis.
- b. Behavioral/crisis support plans are developed and based on a functional assessment to understand the causes maintaining the challenging behaviors, to include past trauma, so replacement behaviors can be identified in an effort to teach alternative behaviors that will achieve the same results as the challenging behaviors.
- c. Focus on the youth's strengths and attributes, with an assessment of past trauma and abuse, to guide the process for determining early interventions for how the youth would prefer to be approached if/when in crisis.
- d. An environment structured to meet the youth's needs for space, privacy, and safety to minimize incidents.
- e. Collaboration of integrated holistic care to establish an effective behavior/safety/crisis plan for continuity of care that services to compliment and provide for integrated supports across service settings once the youth is transitioned to the community.
- f. Plans for follow-up supports and maintenance of stakeholder's (treatment agencies, family, school system) involvement in the youth's response to safety/crisis plan in order to provide continuity of care when discharged.

3. This service is time-limited and should not exceed thirty (30) days. Extensions beyond thirty (30) days are the exception and not typical. Requests for extensions in increments of seven (7) days will be submitted by ASD CSH provider to the Autism Project Coordinator or designee. The BCBA and/or Program Manager will submit the Service Extension Form to the Autism Project Coordinator or designee no later than 72 hours prior to the projected discharge date. Extensions are only approved when discharge criteria have not been met as evidenced by observations, with assessment of outcomes related to clinical interventions documented daily.

- a. Note: As soon as the provider and staff indicate the need for extension and initiate the written extension request, the Autism Project Coordinator or designee reviews all necessary information on the youth whose circumstances determine the need for the extension and will schedule routine meetings with the provider to monitor the youth's progress and address barriers to transition. The Autism Project Coordinator or designee will approve or deny the extension within 24 hours of receipt with written notice (inclusive of clinical justification) to the ASD CSH provider and DD Crisis Manager..
4. All applicable practices regarding Limited English Proficiency and Sensory Impairment must be following in accordance with [Nondiscrimination and Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities and Individuals with Limited English Proficiency, 15-100](#). In addition, the provider should consult with the Office of Deaf Services (ODS) for additional supports if needed and to refer youth with hearing loss to ODS.

O. EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. For a holistic approach to treatment and continuity of services while as the ASD CSH, the educational needs of youth must be addressed in the P&P that includes:
 - a. IEP developed by the school system should be an integral part of the behavioral treatment and programming at the ASD CSH when the youth is anticipated to be absent from school for a minimum of ten (10) consecutive school days.
 - b. Collaboration with the school staff to implement educational supports that are outlined in the youth's current IEP, to include service goals training, within 48 hours of admission.
 - c. Partnership with a school system located in the area for change of placement for educational supports, to include:
 - i. How the ASD CSH and school system plans to provide for the continuity of educational training as outlined in the youth's current IEP. (All trainings/supports provided must meet documentation requirements and be maintained in the youth's file).
 - ii. All activities and trainings must be individualized and reflect the youth's participation and choice. The IEP may need revisions to meet the evolving needs of the youth.

P. STAFF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

1. Provider must maintain staff training records as documentation that all staff have participated in training, to include applicable Community Service Standards prior to direct contact with youth and trainings within first sixty (60) days of hire. Training records should include documentation as demonstration of their competence in all crisis protocols and relevant, applicable ASD trainings that include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Assessing the behavioral crisis (specific ASD training in treating and diagnosis problems);
 - b. Onsite service operations determination for any risk;
 - c. Completion of a nationally recognized crisis intervention curriculum approved by DBHDD and taught by a certified trainer in such program as Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI);
 - d. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) that includes both written and hands on competency training;
 - e. Instructions on how to monitor the breathing, verbal responsiveness, and motor control of a youth who is subject of an emergency safety intervention;
 - f. Training in working with youth with ASD to recognize their strengths and opportunities in thinking and learning;
 - g. Person-centered planning;
 - h. Trauma informed care;
 - i. Techniques of Standard precautions, to include:
 - i. Preventative measures to minimize risk of infectious disease transmission;
 - ii. Use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE);
 - iii. Sharps safety (with sharp containers disposed of according to state and local regulated medical waste rules);
 - iv. Environmental controls for cleaning and disinfecting work surfaces;
 - v. Skills guides for handwashing, cleaning up spills, gloves use, and what to do with contaminated supplies;
 - vi. Respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette for cough, congestion, runny nose, or increased production of respiratory secretions; and
 - vii. Approaches to individual education, to include incident reporting and follow-up.

- j. Documentation and retraining, if applicable, when implementation of emergency safety interventions results in a youth injury; and
- k. Annual training of staff, including names of persons trained, trainer, the training source, content, dates, length of training, and copies of certificates must be maintained in staff files and readily accessible.

Q. RECORD MANAGEMENT

All records must be kept in accordance with the requirements of the Community Service Standards found in the DBHDD Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers.

R. FILES AND INFORMATION

Providers abide by all applicable state and federal laws regarding record retention and confidentiality.

S. RIGHTS

All services delivered should be in accordance with Client's Rights Chapter 290-4-9 and [Human Rights Council for Developmental Disability Services, 02-1101](#). Providers should refer to this manual for additional information and instructions as to rights protections.

T. ABUSE

It is expressly prohibited to mistreat; abuse; neglect; exploit; seclude; and apply physical restraint as punishment, for staff convenience, or to restrict movement to all youth in this service.

1. Prior to service delivery, all staff must receive training on critical incident reporting as outlined in [Reporting Deaths and Other Incidents in Community Services, 04-106](#).
2. ASD CSH provider will comply with the definitions of seclusion and physical restraint contained in the DBHDD Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers.
3. The phone numbers for DFCS and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program must be readily available and accessible to all in the home.

U. REPORTING AND INVESTIGATIONS OF DEATHS AND CRITICAL INCIDENTS

Deaths and/or critical incidents involving youth served in an ASD CSH must be reported to DBHDD in accordance with [Reporting Deaths and Other Incidents in Community Services, 04-106](#), and [Investigating Deaths and Other Incidents in Community Services, 04-118](#).

V. MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

All medication must be kept and administered in accordance with the requirements of the DBHDD Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers. The use of proxy care in this service is expressly prohibited. Note: LPNs must be under the supervision of a licensed RN.

W. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN

In accordance with [Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Disaster Recovery Requirements for Community Providers, 04-102](#), the provider must develop a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) that addresses disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. At the time of disaster plan implementation, the providers should contact the State Office, in particular the Autism Project Coordinator and DD Crisis Manager, , as well as the related Regional Field Office. The provider should refer to this manual for additional instructions.

X. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT REQUIREMENTS

The residence must be constructed, arranged, and maintained to provide adequately for the health, safety, accessibility, sensory needs, and well-being of the youth. The residence must meet ADA requirements for accessibility.

1. Must provide for common living space, dining, and private sleeping areas:
 - a. The living and sleeping areas must be within the same building;
 - b. Alarm systems should be applied to all windows and doors;
 - c. Supportive devices must be installed as necessary to enable the youth to achieve a greater degree of mobility and safety from falling;
 - d. The general floor plan of the home provides for optimal line of sight observations throughout the home. Blind spots shall be addressed through the use of unbreakable convex viewing mirrors that allow visual access by staff;
 - e. Must provide an area that affords privacy for the youth and visitors;
 - f. Common spaces, such as living and dining rooms, must be available for use by the youth and without restriction;
 - g. Common areas must be large enough to accommodate youth without crowding and should be comfortably furnished with sturdy furniture;
 - h. Must provide a means of locked storage for the valuables or personal belongings of the youth;
 - i. Must provide access to a working washer and dryer and staff must assist youth with laundry;

- j. All stairways and ramps must have sturdy handrails, securely fastened not less than 30° nor more than 34° above the center of the tread. Exterior stairways, decks, and porches must have handrails on the open sides unless the surface of the deck or porch is so close to the ground that it does not pose a significant risk of injury to the youth to fall from the deck or porch. If railings include balusters, the space should not allow for a youth to put his or her head through them.
 - k. Floor coverings must be intact, safely secured, and free of any hazard that may cause tripping; and
 - l. All areas, including hallways and stairs, must be lighted sufficiently. Lighting fixtures shall be recessed and tamper proof with Lexan or other strong translucent materials. Light switches and electrical outlets shall be secured with non-tamper type screws. In consideration of the sensory needs of youth in this service, lighting should be fitted with dimmers.
2. The following exterior conditions must be maintained:
- a. Entrances and exits, sidewalks, and escape routes must be maintained free of any obstructions that would impede leaving the residence quickly in the case of fire or other emergency and must be kept free of any hazards, such as ice, snow, or debris;
 - b. The yard, if applicable, must be free of all hazards (including poisonous plants), nuisances, refuse, and litter;
 - c. The residence must have its house number displayed, which should be easily visible from the street;
 - d. The residence must provide for an outside area where youth may have access to fresh air and exercise and should allow for privacy. It should be designed/constructed to minimize elopement from the area, preferably using a fence.
3. The following minimum standards for bedrooms must be met:
- a. Bedrooms must have sufficient space to accommodate the youth, the youth's belongings, and, minimally, a bed and dresser without crowding. The single bedroom shall have at least 75 square feet of usable floor space that does not include a built-in closet;
 - b. The youth's bedroom must have at least one window (screened and in good repair for ventilation) and a closet;
 - c. All windows shall be protected with a safety film, preferably textured for privacy (such that curtains/drapes are not required), to protect against glass breakage, hold glass pieces in place in an impact situation, or prevent dangerous flying glass pieces. For newer construction or replacement of windows, the use of tempered glass, Lexan, or Plexiglas is required;

- d. Bedrooms for youth must be separated from halls, corridors, and other rooms by floor to ceiling walls. Hallways cannot be used for sleeping;
 - e. The floor plan must be such that no person other than the occupant of that bedroom must pass through a bedroom to reach another room;
 - f. The bedroom must have doors that can be closed. For bedrooms that have locks on doors, both the occupant and staff must be provided with keys to ensure easy entry. Double-cylinder locks (locks requiring a key on both sides) may not be used on the bedroom of a youth. Doors shall not be locked from within and shall be capable of swinging outward or be mounted so that the door can be removed from outside if the door is barricaded from the inside;
 - g. A room must not be used as a bedroom where more than one-half of the room's height is below ground level. Bedrooms which are partially below ground level should have adequate natural light and ventilation and be provided with two useful means of egress;
 - h. When the youth is discharged, the bedroom and its contents must be adequately cleaned;
 - i. Each bedroom must contain a standard, non-portable bed measuring at least 36" wide and 72" long. The mattress must be clean and not less than 5" thick or 4" of synthetic construction. The use of beds with springs, cranks, rails, or wheels including hospital beds, rollaway beds, cots, hide-a-beds, bunkbeds, stacked beds, and day beds is strictly prohibited; and
 - j. Beds or other furniture capable of being used to barricade a door shall be secured to the floor or wall.
4. The following minimum standards apply to bathrooms:
- a. At least one functional toilet, lavatory, and bathing or showering facility must be provided for every three (3) youth residing in the ASD CSH;
 - b. At least one fully handicap accessible bathroom must be available;
 - c. Flush mounted safety grab bars must be installed in all showers and area(s) near the toilet;
 - d. Floor drains should be installed to address spillage during bathing and, possibly, during water play;
 - e. Non-skid surfacing or strips must be installed in all showers, tubs, and bathing areas;

- f. Bathrooms and toileting facilities must have a window that can be opened or must have forced ventilation;
- g. Toilets, bathtubs, and showers must provide privacy;
- h. Showerheads shall be recessed or have a smooth curve from which items cannot be hung and/or bear weight;
- i. Use of overhead metal rods, fixtures, privacy stall supports, or protrusions capable of carrying more than a thirty (30) pound load is strictly prohibited;
- j. Mirrors shall not be common glass. A polycarbonate mirror, fully secured and flat mounted to the wall, is required. Polished metal mirrors shall not be permitted;
- k. Toilet shall be tankless/flushometer-type, not residential with water tank and cover;
- l. Access to a bathroom shall not be through another youth's bedroom; and
- m. Toilet paper must be available for use at each commode.

Y. FURNISHINGS AND FIXTURES

1. Furnishings in the living room, bedroom, and dining room, including furnishings provided by the youth, must be maintained in good condition, intact, and functional;
2. Furnishings and housekeeping standards must be such that the residence presents a clean and orderly appearance;
3. Must provide an adequate closet or wardrobe; lighting fixtures sufficient for reading and other activities; bureau, bed, dresser, or equivalent made of durable materials not capable of breakage into pieces that could be used as weapons and must not present a hanging risk;
4. Must provide each youth with clean towels, including washcloths, at least twice weekly and more frequently if soiled; and
5. Must provide bedding for each youth, including two sheets, one pillow, one pillowcase, and a minimum of one blanket and bedspread. In addition, the ASD CSH must maintain a linen supply for not less than twice the bed capacity and must adapt the supply to meet the special needs of the youth.

Z. PHYSICAL PLANT, HEALTH, AND SAFETY STANDARDS

1. Must provide a safety and healthy environment for its youth, and, where subject to fire and safety standards promulgated by the Office of the Safety Fire Commissioner, must comply with those standards;

2. Must comply and remain in compliance with all state and local ordinances for fire safety in residences of that size and function. In the absence of or in addition to any such local ordinances, the following requirements must be met:
 - a. Wall-mounted electrical outlets and lamps or light fixtures must be maintained in safe and operable condition;
 - b. Cooking appliances must be suitably installed in accordance with approved safety practices;
 - c. Space heaters must not be used;
 - d. Fire screens and protective devices must be used with fireplaces, stoves, heaters, and air conditioning units;
 - e. If natural gas or heating oil is used to heat the residence, the residence must be protected with carbon monoxide detectors;
 - f. Active use of any fireplace is prohibited. Fireplaces should be deconditioned prior to occupancy;
 - g. Must have at least one readily accessible, charged, 5 lbs. multipurpose ABC fire extinguisher on each occupied floor and in the basement. Extinguishers must be checked annually by a fire safety technician and monthly by the staff of the ASD CSH to ensure they are charged and in operable condition;
 - h. Exterior doors must be equipped with locks that do not require keys to open the door from the inside;
 - i. An automatic extinguishing system (sprinkler) shall be installed per city/county requirements for residential settings not governed by other federal, state, and county rules and regulations if applicable; and
 - j. An approved smoke alarm with battery backup shall be installed properly in all sleeping areas, hallways, and all normally occupied areas on all levels of the residence per safety code. When activated, the smoke alarms must initiate an alarm that is audible in the bedrooms. All smoke alarms shall be tested monthly, with the documented outcome. The facility shall be inspected annually to meet fire safety code and copies of inspections should be maintained. Note: For youth with special support needs, such as hearing impairment or deep sleepers who have difficulty waking to a traditional alarm, an alternate safety plan must be addressed in policy and implemented in their bedrooms, such as the use of a Smart Strobe Light smoke alarm or an alarm designed to give reliable early warning of the presence of smoke when both audible and visual alarms are required. Strobe-type smoke alarms are not recommended for youth with seizure disorder/epilepsy.
3. Water and sewage systems must meet applicable federal, state, and local standards and regulations;

4. Floors, walls, and ceilings must be kept clean and in good repair, preferably constructed of non-absorbent materials;
5. Kitchen and bathrooms must be cleaned by ASD CSH staff with disinfectant and maintained to ensure cleanliness and sanitation;
6. The storage and disposal of biomedical and/or hazardous waste must comply with applicable federal and state rules and standards;
7. The storage and disposal of garbage, trash, and waste must be accomplished in a manner that will not permit the transmission of a disease, create a nuisance, or provide a breeding place for insects or rodents. Waste must be removed from the kitchen as necessary and from the premises at least once weekly;
8. Due to the nature of this service, no pets of any kind are allowed on the premises;
9. Poisons, caustics, and other dangerous materials must be stored in a clearly labeled and appropriate container; safeguarded in an area away from medication storage, food preparation, and other storage areas; and secured in locked storage. Youth are prohibited from handling any of these substances;
10. Must be equipped and maintained to provide sufficient hot water. Hot water provided for use by youth must not exceed 120° Fahrenheit at the fixture, unless a cooler temperature is required by the needs of the youth. A water temperature monitor or scald valve must be installed where necessary to ensure the safety of the youth;
11. Must have clearly accessible route(s) for emergencies throughout the residence;
12. Must establish procedures and mechanisms for alerting and caring for youth in case of emergencies and for evacuating them to safety. An evacuation plan with clear instructions shall be available and posted within each ASD CSH;
13. Youth who needs assistance with ambulation shall be provided bedrooms with access to ground-level exits to the outside;
14. Temperature throughout the residence must be maintained by a central heating system or its equivalent at ranges that are consistent with the youth's health needs. No youth must be in any area of the residence that falls below 65° Fahrenheit or exceeds 82° Fahrenheit;
15. Must possess a readily available supply of first aid materials including bandages, antiseptic, gauze, tape, thermometer, and gloves;
16. No weapons shall be kept in the ASD CSH. Kitchen utensils that could be used as a weapon, such as knives, should be kept in locked storage; and
17. Staff will have access to 24/7 transportation.

AA. SUPPORT SERVICES

1. Each ASD CSH must provide room, meals, and crisis services that are commensurate with the youth's needs, to include special diets. Services should be provided by appropriately qualified staff members;
2. Personal hygiene assistance must be given to youth who are unable to keep themselves neat and clean;
3. The Program Manager or designee must teach each youth the techniques of standard precautions, as appropriate to the youth's ability, or must support each youth in the performance of the techniques of standard precautions including washing hands after toileting, sneezing, or any other activity during which the youth's hands may become contaminated;
4. The routine of the ASD CSH must be such that the youth spends the majority of their time outside of sleeping hours in areas other than their bedrooms. Activities/positive coaching or modeling training must be provided to increase positive replacement behaviors according to each youth's plan or care and behavioral support program;
5. The Program Manager or designee must be available to any person within the ASD CSH, including each youth served;
6. ASD CSH provider will adhere to Community Service Standards in the creation of a basic Infection Control Plan, reviewed annually for effectiveness and revision, to address:
 - a. Standard precautions;
 - b. Handwashing guidelines;
 - c. Proper storage of personal hygiene items; and
 - d. Specific common illnesses/infectious diseases likely to be emergent in the particular service setting;
7. ASD CSH provider will also maintain policies, procedures, and practices for controlling and preventing infections in the service setting, as required by the Community Service Standards, through evidence of:
 - a. Guidelines for environmental cleaning and sanitizing;
 - b. Guidelines for safe food handling and storage;
 - c. Guidelines for the proper disposal of biohazardous materials and sharps;
 - d. Guidelines for laundry that include the collection, sorting, transporting, washing, and storage in a manner that prevents the spread of infection and contamination of the environment; and
 - e. Guidelines for food preparation.

BB. NUTRITIONAL SERVICES

1. A minimum of three (3) regularly scheduled, well-balanced meals must be available seven (7) days per week. Meals must be served in the early morning (breakfast), at midday (lunch), and in the evening (dinner), with the last meal served no earlier than 5:00 PM and no later than 7:00 PM;
2. ASD CSH shall provide each youth with meals and snacks of serving sizes dependent upon the nutritional guidelines established by the United States Department of Agriculture Childcare Program; recommended daily diet allowances, Food and Nutrition Board, National Academy of Sciences; or a diet established by a registered dietician. Meals must be of sufficient and proper quantity, form, consistency, and temperature. Food for at least two nutritious snacks must be available and offered mid-afternoon and evening. All food groups must be available within the residence and represented on the daily menu;
3. All foods, while being stored, prepared, or served, must be protected against contamination and be safe for human consumption in accordance with accepted standards for food safety;
4. Food received or used must be clean, wholesome, free from spillage, adulteration, and mislabeling, and safe for human consumption;
5. ASD CSH must have a properly equipped kitchen to prepare regularly scheduled, well-balanced meals unless it arranges for meals to be provided by a permitted food service establishment, which, in such case, a copy of required certification related to health, safety, and sanitation is available;
6. ASD CSH must maintain a three-day supply of non-perishable foods and water for emergency needs for all youth and staff, to include food for special diets when applicable;
7. ASD CSH must arrange for and serve special/modified diets based on medical or religious reasons as needed. Modifications due to medical reasons shall require a written physician's order with a copy maintained in the youth's record; and
8. Meal planning should demonstrate choice and participation of the youth, as safe and appropriate.

CC. QUALITY ASSURANCE AND STANDARDS COMPLIANCE

1. Provider will develop and maintain performance indicators and outcome measurement data as part of their performance management system that will assist DBHDD to monitor and generate monthly reports of the ASD CSH to make quality improvement decisions based on the collected data. The provider's performance data system shall, at minimum, include the following performance indicators and outcomes:
 - a. Names of youth supported in each ASD CSH;
 - b. Total number of youth at each ASD CSH on the last day of each month ("occupancy rate");

- c. Total number of new admissions and discharges each month (“admission and discharge data”);
 - d. Average length of stay in each ASD CSH;
 - e. Total number of hours of training provided to youth, families, and/or caregivers monthly;
 - f. Total number of hours of training provided to ASD CSH direct support staff monthly;
 - g. Total number of reportable critical incidents to DBHDD;
 - h. Staff vacancies and new hires each month;
 - i. Total number of hospitalizations (separated by medical vs. behavioral necessity); and
 - j. Total number of calls for law enforcement assistance monthly.
2. The provider must develop a well-defined performance improvement plan and an internal risk management system that addresses the performance areas found in the DBHDD Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers, Community Service Standards.
 3. The provider must participate in data collection and generate monthly performance reports for submission to the Autism Project Coordinator and DD Crisis Manager. . In addition to monthly data reports, providers may be required to provide additional data/ad hoc reports as requested by DBHDD.

Part II
Section 4

**Request for Conversion
(Appendix: A)**

Provider Manual

For

Community Developmental Disability Providers

Fiscal Year 2021



**Georgia Department of Behavioral Health
and Developmental Disabilities
January 2021**

D·B·H·D·D

To obtain Request for Conversion Form, please go to:

<https://s18637.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2017/08/Request-for-Conversion.pdf>

PART III

Block Grant Funding Requirements

Title XX Social Services Block Grant for I/DD Services

Provider Manual

For

Community Developmental Disability Providers

Fiscal Year 2021



**Georgia Department of Behavioral Health
and Developmental Disabilities
January 2021**

D·B·H·D·D

PART III

Block Grant Funding Requirements

TITLE XX SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

Congress passed Public Law 93-647, or Title XX of the Social Security Act (SSA), in 1974 to make federal funds available for states to provide social services which address the needs of each individual state. Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds are used to provide a variety of services to Georgia's citizens, including vulnerable children and adults who need protection, persons with I/DD, and the elderly.

The Department of Human Resources prepares an annual report to inform the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the people of Georgia of the intended use of the funds the State is to receive under provision of the Act. This annual report is called the Report on the Intended Use of Title XX Social Services Block Grant Funds. The following description of services to persons with I/DD (I) and the statements on limitations/assurances on the use of the grants (II) are taken from the Report on Intended Use.

I. SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Services for persons with developmental disabilities are services or activities to maximize the potential of persons with disabilities, help alleviate the effects of disabilities, and to enable persons served to live in the least restrictive environment possible. Component services or activities may include personal and family counseling, respite care, family support, recreation, transportation aid to assist with independent functioning in the community and training in mobility, communication skills, the use of special aides and appliances and self-sufficiency skills.

II. LIMITATION/ASSURANCES ON USE OF GRANTS

The Georgia Department of Human Resources gives assurance that Title XX Social Services Block Grant funds will **NOT** be used:

1. For the purchase or improvement of land, or the purchase, construction, or permanent improvement (other than minor remodeling) of any building or other facility; or
2. To provide cash payments for costs of subsistence or to provide room and board (other than cost of subsistence during rehabilitation, room and board provided for a short term as an integral but subordinate part of a social service, or temporary emergency shelter provided as a protective service); or
3. For payment of the wages of any individual as a social service (other than payment of wages of welfare recipients employed in the provision of day care services); or
4. For the provision of medical care; or
5. For social services provided in and by employees of any hospital, skilled nursing facility, or prison, or to any individual living in such institution. The only exceptions to this limitation are services to an alcoholic or drug dependent individual or rehabilitation services; or
6. For the provision of any educational service which the state makes generally available to its residents without cost and without regard to their income; or
7. To provide child care services unless such services meet applicable standards of State and local law; or
8. For the provision of cash payments as a service.

III. APPLICATION FOR SERVICE

Each individual or family unit shall have the right to apply for Social Services Block Grant Services without delays in the application process. Application for services may be made by the applicant or by a relative, friend, neighbor or legal guardian acting responsibly on behalf of the person needing the service. The application should be made to Field Office's designated point of entry.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

All recipients of Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funded services must be physically located in the State of Georgia.

- **Non School Aged Adults** – SSBG funded services may be provided to non-school aged adults with a documented programmatic need and a current diagnosis of I/DD.
- **School Aged Individuals** – School aged individuals may be provided non-education-related services with a documented programmatic need and a current diagnosis of I/DD.
- **Pre-School Aged Individuals** –SSBG funded services may be provided to pre-school aged individuals with a documented programmatic need and a current diagnosis of I/DD.

V. BEGINNING THE SERVICES

If the service is temporarily unavailable, the individual should be placed on a Planning List.

VI. PLANNING LIST (Waiting Lists)

Planning Lists will be maintained in accordance with [Planning Lists for Developmental Disability Services for Individuals Living in the Community, 02-101](#).

VII. SERVICES TO PERSONS RESIDING IN INSTITUTIONS

In most instances, services to persons residing in institutions are the responsibility of staff of the facility. Accordingly, Social Services Block Grant funds may not be used for the provision of social services that are the inherent responsibility of the institution. Those facilities which are Intermediate Care Facilities or Skilled Nursing Facilities and which receive funding under Title.

XVIII (Medicare) and/or Title XIX (Medicaid) are required either to provide social services or arrange for them with qualified outside resources. In these facilities and in any other where an investigation indicates that social services are an inherent responsibility of the institution, Social Service Block Grant Services to eligible persons are limited to assisting an individual and/or family to seek admission to the institution, and/or supporting or augmenting the discharge plan of the facility for the individual. If social services are not an inherent responsibility of the institution, Social Services Block Grant services may be delivered to eligible persons.

IX. DOCUMENTATION OF SERVICE PROVISION

1. Contractors are responsible for the documentation of service delivery in compliance with the terms of the provider contract.
 - **Reporting of Services - Services delivered must be reported in compliance with the Terms of the provider contract.**

X. NOTIFICATION OF THE CONSUMER OF SERVICE TERMINATION

- A. Notification to the consumer must follow a decision by the agency to terminate services. Form 5536, included below, and shall be used. **(Note: Even though space is available on this Form, the Form, should not be used to notify a consumer of eligibility for service. Form 5536 should only be used to notify a client of termination of service).** In cases of termination of service, services must continue through the ten- (10) day notice period and the notification process must be (1) adequate and (2) timely.
1. **Adequate notice** is defined as a written communication (Form 5536) that includes a statement of the specific action the agency intends to take, the reason for the intended action, explanation of the individual's right to request a fair hearing and the circumstances under which services are continued if a hearing is requested.
 2. **Timely notice** is defined as the notice being mailed or hand delivered to the consumer at least ten (10) calendar days before the date the action is to become effective. No action shall be taken to terminate services during the ten (10) day notice period. If the consumer does not request a hearing before the expiration of the tenth (10th) day, the services shall be terminated after the tenth day has passed.
- B. **Waiver of Timely Notice** - The following are situations in which timely notice (10 calendar days) is not required but adequate (written) notice shall be given not later than the effective date of action:
1. The agency received a clearly written statement signed by consumer that he/she no longer wishes to receive services.
 2. The whereabouts of the consumer are unknown and mail to him/her has been returned by the Post Office indicating no forwarding address. Returned mail should be filed in the service record.
 3. The consumer moves to another State and the move is documented by the agency.
 4. The consumer was informed in writing, at the time the services began, that the service would automatically terminate at the end of a specified period.
 5. A change in either Federal/State law or policy requires automatic service adjustments for categories of service recipients.

XI. CONSUMER GRIEVANCES

Providers shall make a grievance and appeal process available to aggrieved consumers in compliance with Federal regulations governing the Social Service Block Grant, and policy and procedure promulgated by the Division and the State of Georgia.

**Georgia Department of Human Resources
NOTIFICATION FORM FOR TITLE XX SOCIAL SERVICES**

Agency Name: _____

DATE: _____

CASE ID: _____

Your application for social services has been given careful consideration. The following determination has been made

- I. A. INITIAL DETERMINATION: You have been determined eligible/ ineligible for the following Title xxx Social Services:

Reason (if ineligible)

- B. REDETERMINATION: You have been determined eligible/ineligible for the following Title xx Social Services effective

The following Title xx Social Services have been/will be terminated:

Reason if (ineligible)

- II. You are still eligible for these Title xx Social Services:

However, if the following services will be:

- A. Reduced effective:

Reason: _____

- B. Terminated effective:

Reason:

- III. LIMITED ELIGIBILITY

You have been determined eligible for the following Title xx services _____

You have been determined ineligible for the following Title xx services _____

If for any reason you disagree with this decision you may request a hearing. You may request a hearing orally or in contacting this agency within 10 days of the date given at the top of this form. This agency will be glad to furnish the form (s); help you in filing your appeal and in any way possible to prepare for the hearing.

The hearing will be held in your county by a hearing officer. You may be represented at the hearing by legal counsel or other spokesperson. If you would like an attorney, contact this agency which can provide information about legal services that may be available in your community at no cost to you.

Form 5536 (Rev. 05-00)

**Signature of Agency Representative
Georgia Department of Human Resources
Title XX Administration**

PART V
PART IV

General Policies and Procedures

Provider Manual

For

Community Developmental Disability Providers

Fiscal Year 2021

DBHDD PolicyStat enables community providers of mental health, developmental disabilities and/or addictive diseases services to have access to all DBHDD policies that are relevant for community services. DBHDD PolicyStat can be accessed online anytime at <http://gadbhdd.policystat.com>. By virtue of their contract or agreement with DBHDD, providers are required to comply with DBHDD policies relevant to their contracted services and according to the applicability as defined in the policy itself.

Additional information about how to utilize DBHDD PolicyStat is included in [Access to DBHDD Policies for Community Providers, 04-100](#).



**Georgia Department of Behavioral Health
and Developmental Disabilities**
January 2021

D·B·H·D·D

PART V

Appendices

Provider Manual

For

Community Developmental Disability Providers

Fiscal Year 2021



**Georgia Department of Behavioral Health
and Developmental Disabilities
July 2020**

APPENDIX A: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency: DBHDD Communications to Providers

This Appendix was created to memorialize DBHDD communications to providers regarding service, policy, and procedure modifications that are either allowable (at the provider’s discretion) or expected (by the DBHDD) during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The communications contained herein include only those with significant and direct bearing on the content of the Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers.

The content in this Appendix will be updated periodically during the Public Health Emergency via a “Special Interim Re-Posting” of the Provider Manual and will be labeled as such on the title page. This Appendix will serve as a chronological record of communications and will be added to with each subsequent Special Interim Re-Posting. Although prior content will not be removed, *new* content added to this Appendix in each Special Interim Re-Posting will only reflect communications released during the normal effective dates of the particular Provider Manual.

3/28/2020	Appendix K	Appendix K Emergency Preparedness Response
4/15/2020	Appendix K	Appendix K Emergency Preparedness Response
07/20/2020	Appendix K	Appendix K Emergency Preparedness Response
11/25/2020	Operational Guidance	Appendix K: Operational Guidelines for the NOW and COMP Waiver Programs Response to COVID-19 Pandemic
11/02/2020	Provider Relations: Network News	Volume 33: Be Connected
12/01/2020	Provider Relations: Network News	Volume 34: Be Connected
12/22/2020	Special Bulletin	Be Informed Network Bulletin
01/04/2021	Provider Relations: Network News	Volume 35: Be Connected

APPENDIX K: Emergency Preparedness and Response

Background:

This standalone appendix may be utilized by the state during emergency situations to request amendment to its approved waiver. It includes actions that states can take under the existing Section 1915(c) home and community-based waiver authority in order to respond to an emergency. Other activities may require the use of various other authorities such as the Section 1115 demonstrations or the Section 1135 authorities. This appendix may be completed retroactively as needed by the state.

Appendix K-1: General Information

General Information:

- A. State: Georgia
- B. Waiver Title:

Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) New Options Waiver (NOW)
--

- C. Control Number:

GA.0323.R04.03 GA.0175.R06.02

- D. Type of Emergency (The state may check more than one box):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pandemic or Epidemic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural Disaster
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Security Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):

- E. **Brief Description of Emergency.** *In no more than one paragraph each*, briefly describe the: 1) nature of emergency; 2) number of individuals affected and the state’s mechanism to identify individuals at risk; 3) roles of state, local and other entities involved in approved waiver operations; and 4) expected changes needed to service delivery methods, if applicable. The state should provide this information for each emergency checked if those emergencies affect different geographic areas and require different changes to the waiver.

Submission of Appendix K is in response to COVID-19 Pandemic. Approximately, 8,800 members receiving COMP waiver services are impacted and 4,800 members receiving NOW waiver services. Georgia is utilizing the support coordination service within the waiver to identify individuals at risk. The Department of Community Health (DCH), as the single state Medicaid Agency, has administrative oversight over all 1915 (c) waivers including, the COMP and NOW waivers. DCH through the Healthcare Facilities Regulation Division is responsible for licensing

and monitoring healthcare facility providers. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities is the operating agency responsible for several administrative activities associated with the waiver. The Georgia Department of Public Health is the lead agency for coordination and response related specifically to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Georgia will utilize telehealth resources as much as possible and where clinically appropriate as a modification to service delivery areas. Georgia is requesting statewide modification through this Appendix K submission.

F. Proposed Effective Date: Start Date: 3/1/20 Anticipated End Date: 2/28/21_

G. Description of Transition Plan.

The proposed changes outlined in Appendix K for the COMP and NOW waivers are temporary policy allowances, rate increases for target services, and retainer payments. The Appendix K request represents a full year of emergency operations. At the conclusion of the state of emergency, pre-emergency service plans will be re-implemented unless the member has experienced a change in condition or circumstance that requires reassessment and development of an edited service plan. In utilizing retainer payments it is the hope of the Department of Community Health that service capacity will be maintained through the emergency response for the choice of Community Residential Alternative, Community Living Support Services, Supported Employment Services, Prevocational Services, and Community Access services, and the full options of waiver services. No new services or target populations are being proposed.

H. Geographic Areas Affected:

Statewide

I. Description of State Disaster Plan (if available) *Reference to external documents is acceptable:*

<https://gema.georgia.gov/>

Appendix K-2: Temporary or Emergency-Specific Amendment to Approved Waiver

Temporary or Emergency-Specific Amendment to Approved Waiver:

These are changes that, while directly related to the state's response to an emergency situation, require amendment to the approved waiver document. These changes are time limited and tied specifically to individuals impacted by the emergency. Permanent or long-ranging changes will need to be incorporated into the main appendices of the waiver, via an amendment request in the waiver management system (WMS) upon advice from CMS.

a. Access and Eligibility:

i. Temporarily increase the cost limits for entry into the waiver.

[Provide explanation of changes and specify the temporary cost limit.]

New Options Waiver Only- The annual cap is temporarily suspended for the duration of the appendix K.

ii. Temporarily modify additional targeting criteria.

[Explanation of changes]

b. Services

i. Temporarily modify service scope or coverage.

[Complete Section A- Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency.]

ii. Temporarily exceed service limitations (including limits on sets of services as described in Appendix C-4) or requirements for amount, duration, and prior authorization to address health and welfare issues presented by the emergency.

[Explanation of changes]

Community Living Support Services- The cap may be exceeded while Appendix K is effective. The amount of authorized services will not be in the form of a prior authorization and does not need to be in the participant's approved annual budget. The service, amount, and scope may not be reflected in an individual service plan.

Community Access- The cap may be exceeded while Appendix K is effective. The amount of authorized services will not be in the form of a prior authorization and does not need to be in the participant's approved annual budget. The service, amount, and scope may not be reflected in an individual service plan.

In-Home and Out- of Home Respite services- The cap may be exceeded while Appendix K is effective. The amount of authorized services will not be in the form of a prior authorization and does not need to be in the participant's approved annual budget. The service, amount, and scope may not be reflected in an individual service plan.

Specialized Medical Supplies Services - The annual cap is temporarily suspended while Appendix K is effective. The amount of authorized services will not be in the form of a prior authorization and does not need to be in the participant's approved annual budget. The service, amount, and scope may not be reflected in an individual service plan.

iii. Temporarily add services to the waiver to address the emergency situation (for example, emergency counseling; heightened case management to address emergency needs; emergency medical supplies and equipment; individually directed goods and services; ancillary services to establish temporary residences for dislocated waiver

enrollees; necessary technology; emergency evacuation transportation outside of the scope of non-emergency transportation or transportation already provided through the waiver).

[Complete Section A-Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency]

iv. x Temporarily expand setting(s) where services may be provided (e.g. hotels, shelters, schools, churches) Note for respite services only, the state should indicate any facility-based settings and indicate whether room and board is included:

[Explanation of modification, and advisement if room and board is included in the respite rate]:

Community Living Services, Additional Staffing Services, Community Access, and Out-of-Home Respite may be delivered on a temporary basis in alternative settings which include: extended family home, hotel, shelter, or other emergency placement while Appendix K is effective. The location that the service is being rendered may not be reflected in an individual service plan. Out-of-Home Respite reimbursement rates do not include room and board payment.

v. x Temporarily provide services in out of state settings (if not already permitted in the state’s approved waiver). [Explanation of changes]

Community Living Support and Respite services may be provided out of state as approved by DCH as a result of the COVID-19 Emergency. Such situations may involve waiver members moving with family caregivers across state lines for additional support.

c. x Temporarily permit payment for services rendered by family caregivers or legally responsible individuals if not already permitted under the waiver. Indicate the services to which this will apply and the safeguards to ensure that individuals receive necessary services as authorized in the plan of care, and the procedures that are used to ensure that payments are made for services rendered.

Family caregivers or legally responsible individuals are temporarily authorized to render the following COMP and NOW services during the duration that Appendix K is effective:

1. Community Living Supports
2. In Home and Out of Home Respite Services
3. Community Access

The provider network may hire family caregivers to provide Community Living Supports, Community Access, and/or Respite Services in lieu of existing provider staff if the provider is unable render the service due to health and safety concerns for either the provider staff or the participant. The service, amount, scope, and/or familial or legal relationship of the paid caregiver may not be reflected in an individual service plan, however, will be recorded in the information system which supports the NOW and COMP waiver programs.

d. x Temporarily modify provider qualifications (for example, expand provider pool, temporarily modify or suspend licensure and certification requirements).

i. x Temporarily modify provider qualifications.

[Provide explanation of changes, list each service affected, list the provider type, and the changes in provider qualifications.]

Every effort should be made to complete training and background checks when possible. Background checks and training requirements for any function that requires face-to-face action or availability of third-party vendors will be temporarily suspended for the duration that Appendix K is effective for all waiver services in the event the provider is unable to complete a training and/or background check. At the termination of Appendix K, trainings and background checks will need to be completed retroactively for all employees who were hired while Appendix K was effective and according to policy.

In lieu of face-to-face training, the following methods and enhanced supervision will be employed:

While the State plans to suspend required face-to-face training for newly hired staff during the COVID-19 State of Emergency, family members serving as reimbursed caregivers, who have experience delivering required care, will be supported, as needed, by provider agency supervisory staff telephonically or electronically. Newly hired staff with previous experience will be supervised telephonically or electronically and those with no previous experience will be provided electronic video training by agency supervisory staff.

Required staffing ratios for a participant, as outlined in the participants Individual Service plan, may be modified to allow the participant to receive services in safe and accessible environments, as long as the participant's needs are still being met.

State certification survey staff postpones on-site provider certification and other reviews for provider agencies and individual providers rendering COMP and NOW services unless there is an immediate jeopardy and/or health and safety concern as defined by the state agency.

ii. ___ Temporarily modify provider types.

[Provide explanation of changes, list each service affected, and the changes in the provider type for each service].

iii. ___ Temporarily modify licensure or other requirements for settings where waiver services are furnished.

[Provide explanation of changes, description of facilities to be utilized and list each service provided in each facility utilized.]

e. x Temporarily modify processes for level of care evaluations or re-evaluations (within regulatory requirements). [Describe]

The annual Level of Care (LOC) re-assessment requirements will be suspended for all participants while Appendix K is effective. The state office and case management agency (support coordination) will document, in the ISP, the contact with the participant, guardian, and team to discuss the extension, as well as the projected date in which the LOC will be able to be completed.

The required 5% LOC recertification requirement of the operating agency will be waived while Appendix K is effective.

f. x Temporarily increase payment rates

[Provide an explanation for the increase. List the provider types, rates by service, and specify whether this change is based on a rate development method that is different from the current approved waiver (and if different, specify and explain the rate development method). If the rate varies by provider, list the rate by service and by provider].

Support Coordination (case management)- the rate increase is being requested due to a substantial temporary increase in workload. Many modifications as a result of Appendix K will require service changes which are generated by the support coordination agency. Support Coordination agencies are also being asked to provide additional oversight during COVID-19 crisis to ensure the health and safety needs of the individuals are being met. Support Coordination temporary rate increase reflects parity with other Georgia Waiver programs.

Requesting Support Coordination (case management) services (T2022) - temporarily increases rate from \$152.88 to \$175.00 per monthly unit.

Fiscal Intermediaries (FI)- there are approximately 2,400 individuals who participant-direct NOW or COMP waiver services. Due to COVID-19, FIs will have a temporary increase in administrative burden to process family hire, payroll, unemployment benefits, customer service to representatives, families, support coordinators and will also have to modify internal coding in their data systems to implement Appendix K approved payments changes. An adjustment of approximately 20% increase was elected due to the temporary increased administrative burden delineated above.

Fiscal Intermediary (T2040-UC)- temporarily increases rate from \$75.00 per month to \$95.00 per month. The new rate is within the accepted range for similarly delivered services from surrounding states.

Requesting for LPN nursing service only (T1003-U1)- temporarily increase in rate from \$8.75 per 15-min unit to \$10.00 per 15 min unit [parity with other waiver nursing services] and to account for increased risk, needed protective measures and anticipated provider shortage.

g. x Temporarily modify person-centered service plan development process and individual(s) responsible for person-centered service plan development, including qualifications.

[Describe any modifications including qualifications of individuals responsible for service plan development, and address Participant Safeguards. Also include strategies to ensure that services are received as authorized.]

The only modification to service plan development involves the current requirement for face-to-face interaction with the waiver member and any invited family members. DCH has determined that potential risk to both support coordination agency staff and waiver members requires modification of the onsite interaction. Rather than face-to-face ISP planning and development, support coordinators will use telephonic or video conferencing for ISP development and editing. Consent and agreement signatures can be obtained electronically using current HIPPA standards.

The state will ensure the person-centered service plan is modified to allow for additional supports/and or services to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The specificity of such services including amount, duration and scope will be appended as soon as possible to ensure that the specific service is delineated accordingly to reflect the date it began to be received. The PCSP will be updated no later than 30 days from the date the service was initiated.

h. ___ Temporarily modify incident reporting requirements, medication management or other participant safeguards to ensure individual health and welfare, and to account for emergency circumstances. [Explanation of changes]

[Redacted]

i. _x_ Temporarily allow for payment for services for the purpose of supporting waiver participants in an acute care hospital or short-term institutional stay when necessary supports (including communication and intensive personal care) are not available in that setting, or when the individual requires those services for communication and behavioral stabilization, and such services are not covered in such settings.

[Specify the services.]

The state temporarily authorizes Community Living Support Services to be rendered in acute care settings.

j. _x_ Temporarily include retainer payments to address emergency related issues.

[Describe the circumstances under which such payments are authorized and applicable limits on their duration. Retainer payments are available for habilitation and personal care only.]

Community Residential Alternative (COMP only service), Community Living Support Services, Supported Employment Services, Prevocational Services, and Community Access services will be authorized for retainer payments in the event that the provider is not serving the member under other comparable services or using differential staff such as family caregivers to provide service. The retainer payment will be authorized at the level, duration, and amount as outlined in the prior authorization. Retainer payments can be made throughout the temporary authorization period. Community Residential Alternative retainer payment is only authorized in the event the individual is hospitalized or receiving care in an alternative setting.

The state permits retainer payments for all habilitation programs which includes Community Access, Supported Employment, Prevocational Services and Community Residential Alternative. Personal care is a component of Community Access, Supported Employment, Prevocational Services and Community Residential Alternative. Retainer payments may not exceed the lesser of 30 consecutive days or the number of days for which the State authorizes a payment for "bed-hold" in nursing facilities.

k. ___ Temporarily institute or expand opportunities for self-direction.

[Provide an overview and any expansion of self-direction opportunities including a list of services that may be self-directed and an overview of participant safeguards]

l. ___ Increase Factor C.

[Explain the reason for the increase and list the current approved Factor C as well as the proposed revised Factor C]

m. ___ Other Changes Necessary [For example, any changes to billing processes, use of contracted entities or any other changes needed by the State to address imminent needs of individuals in the waiver program]. [Explanation of changes]

Contact Person(s)

A. The Medicaid agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the request:

First Name:	Brian
Last Name	Dowd
Title:	Deputy Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans
Agency:	Department of Community Health
Address 1:	2 Peachtree St. NW
Address 2:	37 th Floor
City	Atlanta
State	GA
Zip Code	30303
Telephone:	404-657-5467
E-mail	bdowd@dch.ga.gov
Fax Number	678-222-4948

B. If applicable, the State operating agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the waiver is:

First Name:	Ashleigh
Last Name	Caseman
Title:	Director, Waiver Programs
Agency:	Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
Address 1:	2 Peachtree St. NW
Address 2:	22 ^h Floor
City	Atlanta
State	Georgia
Zip Code	30303
Telephone:	404-463-1799
E-mail	Ashleigh.Caseman@dbhdd.ga.gov
Fax Number	678-222-4948

8. Authorizing Signature

Signature: _____/S/_____
 State Medicaid Director or Designee

Date:	3/28/2020
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First Name:	Lynnette
Last Name	Rhodes
Title:	Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans
Agency:	Department of Community Health
Address 1:	2 Peachtree St. NW
Address 2:	36 th Floor
City	Atlanta
State	Georgia
Zip Code	30303
Telephone:	404-656-7513
E-mail	lrhodes@dch.ga.gov
Fax Number	470-886-6844

Section A---Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency

Complete for each service added during a time of emergency. For services in the approved waiver which the state is temporarily modifying, enter the entire service definition and highlight the change. State laws, regulations and policies referenced in the specification are readily available to CMS upon request through the Medicaid agency or the operating agency (if applicable).

Service Specification

Service Title: Behavior Support Services – Level 1 and Level 2

Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:

Service Definition (Scope):

Behavior Support Service is designed to assist the waiver participant with management of challenging behaviors that interfere with activities of daily living, social interactions, work or similar situations with the outcome of reducing or replacing problem behaviors. Behavior data collection is used to evaluate outcomes and update the behavior plan.

Behavior Support Service is authorized for individuals whose behaviors present risk to health and safety with a level of interruption to daily activities. Individuals determined at high risk in the community are those with behaviors that have resulted in significant physical injury to self or others, pose ongoing potential risk of harm to self or others, have engaged in significant property destruction, have caused repeated calls to law enforcement for assistance or intervention, have behavior that resulted in frequent changes to placement or been unable to remain in a preferred residence due to behavior, required frequent use of restrictive procedures, or required frequent or intermittent emergency crisis services.

Level I Specific Description:

While Level 1 Behavior professionals work with high risk individuals, they do so under the supervision and collaboration of a Level 2 Behavior Professional. Specific tasks performed by Level 1 practitioners include comprehensive staff and/or family competency-based training, behavior observation, and ongoing communication with families and staff related to plan interventions and behavior tracking. Expanded licensure levels allowed to enroll for Level 1 Behavior Support Services provide greater network capacity overall but are confined to the tasks falling within the scope of the license which include interpretation of the behavior plan to direct support staff and family members, training in data collection and behavior intervention techniques, ongoing follow up both on site and by phone, and coordination with the supervising Level 2 Behavior Support Service provider.

Level 2 Specific Description:

Level 2 Behavior professionals are those whose State license levels provide the authority to evaluate and diagnose. The one exception, Board Certified Behavior Analysts, are not licensed in Georgia but have the authority and expertise to evaluate within scope of the population. Through thorough evaluation, the licensed and/or certified providers develop a behavior plan based on current evidence-based practice and monitor that plan, most often using established methods of tracking behavior intensity, frequency and severity over time spans for continuous corrections and edits to the plan. Level 2 Behavior professionals may provide tasks allowed under the Level 1 description such as training direct support staff and families on the plan implementation but may delegate those tasks to Level 1 practitioners.

The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, all enhanced state plan services to have telehealth option.

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:

Current in the approved waiver:

Limits: As assessed to safeguard the waiver participant. Requires onsite clinical evaluation and approval by the Operating Agency and notification of the Medicaid Agency.

Provider Specifications

Provider Category(s) <i>(check one or both):</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Individual. List types:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency. List the types of agencies:
		Behavioral Supports Professional licensed or certified as approved in the current waiver		Behavior Services Agency

Specify whether the service may be provided by (<i>check each that applies</i>):		<input type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian
Provider Qualifications (<i>provide the following information for each type of provider</i>):					
Provider Type:	License (<i>specify</i>)	Certificate (<i>specify</i>)	Other Standard (<i>specify</i>)		
Psychiatrist	(OCGA 43-24-20)				
Psychologist	(OCGA 43-39-1)				
Licensed Clinical Social Worker	(OCGA 43-10A-1)				
Licensed Professional Counselor	(OCGA 43-10A-1)				
Licensed Master Social Worker	(OCGA 43-10A-1)				
Licensed Associate Professional Counselor	(OCGA 43-10A-1)				
Board Certified Behavior Analyst		Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB)			
Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst		Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB)			
Verification of Provider Qualifications					
Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:		Frequency of Verification		
Agency/Individual	DCH		CVO: prior to enrollment and every three years		
Agency/Individual	DBHDD		Annually		
Service Delivery Method					
Service Delivery Method (<i>check each that applies</i>):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provider managed

Service Specification

Service Title: Adult Occupational Therapy Services

Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:

Service Definition (Scope):

Adult Occupational Therapy Services cover evaluation and therapeutic services that are not otherwise covered by Medicaid State Plan services. These services address the occupational therapy needs of the adult participant that result from his or her developmental disability. Adult Occupational Therapy Services promote fine motor skills, coordination, sensory integration, and/or facilitate the use of adaptive equipment or other assistive technology. Specific services include occupational therapy evaluation, therapeutic activities to improve functional performance, sensory integrative techniques to enhance sensory processing and promote adaptive responses to environmental demands, and participant/family education.

Adult Occupational Therapy Services are not available until the participant’s 21st birthday. Adult Occupational Therapy Services may be provided in or out of the participant s home. These services do not include the in-home therapeutic services for the treatment of an illness or injury that are covered in Home Health Services under the regular Medicaid State Plan. Adult Occupational Therapy Services are provided by a licensed occupational therapist and by order of a physician. Adult Occupational Therapy Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP revisions. The COMP and NOW Program is intended for those goods and services that are not covered by the State Medicaid Plan or those instances in which a participant s need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, all enhanced state plan services to have telehealth option.

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:

Provider Specifications

Provider Category(s) <i>(check one or both):</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Individual. List types:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency. List the types of agencies:
		Occupational Therapist		Home Health Agency
				Standards Compliant DD Service Agency

Specify whether the service may be provided by *(check each that applies):*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian
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Provider Qualifications *(provide the following information for each type of provider):*

Provider Type:	License <i>(specify)</i>	Certificate <i>(specify)</i>	Other Standard <i>(specify)</i>
Occupational Therapist	GA Therapy License		
Home Health Agency	GA Home Health License		
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency			DBHDD provider requirements as specified either through DBHDD contract with the Medicaid enrolled provider.

Verification of Provider Qualifications

Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:		Frequency of Verification	
Occupational Therapist	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD		Annually	
Home Health Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD		Annually	
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD		Annually	
Service Delivery Method				
Service Delivery Method <i>(check each that applies):</i>	x	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E	x	Provider managed
Service Specification				
Service Title:	Adult Physical Therapy Services			
<i>Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:</i>				
Service Definition (Scope):				
<p>Adult Physical Therapy Services offers evaluation and therapeutic services that are not otherwise covered by Medicaid State Plan services. These services address the physical therapy needs of the adult participant that result from his or her intellectual/developmental disability. Adult Physical Therapy Services promote gross/fine motor skills, facilitate independent functioning and/or prevent progressive disabilities. Specific services include physical therapy evaluation, therapeutic procedures, therapeutic exercises to develop strength and endurance, and range of motion and flexibility, and participant/family education.</p> <p>Adult Physical Therapy Services are not available until the participant s 21st birthday. Adult Physical Therapy Services may be provided in or out of the participant s home. These services do not include the in-home therapeutic services for the treatment of an illness or injury that are covered in Home Health Services under the regular Medicaid State Plan. Adult Physical Therapy Services are provided by a licensed physical therapist and by order of a physician. Adult Physical Therapy Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP revisions. The COMP Program is intended for those goods and services that are not covered by the State Medicaid Plan.</p> <p>The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, all enhanced state plan services to have telehealth option.</p>				
Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:				
Provider Specifications				
Provider Category(s) <i>(check one or both):</i>	x	Individual. List types:	x	Agency. List the types of agencies:
	Physical Therapist		Home Health Agency	
			Standards Compliant DD Service Agency	
Specify whether the service may be provided by <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian
Provider Qualifications <i>(provide the following information for each type of provider):</i>				
Provider Type:	License <i>(specify)</i>	Certificate <i>(specify)</i>	Other Standard <i>(specify)</i>	

Physical Therapist	GA Therapy License		
Home Health Agency	GA Home Health License		
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency			DBHDD provider requirements as specified either through DBHDD contract with the Medicaid enrolled provider.

Verification of Provider Qualifications

Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:	Frequency of Verification
Physical Therapist	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually
Home Health Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually

Service Delivery Method

Service Delivery Method <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provider managed
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Service Specification

Service Title:	Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services
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Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:

Service Definition (Scope):

Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services cover evaluation and therapeutic services that are not otherwise covered by Medicaid State Plan services. These services address the speech and language therapy needs of the adult participant that result from his or her intellectual/developmental disability. Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services preserve abilities for independent function in communication, facilitate oral motor and swallowing functions, facilitate use of assistive technology, and/or prevent progressive disabilities. Specific services include speech and language therapy evaluation, individual treatment of speech, language, voice, communication, and/or auditory processing, therapeutic services for the use of speech-generating device, including programming and modification, and participant/family education.

Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services are not available until the participant's 21st birthday. Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services may be provided in or out of the participant's home. These services do not include the in-home therapeutic services for the treatment of an illness or injury that are covered in Home Health Services under the regular Medicaid State Plan. Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services are provided by a licensed speech and language pathologist and by order of a physician. Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP revisions. The COMP Program is intended for those goods and services that are not covered by the State Medicaid Plan or those instances in which a participant's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, all enhanced state plan services to have telehealth option with the exception of the following Adult Swallowing/Feeding Therapy; Adult Swallowing/Feeding Therapy self-directed; Adult Swallowing/Feeding Evaluation, Adult Swallowing/Feeding Evaluation self-directed.

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:

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Provider Specifications					
Provider Category(s) (check one or both):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Individual. List types:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency. List the types of agencies:	
		Speech and Language Pathologist		Home Health Agency	
				Standards Compliant DD Service Agency	
Specify whether the service may be provided by (check each that applies):	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian	
Provider Qualifications (provide the following information for each type of provider):					
Provider Type:	License (specify)	Certificate (specify)	Other Standard (specify)		
Speech and Language Pathologist	GA Therapy License				
Home Health Agency	GA Home Health License				
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency			DBHDD provider requirements as specified either through DBHDD contract with the Medicaid enrolled provider.		
Verification of Provider Qualifications					
Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:		Frequency of Verification		
Speech and Language Pathologist	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD		Annually		
Home Health Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD		Annually		
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD		Annually		
Service Delivery Method					
Service Delivery Method (check each that applies):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provider managed	
Service Specification					
Service Title:	Community Access				
Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:					
Service Definition (Scope):					

Community Access Services are provided in two categories: Community Access Individual and Community Access Group. Community Access services are targeted toward active community participation in an integrated setting. Community Access services are provided outside the participant's place of residence and can be delivered during the day, the evening, and/or weekends. Activities and tasks are designed to teach and/or practice skills required for active community participation and independent functioning. These activities include training in socialization skills and personal assistance as indicated by goals outlined in the Individual Service Plan (ISP). Community Access services are not provided in the participant's home or family home, personal care home, community living arrangement, or group home and are intended to enhance community inclusion.

Community Access Individual (CAI) services are provided to an individual participant in a one-to-one staff to participant ratio model. CAI services are directly linked to goals and expectations of improvement in skills. The intended outcome of CAI services is to improve the participant's access to the community through increased skills, increased natural supports, and ultimately fewer paid supports. CAI services are designed to be teaching and coaching in nature. These services assist the participant in acquiring, retaining, or improving socialization and networking, independent use of community resources, and adaptive skills required for active community participation outside the participant's place of residence. CAI services are not facility-based.

Community Access Group (CAG) services are provided to groups of participants, with a staff to participant ratio of two or more. CAG services are designed to provide oversight, assist with daily living, socialization, communication, and mobility skills building and supports in a group. CAG services may include interventions to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors in the community or in groups of other individuals. CAG services may be provided in a center or the community as appropriate for the skill being taught or specific activity supported.

Transportation to and from activities and settings primarily utilized by people with disabilities is included in the rate for Community Access services. Transportation is provided through Community Residential Alternative services for participants living in residential settings other than the family home or the participant's own home. Transportation provided through Community Access Services is included in the cost of doing business and incorporated in the administrative overhead cost. When transportation is to and from other community destinations, separate payment for transportation only occurs when the NOW/COMP's distinct Transportation Services are authorized.

Community Access Services do not include educational services otherwise available through a program funded under 20 USC Chapter 3, section 1400 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Community Access services must not duplicate or be provided at the same period of the day as Community Living Support, Supported Employment, Prevocational Services or Transportation services. An individual serving as a representative for a waiver participant in self-directed services may not provide Community Access services. Community Access services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP revisions.

Group Community Access Services, both in description and reimbursement, are the subject of a future waiver amendment to be developed within the next year to move this service into compliance with the HCBS Rule. The definition under development will be supported by a cost-based rate methodology and is the second phase of the rate study which led to redefinition of other services in this application. Significant public input was gathered during forums conducted by the State Medicaid Agency designed to inform waiver participants, providers and others about basic requirements of the HCBS Rule. Public input was mixed and led both the Medicaid Agency and the Operating Agency to conclude that additional education and consideration will be required to redefine the nature and scope of day services in the State. As the rate study is conducted, the Operating and Medicaid Agencies plan to offer technical assistance to providers in understanding and considering many options for community inclusion and choice of activities in all day services. Day services in

Georgia are the primary focus of an amendment in the planning phase at this time in order to align public opinion, service rates, and service design to the greatest extent possible.

The COMP Program is intended for those goods and services that are not covered by the State Medicaid Plan or those instances in which a participant's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:

The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, retainer payments for Community Access Services that cannot be rendered due to national state of emergency. Retainer payments will only be authorized through agency delivered services using the frequency listed on the participant's existing ISP/PA and cannot exceed 6 hours a day and 5 days a week.

Provider Specifications

Provider Category(s) <i>(check one or both):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual. List types:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency. List the types of agencies:
				Standards Compliant DD Service Agency

Specify whether the service may be provided by <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian
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Provider Qualifications *(provide the following information for each type of provider):*

Provider Type:	License <i>(specify)</i>	Certificate <i>(specify)</i>	Other Standard <i>(specify)</i>
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency			DBHDD provider requirements as specified either through DBHDD contract with the Medicaid enrolled provider.

Verification of Provider Qualifications

Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:	Frequency of Verification
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually

Service Delivery Method

Service Delivery Method <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E For the purpose of the Appendix K Emergency application, the retainer will not be available under the self-directed model.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provider managed
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Service Specification

Service Title:	Community Living Supports-Basic
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Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:

Service Definition (Scope):

Community Living Support Services-Basic: refers to the task and purpose description below but applies specifically to a one-to-one ratio, staff to waiver member, with a visit duration of under three hours. Service delivery of three hours or greater is described in additional service descriptions as "Community Living Support Services-Extended."

Community Living Support services are individually tailored supportive tasks that facilitate an individual's independence and promote integration into the community. Community Living Support assists individuals to acquire, retain, or improve skills in order to successfully live in their own or family home and be a full member of the community. Community Living Support services includes individualized services that range from personal care to daily livings skills development as well as oversight and supervision to assure individual health, safety and well-being. The specific scope of supports and services is determined through an individualized assessment and person-centered planning process that relates to the individual's assessed need for supports and reflects the preferences and outcomes desired by the individual and/or their representative.

Community Living Support services includes assisting individuals to gain life skills at home and in the community insofar as the community activity supports the goal of acquiring or improving skills in order to successfully live in their own or family home (e.g., grocery shopping in the community for the purpose of skill-building around organizing the kitchen, meal planning, etc.). Community Living Support services may include medically related services and health maintenance activities. Medically related services and health maintenance activities provided under Community Living Support services must be allowable by State law, rules, and regulations.

Community Living Support services may be provided in the participant's own or family home or in the surrounding community, provided that such services do not duplicate other community-oriented services such as Access Services. The frequency, scope and duration of personal care/assistance is specific to the individual needs of the participant, as determined through assessment and other participant-centered evaluation data.

Transportation related to activities performed within the scope of Community Living Support services such as travel related to skills development such as to teach navigation of public transit, opportunities to practice IADL skill-building such as grocery and other shopping, and to medical appointments was calculated into the rate for Community Living Support services.

The type, intensity, frequency and duration of services provided are specific to the individual participant and detailed in his/her Individual Service Plan (ISP). Community Living Support services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan (ISP) development and with any ISP revisions.

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:

The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, retainer payments for Community Living Support Services that cannot be rendered due to national state of emergency. Retainer payments will only be authorized for the frequency listed on the participant's existing ISP/PA.

The state temporary authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, providers to exceed the cap limitations for Community Living Services that can be rendered by a traditional provider, participant directed and/or a combination with live-in caregiver.

Provider Specifications

Provider Category(s) (check one or both):	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual. List types:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency. List the types of agencies:
				Licensed Private Homecare Agency

Specify whether the service may be provided by (<i>check each that applies</i>):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian	
Provider Qualifications (<i>provide the following information for each type of provider</i>):					
Provider Type:	License (<i>specify</i>)	Certificate (<i>specify</i>)	Other Standard (<i>specify</i>)		
Licensed Private Homecare Agency	Ga Licensure for Homecare Agency				
Verification of Provider Qualifications					
Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:		Frequency of Verification		
Licensed Private Homecare Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD		Annually		
Service Delivery Method					
Service Delivery Method (<i>check each that applies</i>):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provider managed	
Service Specification					
Service Title:	Community Living Supports-Extended Services				
<i>Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:</i>					
Service Definition (Scope):					
<p>Community Living Support Services- Extended: refers to the tasks and purpose description below but applies specifically to a one-to-one ratio, staff to waiver member, with a visit duration of three hours or greater. Service delivery of three hours or fewer is described in additional service descriptions as "Community Living Support Services-Basic."</p> <p>Community Living Support –Extended Services offer the same supports and activities offered through traditional Community Living Support but are used to provide services for a period of three or more continuous hours in one day. The reimbursement rate developed for CLS – Extended assumes lower staff travel and recordkeeping expenses in the rate methodology since it is expected that services provided continuously for three or more hours a day will result in staff serving fewer waiver participants during the same day. Transportation related to activities performed within the scope of service delivery such as travel with the waiver participant related to skills development, opportunities to practice IADL skill-building such as grocery and other shopping and accompanying to medical appointments was included in the rate for Community Living Support – Extended.</p> <p>The type, intensity, frequency and duration of services provided are specific to the individual participant and detailed in the Individual Service Plan (ISP). Community Living Support – Extended must be authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan (ISP) development and with any ISP revisions. Community Living Support – Extended is provided in lieu of or as a compliment to short term Community Living Support (CLS) but does not duplicate either CLS or Community Access services.</p> <p>The specific scope of supports and services is determined through an individualized assessment and person-centered planning process that relates to the individual’s assessed need for supports and reflects the preferences and outcomes desired by the individual and/or their representative.</p>					

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:				
The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, retainer payments for Community Living Support Services that cannot be rendered due to national state of emergency. Retainer payments will only be authorized for the frequency listed on the participant's existing ISP/PA.				
The state temporary authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, providers to exceed the cap limitations for Community Living Services that can be rendered by a traditional provider, participant directed and/or a combination with live-in caregiver.				
Provider Specifications				
Provider Category(s) (check one or both):	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual. List types:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency. List the types of agencies:
				Licensed Private Homecare Agency
Specify whether the service may be provided by (check each that applies):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian
Provider Qualifications (provide the following information for each type of provider):				
Provider Type:	License (specify)	Certificate (specify)	Other Standard (specify)	
Licensed Private Homecare Agency	Ga Licensure for Homecare Agency			
Verification of Provider Qualifications				
Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:		Frequency of Verification	
Licensed Private Homecare Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD		Annually	
Service Delivery Method				
Service Delivery Method (check each that applies):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provider managed
Service Specification				
Service Title:	Community Residential Alternative (COMP ONLY) All Tiers			
<i>Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:</i>				
Service Definition (Scope):				

Community Residential Alternative (CRA) services provide residential supports that are integrated in and support full access of individual participation in the greater community. CRA services assist individuals to gain skills and supports in the areas of personal care, supervision, support and personal development. CRA assists individuals to engage in home and community life to the same degree of access as individuals not receiving Medicaid HCBS. CRA provides training in life and leisure skills, personal care and community integration as specifically detailed in the person-centered plan.

Waiver participants receiving CRA services live in small group settings of four or fewer or in host home/life sharing arrangements of two or fewer. CRA services may not be provided to persons living in their own or family homes or in any residence in which Community Living Support Services are provided to a participant, including any family owned licensed personal care home, licensed community living arrangement, or host home.

Payment is not made for the cost of room and board, including the cost of building maintenance, upkeep and improvement. The method by which the costs of room and board are excluded from payment for Community Residential Alternative services is specified in Appendix J.

The rate and associated expectation for Community Residential Alternative services includes transportation costs associated with travel to waiver services and other community settings outside the home, particular as specified in the Individual Service Plan. Waiver participants receiving Community Residential Alternative services do not receive the separate COMP services of Environmental Accessibility Adaptation, Vehicle Adaptation, and Transportation.

The COMP Program is intended for those goods and services that are not covered by the State Medicaid Plan or those instances in which a participant's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:

The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, retainer payments for Community Residential Alternative in the event the participant is hospitalized or in an alternate care setting due to health and safety concerns. Retainer payments will only be authorized for the amount frequency and duration listed on the participant's existing ISP/PA.

Provider Specifications

Provider Category(s) <i>(check one or both):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual. List types:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency. List the types of agencies:
				Standards Compliant DD Service Agency

Specify whether the service may be provided by <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian
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Provider Qualifications *(provide the following information for each type of provider):*

Provider Type:	License <i>(specify)</i>	Certificate <i>(specify)</i>	Other Standard <i>(specify)</i>
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Standards Compliant DD Service Agency	Personal Care Home Permit (State of Georgia Rules Chapter 111-8-62); Child Placing Agencies License (State of Georgia Rules 290-9-2) Community Living Arrangement (State of Georgia Rules Chapter 290-9-37)		Unlicensed Host Home Tier of CRA must meet DCH and DBHDD enrollment criteria for a public or private agency.
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Verification of Provider Qualifications

Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:	Frequency of Verification
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually

Service Delivery Method

Service Delivery Method <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provider managed
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Service Specification

Service Title:	Skilled Nursing Services
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Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:

Service Definition (Scope):

Skilled nursing services are ordered when required to meet the medical needs of the member in the most appropriate setting including the member's home, a relative's home or other location where no duplicative services are available. Skilled nursing services are most commonly provided as an extension of Home Health Services, however nursing services not allowable under State Plan Home Health coverage may be needed by waiver participants with chronic medical needs. Waiver participants may receive such nursing service by virtue of Georgia's private home care licensure law provided the agency holds the highest-level license which allows registered nurse and licensed practical nursing services.

The need for Skilled Nursing Services is determined through clinical assessment and documented on the individual service plan, and must be ordered by a physician, advanced practice nurse or physician assistant. Waiver participants who are unstable medically or recovering from an acute illness or episode may require SNS in the form of complex assessment, health education, nutritional counseling and support, skilled nursing supervision, monitoring of medication administration, and/or direct nursing services such as wound care or complex treatments.

SNS are performed by a Registered Nurse or, under certain circumstances a license practical nurse, both of whom are licensed to practice in the State of Georgia, have at least two years of home health, long term care or acute care nursing experience. Complex or high-risk waiver participants may require nursing care by individuals with specific experience in pulmonary, GI or wound care skills. In such cases, DBHDD through support coordinators, intensive case managers or other clinical staff will specify the skills and experience required.

Skilled Nursing Services in the NOW and COMP Waiver are intended to provide those services not covered by the State Medicaid Plan or those instances in which a participant's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available. Children under the age of twenty-one (21) should receive skilled nursing services as determined by medical necessity through the Georgia Medicaid State Plan.

The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, RN services to be rendered using telehealth, to the extent possible.

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:

The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, LPN services a temporary rate increase to \$10.00 per 15-minute unit.

Provider Specifications

Provider Category(s) <i>(check one or both):</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Individual. List types:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency. List the types of agencies:
		Licensed Practical Nurse		Licensed Private Homecare Agency
		Licensed Registered Nurse		Licensed Home Health Agency

Specify whether the service may be provided by <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian
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Provider Qualifications *(provide the following information for each type of provider):*

Provider Type:	License <i>(specify)</i>	Certificate <i>(specify)</i>	Other Standard <i>(specify)</i>
Licensed Practical Nurse	Ga Licensure Nursing		

Licensed Registered Nurse	Ga Licensure Nursing		
Licensed Private Homecare Agency	Ga Licensure Homecare Agency		
Licensed Home Health Agency	Ga Licensure Home Health Agency		
Verification of Provider Qualifications			
Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:	Frequency of Verification	
Licensed Practical Nurse	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually	
Licensed Registered Nurse	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually	
Licensed Private Homecare Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually	
Licensed Home Health Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually	
Service Delivery Method			
Service Delivery Method <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provider managed
Service Specification			
Service Title:	Specialized Medical Supplies		
<i>Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:</i>			
Service Definition (Scope):			
<p>Specialized Medical Supplies includes supplies directly related to a waiver participant's diagnosis or disability-related condition which enable individuals to interact more independently with their environment thus enhancing their quality of life and reducing their dependence on physical support from others. These supplies consist of food supplements, special clothing, continence products, and other authorized supplies that are specified in the Individual Service Plan and not otherwise reimbursed under State Plan Medicaid. Ancillary supplies necessary for the proper functioning of approved devices are also included in this service. If the waiver participant (or representative, if applicable) opts for participant direction, then these supplies may be purchased through participant-directed service delivery.</p> <p>The Comprehensive Supports Waiver does not duplicate coverage under the durable Medical Equipment (DME), Orthotics and Prosthetics, and Hearing Services programs and other Medicaid non-waiver programs. All items covered through these programs must be requested through the route specified in Medicaid policy. The NOW and COMP Program is intended for those goods and services that are not covered by the State Medicaid Plan or those instances in which a participant's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available. Denial of additional coverage must be documented in the participant's record for any item covered under the State Medicaid Plan. The NOW and COMP Program does not cover items that have been denied through the DME and other programs for lack of medical necessity.</p> <p>Specialized Medical Supplies Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP revisions.</p>			
Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:			

The State temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, providers to exceed the cap limitation.

Provider Specifications

Provider Category(s) <i>(check one or both):</i>	x	Individual. List types:	x	Agency. List the types of agencies:
		Vendors and Dealers in Medical Supplies		Standards Compliant DD Service Agency

Specify whether the service may be provided by <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian
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Provider Qualifications *(provide the following information for each type of provider):*

Provider Type:	License <i>(specify)</i>	Certificate <i>(specify)</i>	Other Standard <i>(specify)</i>
Vendors and Dealers in Medical Supplies	Applicable GA Business License		DBHDD provider requirements as specified either through DBHDD contract with the Medicaid enrolled provider or DCH Provider Enrollment.
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency			DBHDD provider requirements as specified either through DBHDD contract with the Medicaid enrolled provider or DCH Provider Enrollment.

Verification of Provider Qualifications

Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:	Frequency of Verification
Vendors and Dealers in Medical Supplies	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually

Service Delivery Method

Service Delivery Method <i>(check each that applies):</i>	x	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E	x	Provider managed
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Service Specification

Service Title:	Support Coordination
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Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:

Service Definition (Scope):

Support Coordination services are a set of interrelated activities for identifying, coordinating, and reviewing, and overseeing the delivery of appropriate services for participants. A primary purpose of Support Coordination services is to evaluate and address individual risks and unmet needs in order to maximize the health, wellbeing and safety of waiver participants. Support Coordination services assist participants in coordinating all service needs whether Medicaid reimbursed, services provided through other funding sources, or those performed by natural supporters in the context of family or community life.

Support Coordinators are responsible for participating in assessment of individuals through assembling both professionals and non-professionals who provide individualized supports and whose combined expertise and involvement ensures that person-centered plans are developed to address social, educational, transportation, housing, nutritional, healthcare and other needs using a holistic approach. Through advocacy efforts, they encourage and facilitate the use of various community resources through referral and follow up activities. The overall objective of Support Coordination services is to oversee the health, safety and wellbeing of waiver participants while tracking the use and outcomes of services identified in the individual support plan.

Support Coordinators facilitate the completion of a written ISP including any revisions to the ISP and assure that the plan is reviewed and revised annually or whenever changes in the individual's condition or needs warrants a change in formal service delivery. Support Coordinators are also responsible for monitoring the implementation and delivery of services along with individual satisfaction with services and progress toward outcomes identified by the individual and the care team. They work with service providers to attain required proficiency in areas specific to the individual and assure the provision of provider technical assistance and training in collaboration with DBHDD staff. They report concerns related to provider performance or service delivery to the Operating Agency (DBHDD) in order to facilitate remediation activities. Monitoring techniques include direct observation, review of documents, interviews with the individual and/or informal supporters and other advocacy activities. The purpose is to assure that services are achieving the desired outcomes relative to challenging behaviors, health and medical needs and skill acquisition in a coordinated approach. Support Coordinators may also assist waiver participants and their family or representative in making informed decisions about healthcare choices, housing options, and use of participant-directed services through providing information and educational resources. Should the waiver participant select participant-direction as a service option, Support Coordinators assist in enrollment and provide information about fiscal intermediary services.

The ISP outlines frequency of Support Coordination contacts based on the level of acuity of the individual, general needs and availability of natural support but visits are conducted quarterly at a minimum. Individual needs further identify and define the professional type and Support Coordination expertise required for monitoring specific risk areas.

Responsibilities of Support Coordination include participating in assessment and development of the ISP based on assessed need; monitoring progress toward goals; monitoring satisfaction with and the quality of services; follow up on identified needs including those not funded through the waiver such as medical and dental needs; and completion of the personal focus and goal-setting portion of the ISP. They routinely interact with service providers in order to identify progress and challenges toward goals. On an annual basis, the Support Coordinator participates in formal review and revision of the ISP but at any time during the year that there are significant life changes or stressors in the individual's or family's life, the Support Coordinator may assist with additional service needs.

Support Coordination agencies must have notes documenting service provision in order to be reimbursed for services. All support notes are documented in an electronic record, an EHR system shared by DBHDD regional and state offices for the purpose of monitoring, oversight and ultimate responsibility for the coordination and delivery of services.

Service providers of any other NOW and COMP waiver services (with the exception of Intensive Support Coordination) will not be eligible for enrollment in support coordination consistent with the CMS requirement

related to conflict-free case management. Likewise, providers of Support Coordination will not be eligible for enrollment in any other NOW waiver service (with the exception of Intensive Support Coordination).

The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, Support Coordination providers to render services telephonically and through other telehealth means.

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:

Support Coordination (case management) services - temporarily increases rate from \$152.88 to \$175.00 per monthly unit.

Provider Specifications

Provider Category(s) <i>(check one or both):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual. List types:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency. List the types of agencies:
				Case Management Agency

Specify whether the service may be provided by <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian
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Provider Qualifications *(provide the following information for each type of provider):*

Provider Type:	License <i>(specify)</i>	Certificate <i>(specify)</i>	Other Standard <i>(specify)</i>
Case Management Agency	Applicable GA Business License		DBHDD provider requirements as specified either through DBHDD contract with the Medicaid enrolled provider or DCH Provider Enrollment.

Verification of Provider Qualifications

Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:	Frequency of Verification
Case Management Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually

Service Delivery Method

Service Delivery Method <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provider managed
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Service Specification

Service Title:	Intensive Support Coordination
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Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:

Service Definition (Scope):

Intensive Support Coordination includes all of the activities of support coordination, but the activities reflect specialized overall coordination of waiver, medical and behavioral support services on behalf of waiver participants with exceptional medical and/or behavioral needs. Intensive support coordinators assist waiver participants with complex needs through: assessing complex needs; identifying and addressing barriers to care; accessing needed resources and services offered through the waiver as well as the larger healthcare system; taking active measures to address complex needs; and fostering and maintaining family and other informal relationships and support.

The provision of intensive support coordination requires advanced training, knowledge and skills required to address the severity of medical and related needs that present in the management of physical and behavioral health as well as interventions and activities that foster prevention of health deterioration and exacerbation of medical/behavioral conditions. Examples of conditions which may require intensive case management include: tracheostomy care, risk of choking and aspiration, complex diabetes management, presence of gastrointestinal complications, history of low trauma fractures, and any condition with a history of complex behavioral needs. This list is not all-inclusive but provides examples of the level of participant risk ameliorated through the provision of intensive case management.

Documentation must support the presence of continued need with the expectation that intensive case managers will work closely with physicians and other healthcare providers in the management of complex conditions. The condition must support frequent and enhanced level of monitoring, intervention and follow-up which is described and clearly documented. The need for intensive support coordination is determined at initial assessment and annual review.

Intensive support coordination services include transition coordination. To be eligible an individual must have resided in an inpatient facility for a minimum of sixty consecutive days receiving Medicaid-reimbursed inpatient services.

Specific transition coordination duties include:

- Working with the individual and circle of support in identifying transition goals and services to meet those goals

- Facilitating the planning of the transition process, led by the individual

- Assisting with housing search

- Providing information to ensure the individual makes the most informed decisions possible

- Arranging post transition services

- Assisting with the identification and referral to non-Medicaid resources and services

- Coordinating Transition Service delivery and communicating any variances in outcomes compared to the transition plan

Intensive Support Coordination transition services from the month of discharge to month six requires specifically assuring that the Medicaid category of service is appropriately designated. This work includes discharging the individual from the facility and helping to establish all necessary documentation to ensure Waiver Medicaid eligibility.

Intensive Support Coordination transition services may be provided to individuals scheduled for transition from institutions for a period of ninety (90) days prior to the discharge date; however, community-based claims will not be submitted for reimbursement until after the waiver participant has been transitioned to the community.

Intensive support coordination is a closely supervised service and supervisor qualifications include both education and experience in a clinical area, either nursing or behavioral. The agency provider will have experience working with the identified population of intellectually disabled/developmentally disabled individuals or a closely related population. When the waiver participant's primary risk is in the area of challenging behaviors, supervisor qualifications will include Masters' degree in behavior analysis, psychology, social work, or counseling with applicable licensure.

The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, Intensive Support Coordination providers to render services telephonically and through other telehealth means.

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:

Provider Specifications

Provider Category(s) <i>(check one or both):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual. List types:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency. List the types of agencies:
				Case Management Agency
				Division of a Healthcare Agency

Specify whether the service may be provided by *(check each that applies)*:
 Legally Responsible Person Relative/Legal Guardian

Provider Qualifications *(provide the following information for each type of provider):*

Provider Type:	License <i>(specify)</i>	Certificate <i>(specify)</i>	Other Standard <i>(specify)</i>
Case Management Agency	Applicable GA Business License		DBHDD provider requirements as specified either through DBHDD contract with the Medicaid enrolled provider or DCH Provider Enrollment.
Division of a Healthcare Agency			DBHDD provider requirements as specified either through DBHDD contract with the Medicaid enrolled provider or DCH Provider Enrollment.

Verification of Provider Qualifications

Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:	Frequency of Verification
Case Management Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually
Division of a Healthcare Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually

Service Delivery Method

Service Delivery Method *(check each that applies)*:
 Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E Provider managed

Service Specification

Service Title: Supported Employment

Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:

Service Definition (Scope):

Supported Employment services are ongoing supports that enable participants, for whom competitive employment at or above the minimum wage is unlikely absent the provision of supports, and who, because of their disabilities, need supports to perform in an integrated work setting. The scope and intensity of Supported Employment supports may change over time, based on the needs of the participant. Supported Employment can include assisting the participant to locate a job or develop a job on behalf of the participant. Supported Employment is conducted in a variety of settings; work sites where persons without disabilities are employed are the targeted settings for service delivery. Supported Employment includes activities needed to sustain paid work by participants, including supervision and training. Payment is made only for adaptations, supervision, and training required by participants receiving waiver services as a result of their disabilities but does not include payment for the supervisory activities rendered as a normal part of the business setting. Supported Employment Group services are provided to groups of participants, with a staff to participant ratio of two or more. The staff to participant ratio for Supported Employment Group services cannot exceed one (1) to ten (10); however, a planned waiver amendment will target smaller ratios to be supported by proposed rates derived through a cost-based rate methodology.

Supported Employment may include services and supports that assist the participant in achieving self-employment through the operation of a business. Such assistance may include: (a) aiding the participant to identify potential business opportunities; (b) assistance in the development of a business plan, including potential sources of business financing and other assistance in developing and launching a business; (c) identification of the supports that are necessary for the participant to operate the business; and (d) ongoing assistance, counseling and guidance once the business has been launched. Payment is not made to defray the expenses associated with starting up or operating a business.

Federal financial participation is not claimed for incentive payments, subsidies, or unrelated vocational training expenses such as the following:

1. Incentive payments made to an employer to encourage or subsidize the employer's participation in Supported Employment program;
2. Payments that are passed through to users of Supported Employment programs; or
3. Payments for training that is not directly related to an individual's Supported Employment program.

Significant public input during family forums informed both the Operating Agency and the Medicaid Agency of family and individual desire for greater flexibility in day service programming. Consistent with the HCBS Rule, day services will be integrated in a continuum to promote full flexibility in the use of multiple service types interchangeably. Individuals who have developed peer relationships in group community access settings can gradually become more comfortable as they are fully included in their community through supported employment. Gradual integration from group settings through prevocational services and into supported employment will allow for increased access to the greater community without interfering with established relationships and the comfort of a known environment. Individuals will be able to choose and explore employment opportunities and services available to them without giving up previous relationships established through the group setting. The graduated and flexible integration model allows for individuals to tailor their schedules to their liking provided the total service hour limit for all services is not exceeded. It also does not force individuals into opportunities they are not interested in but it provides an open door to opportunities they are interested in.

While this waiver renewal application begins the migration to a new service design, future plans include a cost-based rate study to provide additional flexibility in staff-to-participant ratios for individuals who require greater support.

Supported Employment services are distinct from and do not occur at the same time of the same day as Community Access or Prevocational services. An individual serving as a representative for a participant in self-directed services may not provide Supported Employment services. Supported Employment services must be

authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP revisions. The NOW and COMP Programs are intended for those goods and services that are not covered by the State Medicaid Plan or those instances in which a participant's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, Supported Employment providers to render Supported Employment telephonically and through other telehealth means for the purpose of job support, supervision, and any training that can be conducted through telephonic or other telehealth means.

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:

The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, retainer payments for Supported Employment Services in the event the provider is unable to render a service due to health and safety concerns for either the participant or the provider.

Provider Specifications

Provider Category(s) <i>(check one or both):</i>	x	Individual. List types:	x	Agency. List the types of agencies:
		Employment Specialist		Standards Compliant DD Service Agency

Specify whether the service may be provided by <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian
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Provider Qualifications *(provide the following information for each type of provider):*

Provider Type:	License <i>(specify)</i>	Certificate <i>(specify)</i>	Other Standard <i>(specify)</i>
Employment Specialist			DBHDD provider requirements as specified either through DBHDD contract with the Medicaid enrolled provider or DCH Provider Enrollment.
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency			DBHDD provider requirements as specified either through DBHDD contract with the Medicaid enrolled provider or DCH Provider Enrollment.

Verification of Provider Qualifications

Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:	Frequency of Verification
Employment Specialist	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually

Service Delivery Method

Service Delivery Method <i>(check each that applies):</i>	x	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E	x	Provider managed
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Service Specification

Service Title:	Financial Support Services
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Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:

Service Definition (Scope):

Financial Support Services are provided to assure that participant directed funds outlined in the Individual Service Plan are managed and distributed as intended. The Financial Support Services (FSS) provider receives and disburses funds for the payment of participant-directed services under an agreement with the Department of Community Health, the State Medicaid agency. The FSS provider files claims through the Medicaid Management Information System for participant directed goods and services. Additionally, the FSS provider deducts all required federal, state and local taxes. The FSS provider also calculates and pays as appropriate, applicable unemployment insurance taxes and worker compensation on earned income. The FSS provider is responsible for maintaining separate accounts on each member s participant-directed service funds and producing expenditure reports as required by the Department of Community Health and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. When the participant is the employer of record, the FSS provider is the Internal Revenue Service approved Fiscal Employer Agent (FEA). The FSS provider conducts criminal background checks and age verification on service support workers. The FSS provider executes and holds Medicaid provider agreements through being deemed by the state to function as an Organized Health Care Delivery System or as authorized under a written agreement with the Department of Community Health, the State Medicaid agency. The FSS provider must not be enrolled to provide any other Medicaid services in Georgia. Financial Support Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP revisions. The NOW and COMP Programs are intended for those goods and services that are not covered by the State Medicaid Plan or those instances in which a participant s need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:

Financial Support Services temporarily increases rate from \$75.00 per month to \$95.00 per month.

Provider Specifications

Provider Category(s) <i>(check one or both):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual. List types:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency. List the types of agencies:
				Fiscal Intermediary Agency

Specify whether the service may be provided by <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian
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Provider Qualifications *(provide the following information for each type of provider):*

Provider Type:	License <i>(specify)</i>	Certificate <i>(specify)</i>	Other Standard <i>(specify)</i>
Fiscal Intermediary Agency	Applicable GA Business License		DBHDD provider requirements as specified either through DBHDD contract with the Medicaid enrolled provider or DCH Provider Enrollment.

Verification of Provider Qualifications

Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:	Frequency of Verification
Fiscal Intermediary Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually

Service Delivery Method

Service Delivery Method <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provider managed

Service Specification

Service Title: Respite (In-home and Out of Home)

Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:

Service Definition (Scope):

Respite Services are designed to provide brief periods of support or relief for caregivers or individuals with disabilities. Respite is provided in the following situations:

- (1) when families or natural, unpaid care providers are in need of support or relief;
- (2) when the waiver participant needs relief or a break from the caregiver;
- (3) when a participant is experiencing severe behavioral challenges and needs structured, short term support away from the current environment;
- (4) when relief from caregiving is necessitated by unavoidable circumstances, such as a short-term family emergency.

Respite may be provided in-home (provider delivers service in waiver participant s home) or out-of-home (waiver participant receives service outside of their home) and may include an overnight stay. Respite Services may be provided as planned, expected services outlined on the individual service plan or may be required in unplanned circumstances.

Two service models with distinct provider types are used to provide respite services. In home respite may be provided by agencies also delivering community living support services because of similarity in staffing, activities and delivery setting, and licensure requirements. Out-of-home respite is provided in residential settings dedicated to short-term relief. Small host homes approved by the Operating Agency and enrolled by the Medicaid Agency are the preferred setting for out-of-home respite services.

A participant may receive both Respite services and Community Living Support services, but not simultaneously. No more than two to four members may receive Respite Services in a Respite Facility. An individual serving as a representative for a waiver participant in self-directed services is not eligible to be a participant-directed individual provider of Respite services. Respite services are authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP revisions. Use of unplanned respite in response to family emergency or sudden need may be authorized within thirty days of use following review of the circumstances.

Rate Categories for Respite – Daily Out-of-Home: Respite – Daily Out-of-Home was developed using a ‘tiered’ structure such that payment rates are higher for individuals with more significant support needs. The tiered rates – referred to as rate ‘categories’ – reflect more significant needs in the areas of medical, functional, or behavioral support needs. The Operating Agency will use discrete assessment items identified in the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) and supported or clarified by information provided by the Health Risk Screening Tool to determine individual assignment to a specific category. Specific data items from the SIS related to home living, community living, health and safety, and exceptional medical and behavioral support needs were determined to best predict the resources required to support waiver participants in this population group. Categories were established using SIS data in the current waiver participant population and influenced by experience using the same methodology in other States.

Descriptions of Assessment Levels*

Level 1: Individuals in this level have largely mild support need and little to no support for medical or behavioral conditions. They can manage many aspects of their lives independently or with monitoring and prompting rather than physical assistance. This includes activities like bathing, dressing, and eating, as well as activities such as shopping or accessing the community.

Level 2: Individuals in this level have modest-to-moderate support needs and little to no support for medical or behavioral conditions. Although they need more support than those in Level 1, their support needs are minimal in a number of life areas.

Level 3: Individuals in this level have little to moderate support needs as in Levels 1 and 2, but they also have significant support needs due to medical or behavioral conditions.

Level 4: Individuals in this level have moderate-to-high support needs, requiring more frequent supports that may include physical assistance in several daily life activities.

Level 5: Individuals in this level have the most significant support needs, generally requiring frequent physical assistance in numerous daily life activities.

Level 6: Individuals in this level have exceptional medical conditions that result in the need for enhanced supports (in terms of the amount or specialization).

Level 7: Individuals in this level have exceptional behavioral challenges that result in the need for enhanced supports (in terms of the amount or specialization).

* Adapted from research and materials produced by the Human Services Research Institute

The seven assessment levels are used to describe the distinct needs of individuals in each group but for the purposes of reimbursement rates fewer categories have been established in recognition that the support needs of members across certain assessment levels are similar. There are two categories used for reimbursement of respite – daily services. The crosswalk of assessment levels to rate categories in respite – daily is as follows:

Assessment Levels: 1 - 4

Rate Category: 1

Assessment Levels: 5, 6, 7

Rate Category: 2

The NOW and COMP Programs are intended for those goods and services that are not covered by the State Medicaid Plan or those instances in which a participant's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:

The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, providers to exceed the cap limitations for In Home and Out of Home Respite Services that can be rendered by a traditional provider, participant directed and/or a live-in caregiver.

Provider Specifications

Provider Category(s) (check one or both):	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual. List types:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency. List the types of agencies:
				Standards Compliant DD Service Agency
				Community Living Arrangement
				Child Placing Agency
				Personal Care Home
				Host Home

Specify whether the service may be provided by (check each that applies):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian
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Provider Qualifications (provide the following information for each type of provider):

Provider Type:	License (specify)	Certificate (specify)	Other Standard (specify)
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency			DCH provider requirements as specified either through DBHDD contract with the Medicaid enrolled provider or a Letter of Agreement.
Community Living Arrangement	Ga Licensure Nursing		

Child Placing Agency	Ga Licensure Homecare Agency		
Personal Care Home	Ga Licensure Home Health Agency		
Host Home			DCH provider requirements as specified either through DBHDD contract with the Medicaid enrolled provider or a Letter of Agreement.

Verification of Provider Qualifications

Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:	Frequency of Verification
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually
Community Living Arrangement	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually
Child Placing Agency	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually
Personal Care Home	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually
Host Home	DCH Provider Enrollment and DBHDD	Annually

Service Delivery Method

Service Delivery Method (check each that applies):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provider managed
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	



ⁱ Numerous changes that the state may want to make necessitate authority outside of the scope of section 1915(c) authority. States interested in changes to administrative claiming or changes that require section 1115 or section 1135 authority should engage CMS in a discussion as soon as possible. Some examples may include: (a) changes to administrative activities, such as the establishment of a hotline; (b) suspension of general Medicaid rules that are not addressed under section 1915(c) such as payment rules or eligibility rules or suspension of provisions of section 1902(a) to which 1915(c) is typically bound.

APPENDIX K: Emergency Preparedness and Response

Background:

This standalone appendix may be utilized by the state during emergency situations to request amendment to its approved waiver. It includes actions that states can take under the existing Section 1915(c) home and community-based waiver authority in order to respond to an emergency. Other activities may require the use of various other authorities such as the Section 1115 demonstrations or the Section 1135 authorities. This appendix may be completed retroactively as needed by the state.

Appendix K-1: General Information

General Information:

- A. State: Georgia
- B. Waiver Title:

Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) New Options Waiver (NOW)
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- C. Control Number:

GA.0175.R06.04 GA.0323.R04.05

D. Type of Emergency (The state may check more than one box):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pandemic or Epidemic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural Disaster
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Security Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):

E. **Brief Description of Emergency.** *In no more than one paragraph each,* briefly describe the: 1) nature of emergency; 2) number of individuals affected and the state’s mechanism to identify individuals at risk; 3) roles of state, local and other entities involved in approved waiver operations; and 4) expected changes needed to service delivery methods, if applicable. The state should provide this information for each emergency checked if those emergencies affect different geographic areas and require different changes to the waiver.

Submission of the Appendix K Amendment is in response to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and the need to continue vigilance in protecting the health and safety of the vulnerable populations served through Georgia’s four Medicaid Waiver Programs. The Amendment will impact the Georgia Department of Community Health which administers all of Georgia’s 1915c Waiver Programs and the Georgia Department of

Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities which manages the day-to-day operations of the NOW and COMP waiver programs. Populations served through the NOW and COMP programs include approximately 8,800 members who receive COMP waiver services and 4,800 members receiving NOW waiver services.

Members serviced through the NOW and COMP programs are considered to be at high risk having qualified for the programs by virtue of meeting an institutional level of care for Intermediate Care Facility/IDD. **The purpose of this Amendment is to support those members who choose to maintain social distance recommendations and to support those providers of congregate services who may decide not to reopen or to begin opening congregate settings at a very limited pace and with staggered attendance. Georgia will utilize telehealth resources in accordance with HIPAA requirements as much as possible and where clinically appropriate as a modification to in person service delivery settings.**

Members served through these waiver programs represent populations at significant risk for complications of COVID-19. The Appendix K Amendment reflects the State's attempts to mitigate exposure while preserving the provider network and service delivery system for return to a non-emergency state.

Georgia is requesting statewide modification through this Appendix K submission. The amendment is additive to the April 9, 2020, approved Appendix K.

F. Proposed Effective Date: Start Date: 4/15/20 Anticipated End Date: 2/28/21_

G. Description of Transition Plan.

The proposed changes outlined in this Appendix K Amendment for the COMP and NOW waivers are temporary policy allowances to include telehealth delivery in accordance with HIPAA requirements in two specific services within each waiver. These changes are described and highlighted in Section A. Georgia intends to transition from the Appendix K and any approved amendments when systems, services, and the ability to travel freely has been resolved. At the conclusion of the state of emergency, pre-emergency service plans will be re-implemented unless the member has experienced a change in condition or circumstance that requires reassessment and development of an edited service plan. No new services or target populations are being proposed.

H. Geographic Areas Affected:

Statewide

I. Description of State Disaster Plan (if available) *Reference to external documents is acceptable:*

<https://gema.georgia.gov/>

Appendix K-2: Temporary or Emergency-Specific Amendment to Approved Waiver

Temporary or Emergency-Specific Amendment to Approved Waiver:

These are changes that, while directly related to the state's response to an emergency situation, require amendment to the approved waiver document. These changes are time limited and tied specifically to individuals impacted by the emergency. Permanent or long-ranging changes will need to be incorporated into the main appendices of the waiver, via an amendment request in the waiver management system (WMS) upon advice from CMS.

a. ___ Access and Eligibility:

i. ___ Temporarily increase the cost limits for entry into the waiver.

[Provide explanation of changes and specify the temporary cost limit.]

ii. ___ Temporarily modify additional targeting criteria.

[Explanation of changes]

b. ___ Services

i. Temporarily modify service scope or coverage.

[Complete Section A- Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency.]

ii. ___ Temporarily exceed service limitations (including limits on sets of services as described in Appendix C-4) or requirements for amount, duration, and prior authorization to address health and welfare issues presented by the emergency.

[Explanation of changes]

iii. ___ Temporarily add services to the waiver to address the emergency situation (for example, emergency counseling; heightened case management to address emergency needs; emergency medical supplies and equipment; individually directed goods and services; ancillary services to establish temporary residences for dislocated waiver enrollees; necessary technology; emergency evacuation transportation outside of the

scope of non-emergency transportation or transportation already provided through the waiver).

[Complete Section A-Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency]

iv. x Temporarily expand setting(s) where services may be provided (e.g. hotels, shelters, schools, churches) Note for respite services only, the state should indicate any facility-based settings and indicate whether room and board is included:

[Explanation of modification, and advisement if room and board is included in the respite rate]:

Community Access and Prevocational Services may be provided remotely using phone or video conferencing in accordance with HIPAA requirements to facilitate social distancing practices for safe service delivery.

v. ___ Temporarily provide services in out of state settings (if not already permitted in the state's approved waiver). [Explanation of changes]

c. ___ Temporarily permit payment for services rendered by family caregivers or legally responsible individuals if not already permitted under the waiver. Indicate the services to which this will apply and the safeguards to ensure that individuals receive necessary services as authorized in the plan of care, and the procedures that are used to ensure that payments are made for services rendered.

d. ___ Temporarily modify provider qualifications (for example, expand provider pool, temporarily modify or suspend licensure and certification requirements).

i. ___ Temporarily modify provider qualifications.

[Provide explanation of changes, list each service affected, list the provider type, and the changes in provider qualifications.]

ii. ___ Temporarily modify provider types.

[Provide explanation of changes, list each service affected, and the changes in the .provider type for each service].

iii. ___ Temporarily modify licensure or other requirements for settings where waiver services are furnished.

[Provide explanation of changes, description of facilities to be utilized and list each service provided in each facility utilized.]

e. __ Temporarily modify processes for level of care evaluations or re-evaluations (within regulatory requirements). [Describe]

f. __ Temporarily increase payment rates

[Provide an explanation for the increase. List the provider types, rates by service, and specify whether this change is based on a rate development method that is different from the current approved waiver (and if different, specify and explain the rate development method). If the rate varies by provider, list the rate by service and by provider].

g. __ Temporarily modify person-centered service plan development process and individual(s) responsible for person-centered service plan development, including qualifications.

[Describe any modifications including qualifications of individuals responsible for service plan development, and address Participant Safeguards. Also include strategies to ensure that services are received as authorized.]

h. __ Temporarily modify incident reporting requirements, medication management or other participant safeguards to ensure individual health and welfare, and to account for emergency circumstances. [Explanation of changes]

i. __ Temporarily allow for payment for services for the purpose of supporting waiver participants in an acute care hospital or short-term institutional stay when necessary supports (including communication and intensive personal care) are not available in that setting, or when the individual requires those services for communication and behavioral stabilization, and such services are not covered in such settings.

[Specify the services.]

j. ___ Temporarily include retainer payments to address emergency related issues.

[Describe the circumstances under which such payments are authorized and applicable limits on their duration. Retainer payments are available for habilitation and personal care only.]

k. ___ Temporarily institute or expand opportunities for self-direction.

[Provide an overview and any expansion of self-direction opportunities including a list of services that may be self-directed and an overview of participant safeguards]

l. ___ Increase Factor C.

[Explain the reason for the increase and list the current approved Factor C as well as the proposed revised Factor C]

m. ___ Other Changes Necessary [For example, any changes to billing processes, use of contracted entities or any other changes needed by the State to address imminent needs of individuals in the waiver program]. [Explanation of changes]

Contact Person(s)

A. The Medicaid agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the request:

First Name:	Brian
Last Name	Dowd
Title:	Deputy Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans
Agency:	Department of Community Health
Address 1:	2 Peachtree St. NW
Address 2:	37 th Floor
City	Atlanta
State	GA
Zip Code	30303
Telephone:	404-657-5467
E-mail	bdowd@dch.ga.gov
Fax Number	678-222-4948

B. If applicable, the State operating agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the waiver is:

First Name:	Ashleigh
Last Name	Caseman
Title:	Director, Waiver Programs
Agency:	Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
Address 1:	2 Peachtree St. NW
Address 2:	22 ^h Floor
City	Atlanta
State	Georgia
Zip Code	30303
Telephone:	404-463-1799
E-mail	Ashleigh.Caseman@dbhdd.ga.gov
Fax Number	678-222-4948

8. Authorizing Signature

Signature: *Lynnette R. Rhodes*

Date: 4/15/2020

State Medicaid Director or Designee

First Name:	Lynnette
Last Name	Rhodes
Title:	Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans
Agency:	Department of Community Health
Address 1:	2 Peachtree St. NW
Address 2:	36 th Floor
City	Atlanta
State	Georgia
Zip Code	30303
Telephone:	404-656-7513
E-mail	lrhodes@dch.ga.gov
Fax Number	470-886-6844

Section A---Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency

Complete for each service added during a time of emergency. For services in the approved waiver which the state is temporarily modifying, enter the entire service definition and highlight the change. State laws, regulations and policies referenced in the specification are readily available to CMS upon request through the Medicaid agency or the operating agency (if applicable).

Service Specification

Service Title: Community Access

Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:

Service Definition (Scope):

Community Access Services are provided in two categories: Community Access Individual and Community Access Group. Community Access services are targeted toward active community participation in an integrated setting. Community Access services are provided outside the participant's place of residence and can be delivered during the day, the evening, and/or weekends. Activities and tasks are designed to teach and/or practice skills required for active community participation and independent functioning. These activities include training in socialization skills and personal assistance as indicated by goals outlined in the Individual Service Plan (ISP). Community Access services are not provided in the participant's home or family home, personal care home, community living arrangement, or group home and are intended to enhance community inclusion.

Community Access Individual (CAI) services are provided to an individual participant in a one-to-one staff to participant ratio model. CAI services are directly linked to goals and expectations of improvement in skills. The intended outcome of CAI services is to improve the participant's access to the community through increased skills, increased natural supports, and ultimately fewer paid supports. CAI services are designed to be teaching and coaching in nature. These services assist the participant in acquiring, retaining, or improving socialization and networking, independent use of community resources, and adaptive skills required for active community participation outside the participant's place of residence. CAI services are not facility-based.

Community Access Group (CAG) services are provided to groups of participants, with a staff to participant ratio of two or more. CAG services are designed to provide oversight, assist with daily living, socialization, communication, and mobility skills building and supports in a group. CAG services may include interventions to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors in the community or in groups of other individuals. CAG services may be provided in a center or the community as appropriate for the skill being taught or specific activity supported.

Transportation to and from activities and settings primarily utilized by people with disabilities is included in the rate for Community Access services. Transportation is provided through Community Residential Alternative services for participants living in residential settings other than the family home or the participant's own home. Transportation provided through Community Access Services is included in the cost of doing business and incorporated in the administrative overhead cost. When transportation is to and from other community destinations, separate payment for transportation only occurs when the COMP or NOW distinct Transportation Services are authorized.

Community Access Services do not include educational services otherwise available through a program funded under 20 USC Chapter 3, section 1400 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Community Access services must not duplicate or be provided at the same period of the day as Community Living Support, Supported Employment, Prevocational Services or Transportation services. An individual serving as a representative for a waiver participant in self-directed services may not provide Community Access services. Community Access services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP revisions.

Group Community Access Services, both in description and reimbursement, are the subject of a future waiver amendment to be developed within the next year to move this service into compliance with the HCBS Rule. The definition under development will be supported by a cost-based rate methodology and is the second phase of the rate study which led to redefinition of other services in this application. Significant public input was gathered during forums conducted by the State Medicaid Agency designed to inform waiver participants, providers and others about basic requirements of the HCBS Rule. Public input was mixed and led both the Medicaid Agency and the Operating Agency to conclude that additional education and consideration will be required to redefine the nature and scope of day services in the State. As the rate study is conducted, the Operating and Medicaid Agencies plan to offer technical assistance to providers in understanding and considering many options for community inclusion and choice of activities in all day services. Day services in

Georgia are the primary focus of an amendment in the planning phase at this time in order to align public opinion, service rates, and service design to the greatest extent possible.

The COMP and NOW Programs are intended for those goods and services that are not covered by the State Medicaid Plan or those instances in which a participant's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, all Community Access services to allow a telehealth option in accordance with HIPAA requirements.

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:

Telehealth delivery of services reflects the frequency listed on the participant's existing ISP/PA.

Provider Specifications

Provider Category(s) (check one or both):	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual. List types:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency. List the types of agencies:
				Standards Compliant DD Service Agency

Specify whether the service may be provided by (check each that applies):	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian
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Provider Qualifications (provide the following information for each type of provider):

Provider Type:	License (specify)	Certificate (specify)	Other Standard (specify)
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency			Letter of Agreement

Verification of Provider Qualifications

Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:	Frequency of Verification
Agency/Individual	DCH	CVO: prior to enrollment and every three years
Agency/Individual	DBHDD	Annually

Service Delivery Method

Service Delivery Method (check each that applies):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provider managed
--	-------------------------------------	---	-------------------------------------	------------------

Service Specification

Service Title: Prevocational Services

Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:

Service Definition (Scope):

Prevocational Services are specified in the participant s Individual Service Plan and are directed to habilitative rather than explicit employment objectives. If compensated, individuals are paid in accordance with the requirements of Part 525 of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Documentation is maintained in the file of each participant receiving this service that the service is not available under a program funded under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the IDEA (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.). Prevocational Services include transportation to and from the facility site. Transportation provided through these services is included in the cost of doing business and incorporated in the administrative overhead cost. Prevocational Services are distinct from and do not occur at the same time of day as Community Access or Supported Employment services. Prevocational Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan (ISP) development and with any ISP revisions

The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, all Prevocational services to have telehealth option in accordance with HIPAA requirements.

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service: **Telehealth delivery of services reflects the frequency listed on the participant’s existing ISP/PA.**

Provider Specifications

Provider Category(s) <i>(check one or both):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual. List types:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency. List the types of agencies:
				Standards Compliant DD Service Agency

Specify whether the service may be provided by <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian
--	--------------------------	----------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------

Provider Qualifications *(provide the following information for each type of provider):*


Provider Type:	License <i>(specify)</i>	Certificate <i>(specify)</i>	Other Standard <i>(specify)</i>
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency			DBHDD provider requirements as specified either through DBHDD contract with the Medicaid enrolled provider.

Verification of Provider Qualifications

Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:	Frequency of Verification
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency	DBHDD	Annually
Standards Compliant DD Service Agency	DCH	CVO: At enrollment and every three years.

Service Delivery Method

Service Delivery Method <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provider managed
---	--------------------------	---	-------------------------------------	------------------



ⁱ Numerous changes that the state may want to make necessitate authority outside of the scope of section 1915(c) authority. States interested in changes to administrative claiming or changes that require section 1115 or section 1135 authority should engage CMS in a discussion as soon as possible. Some examples may include: (a) changes to administrative activities, such as the establishment of a hotline; (b) suspension of general Medicaid rules that are not addressed under section 1915(c) such as payment rules or eligibility rules or suspension of provisions of section 1902(a) to which 1915(c) is typically bound.

Amendment to APPENDIX K: Emergency Preparedness and Response

Background:

This standalone appendix may be utilized by the state during emergency situations to request amendment to its approved waiver. It includes actions that states can take under the existing Section 1915(c) home and community-based waiver authority in order to respond to an emergency. Other activities may require the use of various other authorities such as the Section 1115 demonstrations or the Section 1135 authorities.¹ This appendix may be completed retroactively as needed by the state.

Appendix K-1: General Information

General Information:

A. State: Georgia

B. Waiver Title:

Elderly and Disabled Waiver (EDWP)
 Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP)
 Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP)
 New Options Waiver (NOW)

C. Control Number:

GA.0112.R07.05
 GA.4170.R05.03
 GA.0323.R04.06
 GA.0175.R06.05

D. Type of Emergency (The state may check more than one box):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pandemic or Epidemic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural Disaster
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Security Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):

E. **Brief Description of Emergency.** *In no more than one paragraph each*, briefly describe the: 1) nature of emergency; 2) number of individuals affected and the state’s mechanism to identify individuals at risk; 3) roles of state, local and other entities involved in approved waiver operations; and 4) expected changes needed to service delivery methods, if applicable. The state should provide this information for each emergency checked if those emergencies affect different geographic areas and require different changes to the waiver.

Submission of the Appendix K Amendment is in response to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and the need to continue vigilance in protecting the health and safety of the vulnerable populations served through Georgia’s four Medicaid Waiver Programs. The Amendment will impact the Georgia Department of Community Health which administers all the programs and the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities which manages the day-to-day operations of the NOW and COMP waiver programs. Populations served through the programs include:

- **Approximately, 26,000 members receiving Elderly and Disabled waiver services**
- **Approximately, 1,400 members receiving Independent Care Waiver Program services**
- **Approximately 8,800 members who receive COMPwaiver services and 4,800 members receiving NOW waiver services.**

Of the more than 40,000 Georgia residents served through the four Medicaid waiver programs, all are considered to be at high risk having qualified for the programs by virtue of meeting an institutional level of care for nursing home, hospital or Intermediate Care Facility/IDD. The purpose of this Amendment is to support those members who choose to maintain social distance recommendations and to support those providers of congregate services who may decide not to reopen at this time in support of public health guidance for these high risk populations. Georgia will continue to utilize telehealth resources in accordance with HIPAA requirements and where clinically appropriate as a modification to in person service delivery settings.

Members served through all of Georgia’s waiver programs represent populations at significant risk for complications of COVID-19. The Appendix K Amendment reflects the State’s attempts to mitigate exposure while preserving the provider network and service delivery system for return to a non-emergency state.

Georgia is requesting statewide modification through this Appendix K Amendment. The amendment is additive to the April 9, 2020 approved Appendix K documents and the approved Amendment dated June 15, 2020.

F. Proposed Effective Date: Start Date: 4/15/20 Anticipated End Date: 2/28/21

G. Description of Transition Plan.

The Amendment to the approved Appendix K applications represents an extension of the temporary allowance in retainer payments by two additional thirty-day episodes to protect the health and safety of waiver members. This will allow Georgia providers specified in the April 9, 2020 approved Appendix K applications to be reimbursed for a total of three retainer payment episodes. At the conclusion of the state of emergency, pre-emergency service plans will be re-implemented unless the member has experienced a change in condition or circumstance that requires reassessment and development of an edited service plan. In utilizing retainer payments, it is the hope of the Department of Community Health that service capacity will be maintained through the emergency response for the choice of day services as well as the full array of waiver services. No new services or target populations are being proposed.

Only changes to K-2:j have been submitted through this Amendment.

H. Geographic Areas Affected:

Statewide

I. Description of State Disaster Plan (if available) *Reference to external documents is acceptable:*

<https://gema.georgia.gov/>

Appendix K-2: Temporary or Emergency-Specific Amendment to Approved Waiver

Temporary or Emergency-Specific Amendment to Approved Waiver:

These are changes that, while directly related to the state's response to an emergency situation, require amendment to the approved waiver document. These changes are time limited and tied specifically to individuals impacted by the emergency. Permanent or long-ranging changes will need to be incorporated into the main appendices of the waiver, via an amendment request in the waiver management system (WMS) upon advice from CMS.

a. ___ Access and Eligibility:

i. ___ Temporarily increase the cost limits for entry into the waiver.

[Provide explanation of changes and specify the temporary cost limit.]

ii. ___ Temporarily modify additional targeting criteria.

[Explanation of changes]

b. ___ Services

i. ___ Temporarily modify service scope or coverage.

[Complete Section A- Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency.]

ii. ___ Temporarily exceed service limitations (including limits on sets of services as described in Appendix C-4) or requirements for amount, duration, and prior authorization to address health and welfare issues presented by the emergency.

[Explanation of changes]

iii. ___ Temporarily add services to the waiver to address the emergency situation (for example, emergency counseling; heightened case management to address emergency needs; emergency medical supplies and equipment; individually directed goods and services; ancillary services to establish temporary residences for dislocated waiver enrollees; necessary technology; emergency evacuation transportation outside of the scope of non-emergency transportation or transportation already provided through the waiver).

[Complete Section A-Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency]

iv. ___ Temporarily expand setting(s) where services may be provided (e.g. hotels, shelters, schools, churches) Note for respite services only, the state should indicate any facility-based settings and indicate whether room and board is included:

[Explanation of modification, and advisement if room and board is included in the respite rate]:

v. ___ Temporarily provide services in out of state settings (if not already permitted in the state's approved waiver). [Explanation of changes]

c. ___ Temporarily permit payment for services rendered by family caregivers or legally responsible individuals if not already permitted under the waiver. Indicate the services to which this will apply and the safeguards to ensure that individuals receive necessary services as authorized in the plan of care, and the procedures that are used to ensure that payments are made for services rendered.

d. ___ Temporarily modify provider qualifications (for example, expand provider pool, temporarily modify or suspend licensure and certification requirements).

i. ___ Temporarily modify provider qualifications.

[Provide explanation of changes, list each service affected, list the provider type, and the changes in provider qualifications.]

ii. ___ Temporarily modify provider types.

[Provide explanation of changes, list each service affected, and the changes in the provider type for each service].

iii. ___ Temporarily modify licensure or other requirements for settings where waiver services are furnished.

[Provide explanation of changes, description of facilities to be utilized and list each service provided in each facility utilized.]

e. ___ Temporarily modify processes for level of care evaluations or re-evaluations (within regulatory requirements). [Describe]

f. ___ Temporarily increase payment rates

[Provide an explanation for the increase. List the provider types, rates by service, and specify whether this change is based on a rate development method that is different from the current approved waiver (and if different, specify and explain the rate development method). If the rate varies by provider, list the rate by service and by provider].

g. ___ Temporarily modify person-centered service plan development process and individual(s) responsible for person-centered service plan development, including qualifications.

[Describe any modifications including qualifications of individuals responsible for service plan development, and address Participant Safeguards. Also include strategies to ensure that services are received as authorized.]

h. ___ Temporarily modify incident reporting requirements, medication management or other participant safeguards to ensure individual health and welfare, and to account for emergency circumstances. [Explanation of changes]

i. __ Temporarily allow for payment for services for the purpose of supporting waiver participants in an acute care hospital or short-term institutional stay when necessary supports (including communication and intensive personal care) are not available in that setting, or when the individual requires those services for communication and behavioral stabilization, and such services are not covered in such settings.

[Specify the services.]

j. _x Temporarily include retainer payments to address emergency related issues.

[Describe the circumstances under which such payments are authorized and applicable limits on their duration. Retainer payments are available for habilitation and personal care only.]

This Amendment allows continuation of the first episode of retainer payment reimbursement to include two additional retainer payment episodes of thirty(30) days per episode for the following services, all of which deliver personal assistant services through the inclusion of support with activities of daily living or instrumental activities of daily living as a component of the service:

In the EDWP and ICWP programs - Personal Support Services, Personal Support Extended Services, Consumer Directed Personal Support Services, Adult Day Health Care, and Alternative Living Services.

In the NOW and COMP programs – Community Residential Alternative (COMP only service), Community Living Support Services, Supported Employment Services, Prevocational Services, and Community Access Services.

Retainer payments will be reimbursed only when the provider is not serving the member through other comparable or substituted services or using differential staff such as family caregivers to provide service. The retainer payment will be authorized at the level, duration, and amount as outlined in the pre-emergency state prior authorization.

The State has developed the following guardrails for provider assurance of the conditions of retainer payment reimbursement:

- Following the 6/30/20 FAQ release, DCH developed and presented two (2) webinars to the impacted providers and posted the webinar for future and continued review.
- The state will collect an attestation from the provider acknowledging that retainer payments will be subject to recoupment if inappropriate billing or duplicate payments for services occurred or duplicate uses of available funding streams, as identified in a state or federal audit or any other authorized third party review. The state will require an attestation from the provider that it will not lay off staff and will maintain wages at existing levels. The state will require an attestation from the provider that they had not received funding from any other sources, including but not limited to, unemployment benefits and Small Business Administration loans, that would exceed their revenue for the last full quarter prior to the PHE, or that the retainer payments at the level provided by the state would not result in their revenue exceeding that of the quarter prior to the PHE. If a provider had not already received revenues in excess of the pre-PHE level but receipt of the retainer payment in addition to those prior sources of funding results in the provider exceeding the pre-PHE level, any retainer payment amounts in excess would be recouped. If a provider had already received revenues in excess of the pre-PHE level, retainer payments are not available.
- DCH will review all submissions for completeness of the attestation and will retain documents following the State’s six (6) year retention policy.
- The attestation documents will be viewable singly or through report format by waiver program to allow cross-reference of providers by service type.
- CMS and/or Program Integrity audits will use the attestation documents in future provider audits.

k. ___ Temporarily institute or expand opportunities for self-direction.

[Provide an overview and any expansion of self-direction opportunities including a list of services that may be self-directed and an overview of participant safeguards]

l. ___ Increase Factor C.

[Explain the reason for the increase and list the current approved Factor C as well as the proposed revised Factor C]

--

m. ___ Other Changes Necessary [For example, any changes to billing processes, use of contracted entities or any other changes needed by the State to address imminent needs of individuals in the waiver program]. [Explanation of changes]

--

Contact Person(s)

A. The Medicaid agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the request:

First Name:	Brian
Last Name	Dowd
Title:	Deputy Executive Director Medical Assistance Plans
Agency:	Department of Community Health
Address 1:	2 Peachtree St NW
Address 2:	37 th Floor
City	Atlanta
State	GA
Zip Code	30303
Telephone:	404-657-5467
E-mail	bdowd@dch.ga.gov
Fax Number	678-222-4948

B. If applicable, the State operating agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the waiver is:

First Name:	Brian
Last Name	Dowd
Title:	Deputy Executive Director Medical Assistance Plans
Agency:	Department of Community Health
Address 1:	2 Peachtree St NW
Address 2:	37 th Floor
City	Atlanta
State	GA
Zip Code	30303
Telephone:	404-657-5467
E-mail	bdowd@dch.ga.gov
Fax Number	678-222-4948

8. Authorizing Signature

Signature: /S/	Date: 7/20/2020
-----------------------	------------------------


State Medicaid Director or Designee

First Name:	Lynnette
Last Name	Rhodes
Title:	Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans
Agency:	Department of Community Health
Address 1:	2 Peachtree St NW
Address 2:	36 th Floor
City	Atlanta
State	Georgia
Zip Code	30303
Telephone:	404-656-7513
E-mail	lrhodes@dch.ga.gov
Fax Number	470-886-6844

Section A---Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency

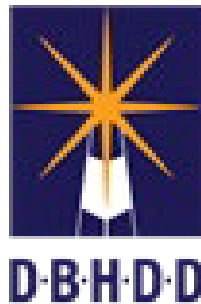
Complete for each service added during a time of emergency. For services in the approved waiver which the state is temporarily modifying, enter the entire service definition and highlight the change. State laws, regulations and policies referenced in the specification are readily available to CMS upon request through the Medicaid agency or the operating agency (if applicable).

There are no changes to the approved Appendix K service specifications requested in this Amendment.



ⁱ Numerous changes that the state may want to make necessitate authority outside of the scope of section 1915(c) authority. States interested in changes to administrative claiming or changes that require section 1115 or section 1135 authority should engage CMS in a discussion as soon as possible. Some examples may include: (a) changes to administrative activities, such as the establishment of a hotline; (b) suspension of general Medicaid rules that are not addressed under section 1915(c) such as payment rules or eligibility rules or suspension of provisions of section 1902(a) to which 1915(c) is typically bound.

DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities
Appendix K: Operational Guidelines for the NOW and COMP Waiver Programs
Response to COVID-19 Pandemic



Version 4.0

Released: 11.25.2020

Section A. Overview & Purpose

*Overview: The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) and the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) submitted an Appendix K to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in order to request necessary flexibilities to service delivery during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The changes outlined in Appendix K for the NOW and COMP waivers are **temporary** policy allowances, **temporary** rate increases for target services, and **temporary** retainer payments for specific services, effective March 1, 2020. Georgia intends to withdraw the Appendix K when systems, services, and the ability to travel freely are less restricted. At the conclusion of the state of emergency, pre-emergency service plans will be re-implemented unless the individual has experienced a change in condition or circumstance that requires reassessment and development of a new service plan.*

Purpose: The purpose of this guidance document is to provide additional information to providers of traditional waiver services and families who opt to participant direct services. The guidance within this document is temporary until otherwise notified by DBHDD and DCH. This guidance supersedes only conflicting guidance in the NOW and COMP manuals, DD Community Standards Manual, and DBHDD PolicyStat Policies.

Section B: Appendix K Chart At a Glance - “X” indicates provisions for the waiver service

Waiver Service	Telehealth Options	Provider Retainer Options	Family Caregiver Hire Options	Exceed Service Limitations	Provided in Alternative Settings	Increase Rate
Community Living support (Basic and Extended)		X	X	X	X- including out of state and acute care settings	
Respite (in home and out of home)			X	X	X – including out of state	
Community Access	X	X -only applicable for DBHDD traditionally enrolled Providers	X	X	X	
Specialized Medical Supplies				X		
Additional Staffing					X	

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Waiver Service	Telehealth Options	Provider Retainer Options	Family Caregiver Hire Options	Exceed Service Limitations	Provided in Alternative Settings	Increase Rate
Nursing Services	X- RN only					X- LPN only
Support Coordination	X					X
Intensive Support Coordination	X					
Fiscal Intermediary						X
Community Residential Alternative		X				
Behavioral Supports Services	X					
Prevocational Services	X	X				
Adult Occupational Therapy	X					
Adult Physical Therapy	X					
Adult Speech and Language Therapy	X – exceptions noted below					
Supported Employment	X- limited scope	X				

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Section C. General Provider Guidance

C.1 Background checks for any function that requires face-to-face action or availability of third-party vendors will be temporarily suspended for the duration that Appendix K is effective for all waiver services in the event the provider is unable to complete a background check. Within sixty (60) days of the termination of Appendix K, background checks will need to be completed retroactively for all employees who were hired while Appendix K was effective and according to policy.

C.2 Required staffing ratios for an individual as outlined in the individual’s Individual Service plan, may be modified to allow the individual to receive services in safe and accessible environments if the individual’s needs are still being met. Documentation must include staffing ratios, justify the decrease in ratio and verify how the individual’s health and safety needs are being met.

C.3 State certification survey staff will postpone on-site provider certification and other reviews for provider agencies and individual providers rendering NOW and COMP services unless there is cause to believe there may be an immediate jeopardy and/or health and safety concern.

C.4 The annual DMA-7 assessment requirements will be suspended for all individuals while Appendix K is effective unless required otherwise by another governmental agency. There are no requirement modifications to the DMA -6. The Regional Field Office and/or Support Coordination (SC) agency will document, in the individualized service plan (ISP), the contact with the individual, legal guardian if applicable, and team to discuss the extension, as well as the projected date that the DMA-7 will be completed, which can be no later than the individual's subsequent birthday.

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C.5 Telehealth Guidance: The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, Adult Occupational Therapy Services, Adult Physical Therapy Services, most Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services, Behavior Support Services, Support Coordination, Supported Employment (limited scope), Community Access Services, Prevocational Services, and registered nurse (RN) oversight to be provided using telehealth or other telephonic means. All licensed providers must abide by training requirements established by their governing professional licensing boards. For provision of Behavior Support services, there are currently no CEU requirements for telehealth training by The Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB), or other non-board-certified behavior support service providers that render this service. The Behavior Analysis Certification Board has issued guidance that has been included in the Reference Section of this document. Services delivered telephonically should be billed using the Place of Service (POS) code '02' for telehealth. All telehealth services must be rendered with the individual and the staff member rendering the service both present in real time during the telehealth session. Providers may not bill telehealth for dropping off materials. Telehealth services may only be billed when the individual is receiving the service.

Rev 06 2020

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C.6 Family Caregiver Option: Several services, as indicated in Section B above, list an option for Family Caregivers to **temporarily** render specific services. Family Caregiver hire option is applicable to both traditionally enrolled provider families as well as families who opt to participant direct their services. A family caregiver hire shall only render services in lieu of a regular staff member (as defined in section C.7 below) and not in conjunction with a regular staff member. As specified in the NOW and COMP Manual Part II Section 902, a Family Caregiver hire is defined as an individual's family member, by blood or marriage, who is aged 18 years or older, who may be reimbursed for providing services when there are extenuating circumstances (family is defined as a person who is related by blood within the third degree of consanguinity by blood, adoption, or marriage. Third degree of consanguinity include mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, great grandfather, great grandmother, sister, brother, daughter, son, granddaughter, grandson, great granddaughter, great grandson, aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew. The provider network may hire family caregivers to provide Community Living Supports, Community Access and/or Respite Services in lieu of existing provider staff if the provider is unable to render the service due to health and safety concerns for either the provider staff or the individual. In the event a provider hires a family caregiver to render the service when provider staff is unable to provide a service, providers may bill both the retainer and for actual service delivery. The family caregiver hire start day may begin after there is documented evidence that the regular provider staff are no longer rendering services and no sooner than the effective date of the Appendix K. MMIS billing system does not permit the same procedure code to be billed at the same time of the day. While the Appendix K is effective,

providers are temporarily permitted to bill a retainer and the family caregiver hire on the same day, however the time that service and retainer are billed for may not overlap and may not exceed the approved service units on the individual's Prior Authorization. Training requirements specific to family caregiver hire can be found in section C.9 of this document. **No new family caregiver hires will be allowed after December 28, 2020; family caregivers hired (in accordance with these Operational Guidelines) on or before December 28, 2020 will continue to be authorized until the expiration of Appendix K. All required enrollment forms and documentation for new family caregiver hires must be fully and properly submitted on or before December 28, 2020.**

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C.7 Retainer Specifications-Retainer payments are authorized in the event that the provider is not serving the individual under other comparable services with regular staff members of the provider. The retainer payment will be authorized at the level, duration and amount as outlined in the prior authorization in place as of February 29, 2020. Initial retainers cannot exceed 30 consecutive days. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) clarified on June 30, 2020 via a FAQ that these "consecutive days" are those days that are eligible for billing—that is, "consecutive days" include only days on which the regular staff member for whom the retainer is billed would have normally been serving the individual under an individual's prior authorization and ISP. As typical day habilitation (e.g. Community Access) services are rendered Monday through Friday, 30 consecutive billing days would usually encompass a 6-week period of time. (For example, if a regular staff member would normally have been serving the individual Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week, and not on weekends, then the provider could bill for five (5) days of retainer for that staff member each week for six (6) weeks, for a total of thirty (30) billable days.)

After the initial 30 day retainer is billed, the provider may bill for up to two (2) additional retainer periods of up to thirty (30) days each, **without the requirement of any new service encounter**¹, in accordance with the following:

1. After the expiration of the initial 30-day retainer period, if the regular staff member is still being retained and is not delivering services to the individual, the provider may bill for up to thirty (30) additional days of retainer for that regular staff member, beginning on the next day on which the individual would normally receive the service under the individual's ISP (but does not receive the service from that regular staff member). Billing for such additional days of retainer must be done in accordance with the same rules applicable to retainer payments generally.

¹ In previous Operational Guidelines, DBHDD had stated, consistent with apparent CMS guidelines, that the staff member would need to have a service encounter with the individual before the provider could commence any additional retainer billing period. CMS has since clarified that additional retainer billing periods can be commenced without such intervening service encounters.

2. After the expiration of the first additional 30-day retainer period, if the regular staff member is still being retained and is not delivering services to the individual, the provider may again bill for up to thirty (30) additional days of retainer for that regular staff member, consistent with item (1) immediately above.
3. After billing a maximum total of ninety (90) billable days of retainer payments (30 initial days plus two additional 30-day periods) for a service delivered to an individual by a regular staff member, Provider may not bill any further retainer payments for that regular staff member²

EXAMPLE 1: Under Individual's ISP, Provider would normally provide Service to Individual on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week (5 days per week). Provider has already billed 30 days of the initial retainer payment for the regular staff member who delivers the Service to Individual; the last day for which the initial 30-day retainer was billed was Friday, June 26. If Provider continues to retain the regular staff member, and if that regular staff member is not delivering the Service to Individual, Provider may:

- (1) bill for an additional 30 days of retainer for that regular staff member—i.e. for the Service that would have been delivered (5 days per week per the ISP) over the next 6 weeks (beginning the week of June 28, through and including the week of August 2, with the last retainer payment date being Friday, August 7); and then
- (2) if the regular staff member is still not delivering the Service to the Individual after that first additional retainer payment has ended, and if Provider is continuing to retain the regular staff member, then Provider may bill the retainer for a second additional 30 days of retainer for that regular staff member—i.e. for the Service that would have been delivered (5 days per week per the ISP) over the next 6 weeks (beginning the week of August 9, through and including the week of September 13, with the last retainer payment date being Friday, September 18). Afterwards, no further retainer payments would be available, per current CMS guidance.

Note: The above example assumes a scenario in which Appendix K continues to be in effect through at least September 18. Retainer payment period extensions could become more limited if Appendix K are withdrawn earlier. The above example also does not account for holidays on which the regular staff member would not normally deliver the Service under the Individual's ISP.

² Some previous Operational Guidelines had not included any limit on the number of additional retainer periods that could be billed. CMS has since clarified that only two thirty (30) day additional retainer periods (after the initial 30-day period) can be authorized.

EXAMPLE 2: Under Individual’s ISP, Provider would normally provide Service to Individual on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week (3 days per week). Provider has already billed 30 days of the initial retainer payments for the regular staff member who delivers the Service to Individual; the last day for which the initial 30-day retainer was billed was Friday, June 26. If Provider continues to retain the regular staff member, and if that regular staff member is not delivering the Service to Individual, Provider may:

- (1) bill for an additional 30 days of retainer for that regular staff member—i.e. for the Service that would have been delivered (3 days per week per the ISP) over the next 10 weeks (beginning the week of June 28, through and including the week of August 30, with the last retainer payment date being Friday, September 4); and then
- (2) if the regular staff member is still not delivering the Service to the Individual after that first additional retainer payment has ended, and if Provider is continuing to retain the regular staff member, then Provider may bill the retainer for a second additional 30 days of retainer for that regular staff member—i.e. for the Service that would have been delivered (3 days per week per the ISP) over the next 10 weeks (beginning the week of September 6, through and including the week of November 8, with the last retainer payment date being Friday, November 6). Afterwards, no further retainer payments would be available, per current CMS guidance.

Note: The above example assumes a scenario in which Appendix K continues to be in effect through at least November 6. Retainer payment period extensions could become more limited if Appendix K are withdrawn earlier. The above example also does not account for holidays on which the regular staff member would not normally deliver the Service under the Individual’s ISP.

Providers should submit claims for only scheduled days and units as authorized in the individual’s ISP. The retainer option should only be billed when the provider is retaining (maintaining the staff’s employment for) all employees (including administrative and support staff) required to resume that particular service for the individual(s) whose retainer is being billed. Service retainers may not be billed for staff whose employment the provider/employer is not maintaining.

As used in this guidance, the term “regular staff member” means a staff member who meets all of the following criteria:

- (i) the staff member would normally be rendering services to an individual served by the provider agency; and
- (ii) due to the COVID-19 Emergency, the staff member either
 - (a) is temporarily not rendering services to the individual due to the COVID-19 Emergency, or

(b) is temporarily rendering to the individual a different type of service than the service the staff member usually renders, at another service setting operated by the same provider agency³, and the provider agency is not otherwise being reimbursed (e.g. through Additional Staffing rates) for the different service temporarily rendered by that staff member; and

(iii) the staff member continues to be employed by the provider and is expected to resume rendering services to the individual after the expiration of the COVID-19 Emergency.

For each individual who is temporarily not being served by the provider's regular staff members, the provider must document in the individual's record certain information in order for the provider to be eligible for retainer payments for the regular staff who would normally serve that individual. For each regular staff member who is temporarily not serving the individual, the provider must document in the individual's record:

1. Name of the regular staff member;
2. Date on which the staff member's temporary absence from rendering services to the individual (at the site where the staff member would normally render services) began;
3. Reason for the staff member's temporary absence from rendering services at the service site (note: valid reasons may include, but are not limited to, that provider agency's services to the individual have temporarily ceased due to the COVID-19 Emergency, or (if applicable) that provider agency has temporarily hired family caregiver(s) to serve the individual in lieu of regular staff);
4. If applicable, the date on which the staff member resumed rendering services to the individual;
5. The specific dates on which, prior to the staff member's absence, the staff member was scheduled to render services to the individual any of the services for which retainer payments were requested and authorized; and
6. For each of the dates identified in (5) above, the number and type of authorized service units the staff member would have been delivering to the individual, in accordance with the ISP in effect for the individual on February 29, 2020.

³ For example, an individual who would normally spend daytime hours at a Community Access (CA) site operated by a provider might, due to the COVID-19 Emergency, now be spending daytime hours at a Community Residential Alternative (CRA) site operated by the same provider. The provider might utilize staff from the CA site as staff at the CRA site during those hours. Retainer payments could be authorized for those staff, in accordance with this guidance. The primary intention of such authorization is to allow the individual to continue being served by the same staff members who would normally be rendering services to the individual.

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C.8 Documentation Requirements- All providers must continue to adhere to documentation requirements set forth in Part II and Part III Policies and Procedures for the COMP and NOW Waiver General Manual. Providers must document for each encounter when providers have hired a family caregiver hire to render a service. Providers must document at each encounter when services are rendered via telehealth or other telephonic means using 02 P.O.S. (Place of Service). Providers must document each service delivery when billing a retainer. Representatives for Participant-direction model must adhere to all applicable documentation requirements. The ISP will be updated as soon as possible but no later than 30 days from the date the service was initiated. The ISP must be signed by the individual/legal guardian and any provider authorized to provide services on the Prior Authorization. Consent and agreement signatures can be obtained electronically following policy definition of electronic signature in *PART I: Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids, # 69 of the Definition Section* at <https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/PubAccess.Provider%20Information/Provider%20Manuals/tabId/44/Default.aspx> Supporting notes should identify each procedure code separately and how many units are being billed for each. Documentation to support clinically assessed need must be indicated in the Supporting notes. Documentation of services delivered via telehealth must indicate this service delivery method.

IDD-C Version Change Provisions- the below table represents actions that require and do not require a version change to be submitted through IDD-Connects. Providers are to request services not related to Appendix K through existing DBHDD policies 02-443 and 02-444.

Actions Requiring Version Change	Actions NOT Requiring Version Change
Add of any type of service	Rate Increase for licensed practical nurse (LPN), Fiscal Intermediary, Support Coordination- temporary increase will be automated in IDD-Connects
Change in Provider Agency	Change in location of service delivery
Increase in units beyond the standardized increase in authorization for all services that include family caregiver hire and retainer allowances within Appendix K (Community Access traditional, Community Living Supports, Respite Services)	Telehealth – Providers are to continue to bill the same procedural code for telehealth and use the 02 P.O.S. (place of service)
	Goal(s) - Modification of Person-Centered Goal(s) do not require a version change and can be documented in support notes
	Retainer payments billing (when staff are not delivering service but are being retained to resume service delivery after Appendix K is no longer effective)

C.9 Training Requirements- In lieu of face-to-face training, DBHDD suspends required face-to-face training for newly hired staff during the time that the Appendix K is effective. Family members serving as reimbursed Family Caregivers hires who have experience delivering required care will be supported, as needed, by provider agency supervisory staff telephonically or electronically and have modified training requirements as specified below. Newly hired regular staff with a minimum of 1-year experience with individuals with I/DD will be supervised telephonically or electronically and those with no previous experience will be provided electronic video training by agency supervisory staff. Every effort should be made to complete training requirements when possible. Training requirements for any function that requires face-to-face action or availability of third-party vendors will be temporarily suspended for the duration that Appendix K is effective for all waiver services in the event the provider is unable to complete a training.. Providers must continue to document all annual training completed with staff, contractors or consultants and document when a training cannot be completed with specific rationale. After Appendix K is no longer effective, trainings will be required to be completed within a timeframe which will be communicated to providers in subsequent communication from DBHDD.

The state modifies required trainings for new Family Caregiver hires. All trainings below are required to be provided by the provider agency to the family caregiver hire within ten (10) days via telephonically or electronically:

1. The purpose, scope of services, supports, care and treatment offered including related policies and procedures;
2. HIPAA and Confidentiality of individual information, both written and spoken;
3. Rights and Responsibilities of individuals;
4. Requirements for recognizing and mandatory reporting suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of any individual;
5. Medical, physical, behavioral and social needs and characteristics of the individuals served; and
6. Techniques of Standard Universal Precautions to include:
 - Preventative measures to minimize risk of infectious disease transmission;
 - Use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE); Sharps Safety (with sharp containers disposed of according to state and local regulated medical waste rules);
 - Environmental Controls for cleaning and disinfecting work surfaces;
 - Skills Guides for handwashing, cleaning up spills, gloves use, and what to do with contaminated supplies;
 - Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquettes for cough, congestion, runny nose or increase production of respiratory secretions;and
 - Approaches to individual education to include incident reporting and follow-up.

C.10 Incident Reporting Requirements- DBHDD maintains data on COVID-19 cases involving individuals receiving services and staff. Effective Tuesday March 24, 2020, the Department is using Image, DBHDD's incident management system, for reporting. DBHDD Behavioral Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Providers have access to, have received training (available [here](#)) on, and have experience entering critical incidents directly into [Image](#) for incidents involving individuals receiving services. DBHDD has added three incident type codes to Image to assist in the tracking of coronavirus' (COVID-19) impact on the individuals we serve, and provider staff. These are in addition to the usual incident reporting requirements outlined in Policy [04-106](#).

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C. 11 Support Coordination, Intensive Support Coordination Visits- The following guidance is in addition to, and not in limitation or derogation of, the provisions and requirements of DBHDD Policy 02-434.

Support Coordination and Intensive Support Coordination shall have access to individuals receiving NOW and COMP waiver services. As declared in the State of Georgia Executive Order 09.30.20.02 and Executive Order 10.30.20.02, *"nothing in this order shall prohibit individuals providing support coordination services through funding from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities pursuant to Code Sections 37-5-1 et seq. from having access to or conducting health and safety visits within Long Term Care Facilities"* (see page 12 of both referenced Executive Orders). To review the Executive Orders visit <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>.

Support Coordination shall have access to information on waiver participants, and to face to face in-person contact with the waiver participants themselves, including, but not limited to:

- Access to all individual records, electronic and paper as applicable, be made available for review within three (3) business days of the written request via email by Support Coordination;
- Video access to an individual via an electronic device equipped with audio and video transmission and receiving capabilities (smartphone, computer with webcam and microphone and speakers, tablet, etc.) when such devices are supported by internet access at sufficient speeds and bandwidths to ensure clear and uninterrupted transmission of audio and video.
 - Exceptions to video access will be made for geographic locations which lack the required infrastructure (e.g. internet access or mobile phone coverage) to complete video contacts as described above. The individual's provider must document and send to DBHDD Regional Office Regional Services Administrator via email the provider's inability to acquire broadband service/e capability. Such an e-mail must include in the subject line of the email to the RSA- Email Subject: "Electronic Access."

- Providers are required to allow an SC/ISC face to face, in-person visitation access to an individual when determined necessary by DBHDD or the Support Coordination/Intensive Support Coordination agency for health and safety concerns. ISC/SC agencies are required to conduct face to face, in-person visits when requested by DBHDD. Please note It is the expectation that all PPE parameters are followed by staff and individuals (to the best of the individual’s abilities). Guidance for PPE protocols, training and more can be found on the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>. ISC/SC Agency staff must use a COVID-19 screening tool that contains, at minimum, the requirements and elements recommended by the most current CDC guidance. Guidance for social distancing, based on the most current guidelines issued by the CDC and Georgia Department of Public Health, should be observed during any ISC/SC visit. Compliance with CDC and GA Department of Public Health guidance on the use of PPE is expected at all times and will be assessed and recorded by the ISC/SC staff completing the onsite visits.

Section D. Service Specific Guidance

Service	Service Specific Guidance
<p>D.1 Community Residential Alternative (CRA)</p>	<p>The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, retainer payments for Community Residential Alternative in the event the individual is hospitalized or in an alternate care setting due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 Emergency. Retainer payments will only be authorized for the amount, frequency and duration listed on the individuals ISP/prior authorization (PA) on February 29, 2020.</p> <p>Notification Guidance- The Regional Field Office (via email to the I&E manager and RSA) and SC Agency must be immediately notified when an individual is moved. Please include “COVID-19 MOVE” in the email subject header.</p> <p>Documentation Guidance- Providers are to document retainer service delivery in the “COVID-19 NOW & COMP Provider Spreadsheet” – see Section G for reference.</p> <p>Billing Guidance- For the retainer procedure code, use the procedure code authorized on the prior authorization.. Providers should submit claims for only scheduled days and units as specified in the individual’s ISP. See Section C.7 for additional information regarding retainer guidance.</p>
<p>D.2 Community Living Support</p>	<p>The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, retainer payments for Community Living Support Services that cannot be rendered due to national state of emergency. Retainer payments will only be authorized for the frequency listed on the individual’s ISP/PA on February 29, 2020. The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that</p>

<p>Services Basic and Extended (CLS)</p>	<p>the Appendix K is effective, providers to exceed the cap limitations for Community Living Services that can be rendered via traditional provider, participant directed services, and/or a combination with live-in caregiver.</p> <p>Documentation Guidance- Providers are to document retainer service delivery and list of family caregiver hire by way of the “COVID-19 NOW & COMP Provider Spreadsheet” – see Section G for reference.</p> <p>Billing Guidance: Providers should bill the existing service procedure codes on the prior authorization when billing for a retainer and/or services delivered by a family caregiver hire.</p> <p>If a provider bills the retainer fee on the same day that a family caregiver hire renders the service, the units for each must be aggregated together and billed as one claim line. For example, the family caregiver hire delivers 1 hour (four 15 min units) of service and the provider bills for 1 hour (four 15 min units) of retainer, one claim line for 8 units of service should be billed. Supporting notes should identify that both services are being delivered and how many units are being billed for each. Providers should submit claims for only scheduled days and units as specified in the individual’s ISP. See Section C.7 for additional information regarding retainer guidance.</p>
<p>D.3 Supported Employment (SE)</p>	<p>The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, retainer payments for Supported Employment Services in the event the provider is unable to render a service due to health and safety concerns for either the individual or the provider. The retainer payment will be authorized at the level, duration and amount as outlined in the ISP/PA on February 29, 2020.</p> <p>DBHDD is granting increased flexibility and accommodation in the way supported employment are delivered. Below are a few of the measures:</p> <p>Remote Job Coaching while Appendix K is in effect, required in-person job coaching contacts and supports may temporarily be made remotely (i.e. phone, telehealth). These services (or face to face service if required for immediate health and safety) may be provided to individuals who continue to work during the COVID-19 emergency. This may include teleworking for any business or in person at businesses that remain open. Remote job coaching is subject to the support needs of the individual and may not be appropriate depending on the individual’s protocols and health and safety concerns. Classes and training may be delivered remotely temporarily during this time. This may include offering skills training such as resume building, interview skills, self-advocacy skills, assistance to obtain required job certifications such as food handler’s cards, assisting with employment goals, technology training, computer skills and other activities intended to promote gaining competitive integrated employment.</p> <p>Billing Guidance- For the retainer procedure code, providers should use the procedure codes as authorized on the prior authorization. Services delivered telephonically should be billed using the Place of Service (POS) code ‘02’ for telehealth.</p>

	<p>Providers should submit claims for only scheduled days and units as specified in the individual’s ISP. See Section C.7 for additional information regarding retainer guidance.</p>
<p>D.4 Prevocational Services</p>	<p>Prevocational services providers will be authorized for retainer payments in the event that the provider is not serving the individual under other comparable services or using differential staff such as family caregivers hires to provide service. The retainer payment will be authorized at the level, duration and amount as outlined in the ISP/PA on February 29, 2020. Prevocational Services delivered via telehealth should be billed using the Place of Service (POS) code ‘02’ for telehealth. Video enabled telecommunications applications (e.g. SKPE, ZOOM, Microsoft teams, DUO, etc., as long as these are used in compliance with existing HIPAA requirements) are the preferred method of service delivery when providing services via telehealth. Some examples of Prevocational Services delivered via telehealth may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is social distancing, • How to properly wash hands, • How to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) and when does PPE have to be worn; • What will riding in vehicles with others consist of? ; • Why are you taking my temperature? • Discussing fears with the group of returning to the day setting? • Resume building utilizing virtual resume videos and one-pagers to share marketable strengths, • Career exploration videos based on job interests, and • Discussion on moving towards competitive integrated employment. <p>Billing Guidance- For the retainer procedure code, providers should use the procedure codes as authorized on the prior authorization. Retainers cannot exceed 30 consecutive days. Providers should submit claims for only scheduled days and units as specified in the individual’s ISP. See Section C.7 for additional information regarding retainer guidance. Prevocational Services delivered via telehealth should be billed using the Place of Service (POS) code ‘02’.</p>
<p>D.5 Community Access (CA)</p>	<p>The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, retainer payments for Community Access Services, for traditional providers only, for services that cannot be rendered due to national state of emergency. Retainer payments will only be authorized through agency delivered services using the frequency listed on the individual’s ISP/PA on February 29, 2020 and cannot exceed 6 hours a day and 5 days a week. Community Access Services delivered via telehealth should be billed using the Place of Service (POS) code ‘02’ for telehealth. Video enabled telecommunications applications</p>

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	<p>(e.g. SKPE, ZOOM, Microsoft teams, DUO, etc., as long as these are used in compliance with existing HIPAA compliance requirements) are the preferred method of service delivery when providing services via telehealth. Some examples of Community Access Services delivered via telehealth may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is social distancing, • How to properly wash hands, • How to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) and when does PPE have to be worn • What will riding in vehicles with others consist of, • Why are you taking my temperature, • Discussing fears with the group of returning to the day setting, • Virtual exercise classes, and • Any virtual group instruction/ teaching type opportunities <p>Note: Community Access includes both Community Access Group (CAG) and Community Access Individual (CAI) Services.</p> <p>Documentation Guidance- Providers are to document retainer service delivery and a list of hired family caregivers in the “COVID-19 NOW&COMP Provider Spreadsheet” – see Section G for reference.</p> <p>Billing Guidance: Providers should bill the existing service procedure codes on the prior authorization when billing for a retainer and/or services delivered by a Family Caregiver hire. If a provider bills the retainer fee on the same day that a family caregiver hire delivers the service, the units for each must be aggregated together and billed as one claim line. For example, the family caregiver hire delivers 1 hour (four 15 min units) of service and the provider bills for 1 hour (four 15 min units) of retainer, one claim line for 8 units of service should be billed. Supporting notes should identify that both services are being delivered and how many units are being billed for each. Providers should submit claims for only scheduled days and units as specified in the individual’s ISP. See Section C.7 for additional information regarding retainer guidance Community Access Services delivered via telehealth should be billed using the Place of Service (POS) code ‘02’.</p>
<p>D.6 Support Coordination (SC)</p>	<p>The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, SC providers to render services telephonically or through other telehealth means. SC providers are also authorized for a –temporary rate increase from \$152.88 to \$175.00 per individual per month.</p>

	<p>Documentation Guidance- Telephonic service delivery is acceptable during the time that Appendix K is effective. Telecommunications applications (e.g. SKYPE/Facetime/Duo/ZOOM) are not required, but encouraged where possible and in accordance with governing privacy regulations. Residences that have computers or similar electronic devices should use a telecommunication application at minimum for ISP meetings, but preferably all contacts when possible. Support coordinators should send providers and families a copy of the IQOMR template (see Section G) when possible to help prepare for contacts. SC Support Notes: A comprehensive support note must be entered by the Support Coordinator for all regular required contacts with the individual, with the exception of the completion of the quarterly (IQOMR) Individual Quality Outcome Measures Review. Contacts should focus on health and safety concerns. All support notes are entered into the online case management system within three (3) business days of the contact.</p> <p>Billing Guidance- Rate Increase- Providers will need to adjust claims for the rate increase once the rate has been adjusted in the billing system- Providers will be notified by DBHDD once the rate has been increased in the billing system. Providers may only adjust claims beginning March 1, 2020 (the effective date of Appendix K). Services delivered telephonically should be billed using the Place of Service (POS) code '02' for telehealth.</p>
<p>D.7 Intensive Support Coordination (ISC)</p>	<p>The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, Intensive SC providers to render services telephonically and through other telehealth means.</p> <p>Documentation Guidance- Telephonic is an acceptable mode of service delivery. Telecommunications applications (e.g. SKYPE/Facetime/Duo/ZOOM) is not required but encouraged where possible. SC staff are not to require provider staff to use personal phones for video conferencing. Residences that have computers or related electronic devices should use a telecommunication application at minimum for ISP meetings, but preferably all contacts when possible. SCs should send providers and families a copy of the IQOMR template (see Section G) when possible to help prepare for contacts. SC Support Notes: A comprehensive support note must be entered by the Support Coordinator for all required contacts to the individual during times outside completion of the quarterly (IQOMR) Individual Quality Outcome Measures Review. Contacts should consider focus areas of health and safety. All support notes are entered into the online case management system within three (3) business days after the event.</p> <p>Billing Guidance- Services delivered telephonically should be billed using the Place of Service (POS) code '02' for telehealth.</p>
<p>D.8</p>	<p>The State temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, providers to exceed the SMS cap limitation. The NOW and COMP waiver programs authorize funds for goods and services that are not covered by the Medicaid State Plan or those instances in which an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to</p>

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<p>Specialized Medical Supplies (SMS)</p>	<p>the coverage limits are not available. Note this may include Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), as applicable, however, consistent with the Part III NOW and COMP Manuals requirements for SMS, PPE covered by this provision must be specifically related to the individual's disability, and such PPE does not include face masks or other protective equipment intended to prevent or contain the spread of COVID-19 or protective equipment which, but for the COVID-19 public health emergency, would not ordinarily be requested for the individual; except that, if an individual receiving services has tested positive for COVID-19, then PPE for that individual, for the purpose of preventing the spread of COVID-19 from that individual, is covered and may be billed as SMS for that individual.</p> <p>For individuals with SMS on their current PA, the cap has been increased. Prescriptions will not be required for the duration that Appendix K is effective, however providers must document how supplies are directly related to a waiver individual's diagnosis or disability-related condition. Providers may not bill when SMS has been donated or obtained through other means. For Individuals without SMS on their existing PA, all other sources of PPE must be exhausted prior to the request for SMS to be added to an ISP.</p>
<p>D.9 In Home and Out of Home Respite</p>	<p>The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, providers to exceed the cap limitations for In Home and Out of Home Respite Services that can be rendered via traditional provider, participant directed services, and/or a live-in caregiver.</p> <p>Documentation Guidance- Providers are to document a list of family caregivers hires in the "COVID-19 NOW & COMP Provider Spreadsheet" – see Section G for reference.</p> <p>Billing Guidance- Use procedure code as authorized on prior authorization.</p>
<p>D.10 Additional Staffing</p>	<p>The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, that Additional Staffing can be delivered on a temporary basis in alternative settings which include: extended family home, hotel, shelter, or other emergency placement, while Appendix K is effective. The location where the service is being rendered is not necessarily required to be reflected in an individual service plan. There is no retainer option for Additional Staffing.</p> <p>Additional staffing ratios for an individual may be modified to allow the individual to receive services in safe and accessible environments if the individual's needs are still being met.</p> <p>Notification Guidance- CRA providers who are not also providing Community Access/Community Access retainer services to an individual, <i>and</i> who can document the need for additional staff in a CRA setting to cover hours normally covered by</p>

	<p>Community Access, will need to submit a request through the “Simplified AS Request Sheet for COVID-19” – see Section G for reference.</p> <p>Documentation Guidance- Documentation requirements that specify additional staffing ratios and any modifications to the staffing ratio rendered must be abided by while Appendix K is effective.</p> <p>Billing Guidance- Use procedure code as authorized on prior authorization.</p>
<p>D.11 Nursing Services</p>	<p>The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, RN services to be rendered using telehealth, to the extent possible. The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, a temporary rate increase for LPN services from \$8.75 to \$10.00 per 15-minute unit.</p> <p>Documentation Guidance- RN Services must document each service delivery rendered via telehealth or other telephonic means. In addition to documentation requirements specified in Part II and III of the NOW and COMP Manuals, which includes but is not limited to date, time, signature/credentialing, documentation while the Appendix K is effective shall include the rationale for telehealth or telephonic date of service delivery.</p> <p>Billing Guidance- Use procedure codes as authorized. RN Services delivered telephonically should be billed using the Place of Service (POS) code ‘02’ for telehealth. Rate Increase- providers will need to adjust claims for the rate increase once the rate has been adjusted in the billing system. Providers will be notified by DBHDD once the rate has been increased in the billing system. Providers may only adjust claims beginning March 1, 2020 (the effective date of Appendix K).</p>
<p>D.12 Behavior Support Services Level 1 and Level 2</p>	<p><i>Note: In addition to the authorization of Appendix K, the NOW waiver was recently amended to align with COMP waiver for Behavior Support Services. Behavior Support Services Level 1 and Level 2 provisions should be considered for both NOW and COMP waiver individuals.</i></p> <p>The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, all NOW and COMP Behavior Support Services to have telehealth option. Behavior Support Service providers may provide services via telehealth or other telephonic means.</p> <p>Notification Guidance The behavior supports service provider will contact the designated point of contact for the agency/home caregiver to schedule telehealth communication. SC will be notified of temporary changes in behavior support service delivery options during this time that Appendix K is effective. Requests for additional units for behavior support services should be made to the regional behavior analyst.</p>

	<p>Documentation Guidance- Behavior Support Service Providers level I and II must document each service delivery rendered via telehealth. In addition to documentation requirements specified in Part II and Part III of the NOW and COMP General Manuals, which includes but is not limited to date, time, signature/credentialing, documentation while the Appendix K is effective shall include the rationale for telehealth or telephonic date of service delivery. In lieu of face-to-face training for behavior support plans and on-site monitoring of plan implementation, oversight, feedback, and support will be provided via telehealth and/or telephonically with behavior plans, data analysis summaries, and progress notes shared electronically via secure encrypted correspondence with staff and/or families to render services.</p> <p>Billing Guidance: Services delivered telephonically should be billed using the Place of Service (POS) code '02' for telehealth.</p>
<p>D.13 Adult Occupational Therapy, Adult Physical Therapy, Adult Speech and Language Therapy.</p>	<p>The state temporarily authorizes, during the time that the Appendix K is effective, all Adult Occupational Therapy Services, Adult Physical Therapy Services, Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services to be provided telehealth or other telephonic means with the following exceptions: Adult Swallowing/Feeding Therapy; Adult Swallowing/Feeding Therapy self-directed; Adult Swallowing/Feeding Evaluation, Adult Swallowing/Feeding Evaluation self-directed.</p> <p>Documentation Guidance- Adult Therapy Providers must document each service delivery rendered via telehealth or other telephonic means. In addition to documentation requirements specified in Part II and Part III of the NOW and COMP General Manuals, which includes but is not limited to date, time, signature/credentialing, documentation while the Appendix K is effective shall include the rationale for telehealth or telephonic date of service delivery.</p> <p>Billing Guidance: Services delivered telephonically should be billed using the Place of Service (POS) code '02' for telehealth.</p>
<p>D.14 Fiscal Intermediary (FI)</p>	<p>During the Appendix K authorization, FIs will have a rate increase from \$75.00 per individual who self-directs per month to \$95.00 per individual per month. Rate Increase- FIs will need to adjust claims for the rate increase once the rate has been adjusted in the billing system. FIs will be notified by DBHDD once the rate has been increased in the billing system. FIs may only adjust claims beginning March 1, 2020 (the effective date of Appendix K).</p>

Section E. Additional Guidance Specific to Participant Directed (PD) Services

E.1 PD Trainings-. During the period Appendix K is effective, there will be no in-person PD trainings for new enrollees into PD Service delivery model. During the period Appendix K is effective, the PD training for new enrollees will only be offered via an online platform that is facilitated through the DBHDD Office of Learning and Development. This training is a requirement to enroll in PD Service Delivery Model. If a

Participant needs to temporarily designate a different person to serve as the personal representative during the COVID-19 Emergency, DBHDD will consider such requests and will require the newly-designated Representative to complete the six-hour course and via the prescribed online platform.

E.2 Documentation Requirements- Documentation requirements for services rendered remain intact. Documentation of services delivered via telehealth must indicate this service delivery method DBHDD will continue to monitor service delivery and use of funding. DBHDD will continue to terminate participant directed service delivery option approval and refer suspicious spending and/or activity to the Office of the Inspector General for investigation and prosecution.

E.3 Family Caregiver hire- During the period Appendix K is effective, DBHDD will temporarily allow for the hiring of family caregivers who live in the home with the individual receiving services through the NOW or COMP waiver. As specified in the NOW and COMP Manual Part II Section 902, a Family Caregiver hire is defined as an individual's family member, related by blood or marriage, who is aged 18 years or older, who may be reimbursed for providing services when there are extenuating circumstances. "Family member" is defined as a person who is related by blood within the third degree of consanguinity by blood, adoption, or marriage. Third degree of consanguinity includes mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, great grandfather, great grandmother, sister, brother, daughter, son, granddaughter, grandson, great granddaughter, great grandson, aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew. The Participant's representative or employer of record may not serve as a family caregiver hire. During the hiring process, Family Caregiver hires must disclose to the Fiscal Intermediary that they are a Family Caregiver hire, as well as their relationship to the Individual receiving the waiver services. The enrollment packet itself will not be modified, but FI will issue the 'Good to Go' letter using a modified list of essential documents. Billing for services will not be approved prior to receipt of the 'good to go' letter and must align with the date of hire on the enrollment forms. Enrollment forms cannot be backdated, and services rendered will not be reimbursed for dates prior to the approved hire date by the fiscal agent.

If the individual chooses to appoint a new PD Representative/employer of record, a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be completed by the newly appointed PD representative/employer of record. The MOU indicates the PD representative is willing and able to take on all the responsibilities of participant-direction and comply with all Medicaid policies. The PD Representative/employer of record position remains an unpaid position. The MOU can be obtained by emailing the DBHDD email box at Participant.Direction@dbhdd.ga.gov to request a copy. The completed MOU will be emailed to DBHDD and DBHDD Central Office PD staff will notify the associated fiscal agent that this step has been completed. The newly appointed PD representative/employer of record must also complete all enrollment paperwork with the fiscal agent and be approved prior to beginning duties. The exiting PD Representative/employer of record can only become an approved family caregiver hire upon completion and approval of the new PD Representative. In addition this family caregiver hire must also complete all enrollment paperwork and receive the 'good to go' letter prior to begin service delivery and billing. Billing for the delivery of services must align with the family caregiver hire date and cannot be made retroactive.

No new family caregiver hires will be allowed after December 28, 2020; family caregivers hired (in accordance with these Operational Guidelines) on or before December 28, 2020 will continue to be authorized until the expiration of Appendix K. All required enrollment forms and documentation for new family caregiver hires must be fully and properly submitted on or before December 28, 2020.

E.4 Trainings for Family Caregiver hires – During the period Appendix K is effective, the training requirements for Family Caregivers hired to provide PD services are modified as set forth at section C.9, above.

E.5 Support Coordinator visits - Although Support Coordinators generally will not be making in-home visits while Appendix K is in effect, Participants/Representatives are required to allow in-home visits when requested by Support Coordinators, and to allow telephonic or electronic visits from Support Coordinators.

E.6 Retainer Payments – During the period Appendix K is in effect, retainer payments are available for employees/support workers providing Community Living Support, Community Residential Alternative, Prevocational, and Supported Employment services for Participants receiving PD services. These retainer payments are available as described in the latest version of DBHDD Policy “[COVID-19 2020: DBHDD Community Developmental Disability Services Policy Modifications](#)” and in these Operational Guidelines. Retainer payments are available for employees/support workers who had been serving the Participant prior to the COVID-19 Emergency (and have been retained by the Participant/Representative to resume services after the COVID-19 Emergency), as described in the policy and attachment; retainer payments are not available for family caregivers hired to provide services during the COVID-19 Emergency. See Section C.7 for more detail regarding retainer guidance.

E.7 Use of State Back-Up Plan – During the period Appendix K is in effect, the State Back-Up Plan, which ordinarily may be used for no more than 1 occasion in any two-month period, may be used in up to 2 occasions in any 2-month period.

E.8 PD and Support Coordination- SC check-ins and activities are still a requirement for PD while Appendix K is effective. SC be completed via telehealth or telephonic means during this crisis. If an individual’s birthday falls while Appendix K is in effect, the support coordinator will work with the individual and representative to set up telehealth means to conduct the annual ISP meeting. The signature page is required for an ISP to be processed. See Section C.8 for more information regarding documentation requirements.

E.9 PD Memorandum of Understanding – To the extent that the provisions of this Operational Guidance and the provisions in the latest version of DBHDD Policy “[COVID-19 2020: DBHDD Community Developmental Disability Services Policy Modifications](#)” directly and expressly conflict with the terms of the “PARTICIPANT-DIRECTION OPTION TERMS and CONDITIONS of PARTICIPATION” Memorandum of Understanding, DBHDD’s enforcement of those Memorandum of Understanding provisions will be temporarily suspended during the period Appendix K is in effect.

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E.10 Background checks - Background checks for any function that requires face-to-face action or availability of third party vendors will be temporarily suspended for the duration that Appendix K is effective for all waiver services in the event that the provider is unable to complete a background check. Within sixty (60) days of the termination of Appendix K, background checks will need to be completed retroactively for all employees who were hired while Appendix K was effective and according to the policy.

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Section F.- Transition Plan and Re-Opening Guidance - See May 11, 2020 publication of “DBHDD I/DD Community Settings Reopening Initial Recommendations” for resources regarding strategies for day programs re-opening, available on our DBHDD website.

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Section G. References:

1. Covid-19 Guidance Information <https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/coronavirus-covid-19-information>
2. Provider Issue Management System (PIMS) <https://dbhddapps.dbhdd.ga.gov/PIMS/Default.aspx>
3. Comprehensive Support Waiver Program and New Options Waiver Program Part II Chapters 600 – 1200_ <https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/Portals/0/StaticContent/Public/ALL/HANDBOOKS/Comprehensive%20Supports%20Waiver%20Program%20and%20New%20Options%20%20Waiver%20Program%20%20Part%20II%20Chapters%20600-1200%2020200107210300.pdf>
4. Health and Human Services resource link regarding appropriate telehealth platforms for delivery of services_ <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/emergency-preparedness/notification-enforcement-discretion-telehealth/index.html>
5. Behavior Analysis Certification Board guidance <https://www.bacb.com/bacb-covid-19-updates/>
6. COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for State Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Agencies NEW FAQs – Released June 30, 2020 <https://www.medicaid.gov/state-resource-center/downloads/covid-19-new-faqs.pdf>

Section H. Appendices

H.1 COVID-19 NOW&COMP Provider Spreadsheet- attached to COVID-19 2020: DBHDD Community Developmental Disability Services Policy

H.2 Simplified AS Request Sheet for COVID-19- attached to COVID-19 2020: DBHDD Community Developmental Disability Services Policy

H.3 IQOMR Guidance for Support Coordination during Appendix K authorization- below:

Appendix K: Operational Guidelines for the NOW and COMP Waiver Programs

Focus Area: Environment		Instructions	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes
1	The home/site is accessible to the individual.	Yes	[Control]
2	The individual has access to privacy for personal care.	Yes	[Control]
3	The individual has a private place in the home to visit with friends or family.	Yes	[Control]
4	The individual has access to privacy for phone discussions with friends or family.	Yes	[Control]
5	The individual has access to receive and view their mail/email privately.	Yes	[Control]
6	The individual is able to have private communications with family and friends through other means.	Yes	[Control]
7	The home setting allows the individual the option to have a private bedroom.	Yes	[Control]

Focus Area: Environment		Instructions	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes
8	All assistive technologies are being utilized as planned.	Yes	[Control]
9	All assistive technologies are in good working order.	Yes	[Control]
10	The individual has adequate clothing to accommodate the individual's needs or preferences/choices.	Yes	[Control]
11	The individual has adequate food and supplies to accommodate the individual's needs or preferences/choices.	Determined by SC Could be Yes (by verbal confirmation with the waiver participant/staff/guardian) It could be N/A.	
12	The Residential/Day setting is clean according to the individual's needs and preferences.	Could be Yes (by verbal confirmation with the waiver participant/staff/guardian) It could be N/A. Determined by SC	[Control]

Focus Area: Environment		Instructions	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes
13	The Residential/Day setting is safe for the individual's needs.	Could be Yes (by verbal confirmation with the waiver participant/staff/guardian) It could be N/A. Determined by SC	[Control]
14	The Residential/Day setting is appropriate for the individual's needs and preferences.	Determined by SC Could be Yes (by verbal confirmation with the waiver participant/staff/guardian) It could be N/A.	[Control]
Focus Area: Appearance/Health		Select:	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes
15	The individual appears healthy. Describe any observations regarding health since the last review.	Since no video conferencing, N/A	[Control]
16	The individual appears safe. Describe any observed changes related to safety since the last review.	Since no video conferencing, N/A	[Control]

Focus Area: Environment	Instructions	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes	
17	There have been no reported changes in health since the last review.	Yes, based on reports of change.	[Control]
18	The HRST aligns with current health and safety needs.	Yes, based on reports and HRST scores	[Control]
19	The ISP is available to staff on site. If there have been ISP addendums, they are available to staff on site.	Yes, this can be answered if there is knowledge it is there – Therap, etc.	[Control]
20	Staff are knowledgeable about all information contained within the individual’s ISP.	Yes	[Control]
21	Indicated healthcare plans are current and have been reviewed by a nurse within the past year.	Yes, only if available by Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, would be affirmative as well.	[Control]

Focus Area: Environment	Instructions	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes	
22	Indicated healthcare plans are available to staff on site in all applicable settings.	Yes, only if available by Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, would be affirmative as well	[Control]
23	All staff are knowledgeable about all of the individual's healthcare plans.	Yes, if we know the plans are present.	
24	Indicated healthcare plans are being implemented.	Yes, if Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, would be affirmative documentation as well. Otherwise, N/A.	[Control]
25	Skilled nursing hours are being provided, as ordered.	Therap or other web-based Yes, if Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, would be affirmative documentation as well. Otherwise, N/A.	[Control]

Focus Area: Environment	Instructions	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes	
26	All medical/therapeutic appointments have been scheduled and attended.	Yes, if Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, would be affirmative documentation as well. Otherwise, N/A.	[Control]
27	All follow-up appointments have been scheduled and attended.	Yes, if Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, would be affirmative documentation as well. Otherwise, N/A.	[Control]
28	All physician/clinician recommendations are being followed.	Yes, if Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, would be affirmative documentation as well. Otherwise, N/A.	[Control]
29	All prescribed medications are being administered, as ordered, and documented accurately.	Yes, if Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, would be affirmative documentation as well. Family and participant can also confirm Med administration. Otherwise, N/A.	[Control]

Focus Area: Environment	Instructions	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes	
30	All required assessments/evaluations have been completed.	Yes, if Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, would be affirmative documentation as well. Otherwise, N/A, or Determined by SC	[Control]
31	The individual has had no hospital admissions, emergency room, or urgent care visits since the last review.	Yes, (by verbal confirmation with the waiver participant or guardian, if applicable, or confirmation in Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, would be confirm as well. Provider staff reports of hospital admissions, emergency room, or urgent care visits is affirmative documentation.	[Control]
32	If applicable, hospital/ED/urgent care discharge plan instructions have been followed.	Yes, (by verbal confirmation with the waiver participant or guardian, if applicable, or confirmation in Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, would be confirmation as well. Provider staff reports of hospital admissions, emergency room, or urgent care visits is affirmative documentation.	[Control]

Focus Area: Environment	Instructions	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes
Focus Area: Supports and Services	Select:	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes
33	The individual's paid staff appear to treat them with respect and dignity.	N/A, unable to assess due to the need for visual confirmation
[Control]		
34	The individual's natural supports appear to treat them with respect and dignity.	N/A, unable to assess due to the need for visual confirmation
[Control]		
35	Supports and services are being delivered to the individual, as identified in the current ISP.	Yes, for some – some services or supports will be unable to assess due to the need for visual confirmation, Use of Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, would be affirmative confirmation as well.
[Control]		
36	The individual is being supported to make progress in achieving their goals (both ISP goals and informally expressed goals). Indicate the status of the individual's progress toward achieving established goals.	Yes, for most – some goals will be unable to assess due to the need for visual confirmation, Use of Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, could be affirmative documentation as well
[Control]		

Focus Area: Environment	Instructions	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes
37 There are no needs for additional services/supports at this time.	<p>Yes, in general if there is access to the waiver participant, family, guardian, staff, and access to Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, could be affirmative confirmation as well.</p> <p>There well could be times when there is not clarity to respond without a face to face evaluation.</p>	[Control]
Focus Area: Behavioral & Emotional	Select:	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes
38 Since the last visit, there are no emerging or continuing behavioral/emotional responses for the individual.	<p>Yes, in general if there is access to the family, guardian, staff, and to Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, could be affirmative confirmation as well.</p> <p>There could be times when there is not clarity to respond without a face to face evaluation.</p>	[Control]
39 Current supports and behavioral interventions are adequate to prevent	Yes, in general if there is access to the family, guardian, staff, or access to Therap or other web-based	[Control]

Focus Area: Environment	Instructions	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes
	<p>engaging external interventions.</p> <p>applications/documentation, could be affirmative confirmation as well.</p> <p>There could be times when there is not clarity to respond without a face to face evaluation.</p>	
40	<p>The individual has no active Behavioral Support Plan, Crisis Plan, and/or Safety Plan relating to behavioral interventions.</p> <p>Yes</p>	[Control]
41	<p>If applicable, the plan(s) is/are available on site for staff review.</p> <p>Yes, in general if there is access to the family, guardian, or access to Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, could be affirmative</p>	[Control]
42	<p>There is evidence of implementation of the Behavioral Support Plan, Crisis Plan, and/or Safety Plan. Staff are knowledgeable about the plan(s) and able to describe</p> <p>Yes, in general if there is access to the family, guardian, or access to Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, could be affirmative</p>	[Control]

Focus Area: Environment	Instructions	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes
<p>how they are implementing the plan.</p>		
<p>43 Since the last visit, there have been no needs to access GCAL or the Mobile Crisis Response Team in response to a behavioral emergency If GCAL/MCT has been accessed, describe reason, frequency, duration of any admissions, and if discharge recommendations have been followed. If applicable, the BSP/ Safety Plan/ Crisis Plan has been adapted to reflect any new recommendations or interventions needed.</p>	<p>Yes, (by verbal confirmation with the waiver participant, staff, family, or guardian, if applicable, or confirmation in Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, would be affirmative documentation.</p> <p>Frequency could be addresses by staff, family, or guardian.</p> <p>And Yes, if applicable, the BSP/ Safety Plan/ Crisis Plan has been adapted to reflect any new recommendations or interventions needed also.</p> <p>There could be times when there is not clarity to a comprehensive response without a face to face evaluation.</p>	<p>[Control]</p>

Focus Area: Environment	Instructions	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes
<p>44 Since the last visit, the individual has had no contact with law enforcement. If they have, describe reason and length of involvement. If applicable, the BSP/ Safety Plan/ Crisis Plan has been adapted to reflect any new recommendations or interventions needed.</p>	<p>Yes, by verbal confirmation with the waiver participant, staff, family, or guardian, if applicable, or confirmation in Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, would be affirmative documentation.</p> <p>Also, staff, family, or guardian, if applicable can note if the BSP/ Safety Plan/ Crisis Plan has been adapted to reflect any new recommendations or interventions needed.</p> <p>There could be times when there is not clarity to respond without a face to face evaluation.</p>	<p>[Control]</p>
Focus Area: Home/ Community Opportunities	Select:	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes
<p>45 The individual has unpaid community connections. If not, describe steps being taken to further develop community connections.</p>	<p>Yes,</p>	<p>[Control]</p>

Focus Area: Environment	Instructions	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes
46 The individual is receiving services in a setting where he/she has the opportunity to interact with people who do not have disabilities (other than paid staff).	Yes There could be times when there is not clarity to respond without a face to face evaluation.	[Control]
47 The individual is being offered/provided documented opportunities to participate in activities of choice with non-paid community members.	Yes, There could be times when there is not clarity to respond without a face to face evaluation.	[Control]
48 The individual has the opportunity to participate in activities he/she enjoys in their home and community. Describe steps being taken to increase opportunities to meet this objective and allow choices to be offered while in services.	Yes, There could be times when there is not clarity to respond without a face to face evaluation.	[Control]
49 If desired, the individual is actively supported to seek and/or maintain	Yes,	[Control]

Focus Area: Environment		Instructions	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes
	employment in competitive and integrated settings and/or offered customized opportunities. If applicable, note how he/she is supported to do so. If no, indicate how the issue is being addressed.	There could be times when there is not clarity to respond without a face to face evaluation.	
50	The individual has the necessary access to transportation for employment and community activities of his/her choice.	Yes, There could be times when there is not clarity to respond without a face to face evaluation.	[Control]
Focus Area: Financial		Select:	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes
51	There are no barriers in place that limit the individual's access to spend his/her money, as desired.	Yes, (by verbal confirmation with the waiver participant, staff, family, or guardian, if applicable, or confirmation in Therap or other web-based applications/documentation, would be affirmative documentation. Otherwise, N/A.	[Control]

Focus Area: Environment	Instructions	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes
Focus Area: Satisfaction	Select:	Comments/Actions Needed: Concerns, Barriers, Successes
52	Overall, the individual is satisfied with their life activities since the last review.	Yes, SC may need a face to face to confirm
53	Overall, the individual is satisfied with their service providers since the last review.	Yes, SC may need a face to face to confirm
54	Overall, the individual is satisfied with the type of services received since the last review.	Yes, SC may need a face to face to confirm
55	Overall, the individual is satisfied with their family relationships/natural supports since the last review.	Yes, SC may need a face to face to confirm.
		[Control]
		[Control]

Appendix K: Operational Guidelines for the NOW and COMP Waiver Programs

Reference IQOMR chart above: Yes – Can be answered. N/A – Not available without visual Confirmation. Due to the critical nature of the work related to COVID-19, if questions within the IQOMR are not tied to health and safety directly or, are not easily responded to by the individual, can be noted as ‘Non applicable due to COVID-19’

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Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Statewide Provider Meeting

November 12, 2020 9:00 am - 12:30 pm



The DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities will be hosting an IDD Statewide Provider meeting. Due to the public health emergency, this meeting will be held remotely via our WebEx platform.

[Click here to register for the event.](#) Additionally, the meeting agenda is available by clicking the link below.

[IDD STATEWIDE PROVIDER MEETING AGENDA](#)

Training Announcements

DBHDD IN-PERSON TRAININGS POSTPONED

In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Georgia, and Governor Kemp's Public Health State of Emergency guidance to cancel or postpone all non-essential travel, DBHDD is postponing in-person trainings. The health, safety and well-being of the individuals we serve, practitioners, and staff are DBHDD's top priority, and this decision has been made with those in mind. DBHDD is closely monitoring related developments and will provide additional information and updates related to these events in the coming weeks. Thank you for your interest and event registration, and most importantly, your dedication and commitment to those we serve.

It's important to note that DBHDD is offering virtual trainings, below are some that are currently being offered. For more information regarding virtual trainings, [click here.](#)

- [The Power of People Workshops](#)
- [Person Centered Thinking Training Webinar](#)

- Participant Direction New Enrollment Training
- Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST): One Day Training for Provider Raters & RNs
- Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST): One Day Training for Intensive/Support Coordinators, State Service Coordinators & Intensive SC Clinical Supervisors
- Helping the Helping Professional Webinar Series
- Cultural & Linguistic Competence Training Series: Diversity Works Series

If you have any questions, please contact DBHDD.Learning@dbhdd.ga.gov.

DBHDD Announcements



In response to the growing need for citizens of Georgia to access behavioral health support and resources during the current health crisis, the Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) in partnership with Behavioral Health Link (BHL) implemented the GA COVID19 emotional support line. The Georgia COVID19 Emotional Support Line provides free and confidential assistance to callers needing emotional support, community resources, or referrals to service providers in their communities. The Emotional Support Line is staffed by mental health professionals and others who have received training in crisis counseling. This crisis is causing people to experience a myriad of emotions and the GA COVID19 Emotional Support Line offers Georgians another option for receiving support in managing their reactions and experiences to the COVID19 crisis. Thus far, callers have been able to receive assistance in helping them manage feelings of loneliness and isolation, as well as stress and anxiety. Callers have also been able to receive helpful resource information and connection to other needed services.

The COVID19 Emotional Support Line operates between the hours of 8am - 11pm and can be accessed by dialing 866-399-8938.

Behavioral Health

The "It Takes A Village" Campaign



The State Opioid Response Team (SOR), located in DBHDD's Office of Behavioral Health Prevention and Federal Grants, recently collaborated with Rescue Agency—a media company specializing in behavior change—to launch the "It Takes A Village" campaign and update its website, opioidresponse.info.

"It Takes A Village" focuses on a collective approach to opioid misuse prevention, featuring a Community Provider Toolkit with fact sheets, videos/images, and other resources that can readily be used. SOR's updated website includes an interactive map, complete with the locations of substance misuse, suicide prevention, and mental health resources. The site also contains locations to nearby drug disposal drop boxes. The website also houses the Resiliency and Wellness Toolkit, designed for students, parents, and educators during COVID-19.

Visit opioidresponse.info to learn more!

Submitted by:

**Brian K. Le, Senior Coordinator - State Opioid Response
Office of Behavioral Health Prevention and Federal Grants**

Office of Provider Relations

PIMS CORNER

Welcome to the PIMS Corner! This section highlights the two most popular questions, and their answers, that were submitted to PIMS for the month of September 2020.



Look for this section each month as we will continue to feature one question each from Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Behavioral Health Providers.

Behavioral Health Question:

How can our agency change our banking/direct deposit information?

To change the agency's banking/direct deposit information for Medicaid, complete the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Agreement for the Department of Community Health (DCH) on the [Georgia Medicaid Management Information System \(GAMMIS\) website](#). Once on the site, hover over the "Provider Enrollment" tab, select "EFT Agreement" from the drop down menu and input the updated information. For instructions on how to update the EFT Agreement, [click here](#).

To change the agency's banking/direct deposit information for State Funded Fee for Service payments for the Georgia Collaborative through PaySpan at <https://payspan.com/contact/>.

To change the agency's banking/direct deposit information for DBHDD Accounts Payable payments, complete sections 1 through 5 of the [Supplier \(Vendor\) Management Form](#). Return the completed and signed form, along with a W9 to DBHDD Provider Enrollment at mhddad-serviceapps@dbhdd.ga.gov. [Click here](#) for instructions on completing the Supplier (Vendor) Management Form.

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Question:

Does DBHDD recognize nursing staff who have multistate licenses issued through the nursing compact (eNLC) from a home state other than Georgia?

The Georgia Board of Nursing provides information related to the Nurse License Compact which allows for multi-state nursing licenses. Information about this can be found by [clicking here](#). DBHDD accepts valid nursing licenses including multi-state licenses as described in the previous link.

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PROVIDER ISSUES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...
highlights from previous bulletins

HHS Phase 3 Provider Funds Distribution

DEADLINE NOVEMBER 6, 2020

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), **announced** \$20 billion in new funding for providers on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic.

Under this Phase 3 General Distribution allocation, providers that have already received Provider Relief Fund payments will be invited to apply for additional funding that considers financial losses and changes in operating expenses caused by the coronavirus. Previously ineligible providers, such as those who began practicing in 2020 will also be invited to apply, and an expanded group of behavioral health providers confronting the emergence of increased mental health and substance use issues exacerbated by the pandemic will also be eligible for relief payments.

Click [here](#) to link to the HHS website for additional information and instructions to apply.

National Public Health Emergency Extended

On October 2, 2020, the Secretary of HHS, Alex Azar, renewed the national public health emergency on Friday with an effective date of Oct 23 for a period of 90 days. The declaration can be seen [here](#).

DPH Update: Georgia Personal Protective Equipment

In March, DPH launched a ReadyOp link to request Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the supply shortage. The PPE supply chain has recovered to a point where the big six (gowns, gloves, face shields, coveralls, surgical masks, and hand-sanitizer) are available in stores and through distributors. Given the change in availability of PPE, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security (GEMA/HS) and the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) have reassessed the PPE support mission of the State's COVID-19 response plan.

Please note, at 11:59 PM on October 15, 2020, DPH will deactivate the Ready Op PPE link and process all requests for emergency resupply of PPE through county EMAs using the State's WebEOC resource request process. Additional information can be found [here](#).

DBHDD encourages providers to assess PPE needs routinely and place orders with your suppliers in advance. If an emergency does occur, providers may contact the county Emergency Management Director and he/she will help them with WebEOC.

During the month of October, DBHDD held the **2x2 Series: Daily Self-Care Tips and Support for Health Care and Emergency Response Workers**. This series was presented as Webex events and were designed to provide daily self-care tips and support for health care and emergency response workers. Each session provided attendees with mental health tips about managing stress, grief, work/life balance, and wellness.

If you could not attend the live sessions, each one was recorded and is available for review on the DBHDD website: <https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/2x2-series>.



Senior Provider Relations Manager

Carole Crowley

Provider Relations Manager

Sharon Pyles

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please contact us at
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DBHDD Policy Information

Since November 1, 2020 DBHDD updated or developed the following policies:

CSU: Child and Adolescent Autism Spectrum Disorder, 01-353

COVID-19 2020: DBHDD Community Developmental Disability Services Policy Modifications - 11/25/2020

All current policies can be found on [PolicyStat](#).

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

Training Announcements

DBHDD IN-PERSON TRAININGS POSTPONED

In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Georgia, and Governor Kemp's Public Health State of Emergency guidance to cancel or postpone all non-essential travel, DBHDD is postponing in-person trainings. The health, safety and well-being of the individuals we serve, practitioners, and staff are DBHDD's top priority, and this decision has been made with those in mind. DBHDD is closely monitoring related developments and will provide additional information and updates related to these events in the coming weeks. Thank you for your interest and event registration, and most importantly, your dedication and commitment to those we serve.

It's important to note that DBHDD is offering virtual trainings, below are some that are currently being offered. For more information regarding virtual trainings, [click here](#).

- **Person Centered Thinking Training Webinar Series**
- **Participant Direction New Enrollment Training**
- **Cultural & Linguistic Competence Training Series: Diversity Works Series**
- **Self-Advocacy & the Power of Connection Virtual Retreat**
- **The Georgia Person Centered Thinking Learning Labs**

If you have any questions, please contact DBHDD.Learning@dbhdd.ga.gov.

HELPING THE HELPING PROFESSIONAL Webinar Series



In Spring 2020, the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities was awarded funding by SAMHSA to address mental and substance use disorders during COVID-19.

Helping the Helping Professional Webinar Series provides webinar support to frontline statewide **behavioral health**, **medical**, **public health**, and **education** professionals to assist with decreasing indirect trauma during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The series is all about supporting the helping professional during these unprecedented times when professionals are at an increased probability of experiencing indirect trauma.

[Click here](#) for more information.

DBHDD Announcements



Georgia's COVID-19 Emotional Support Line is Here to Help

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) is operating the Georgia COVID-19 Emotional Support Line to assist people who have been emotionally, physically, or financially impacted by COVID-19. The Emotional Support Line is free, confidential and anonymous. Trained mental health professionals are available to provide a “listening ear” to Georgians who need emotional support and referrals to resources in their communities.

This service is made possible through funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as a component of the DBHDD's Georgia Recovery Project for COVID-19. The Georgia Recovery Project began on May 1, 2020 and, in addition to the Emotional Support Line, the program funds outreach through teams based in DBHDD's six regions.

The Emotional Support Line is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and can be reached at (866) 399-8938.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

The best place to find the most up-to-date information on COVID-19 is at the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and/or the [Georgia Department of Public Health \(DPH\)](#) websites. On these sites, you will find helpful information for your teams and partners including guidance targeted for clinicians, public safety, and prevention measures, among others. These sites are the primary mechanism to share up-to-date information and we encourage you to check them routinely. Lastly, DPH recently released updated memorandums that are important to highlight below.



[Healthcare Personnel Return to Work Guidance After COVID-19 Illness or Exposure](#)

[Isolation Guidance: What to do if you are sick with the novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Quarantine Guidance: What to do if you were exposed to someone with COVID-19](#)

Developmental Disabilities

Appendix K Operational Guidelines

The [Appendix K Operational Guidelines for the NOW and COMP Waiver Programs Response to COVID-19 Pandemic](#) have been revised effective November 25, 2020 and can be found in the DBHDD policy [COVID-19 2020: DBHDD Community Developmental Disability Services Policy Modifications - 11/25/2020](#). Specifically, see Section C.11 for updates regarding Intensive Support Coordination and Support Coordination visitations. For any questions regarding the Appendix K Operational Guidelines, please contact our Provider Relations team via the [Provider Issue Management System \(PIMS\)](#).



Please note the Appendix K remains in effect and DBHDD will continue to provide updates to our valued network.

WISE OnDemand Learning Library

In partnership with Wise, DBHDD is offering Service Providers the opportunity to join the Wise OnDemand Learning Library through November 2021. The Wise OnDemand Learning Library is available 24/7 and is filled with training to support your work to promote competitive integrated employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



The Learning Library training content

- is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week,
- currently contains over 100 trainings of varying lengths,
- includes learning paths in Discovery, Job Development, Systematic Instruction, Organizational Development, and Transition (School to Work),
- addresses COVID-19 impacts in the learning path "Coping with COVID",
- has new training added each week.

The DBHDD/Wise partnership allows access to the Wise OnDemand Learning Library from October 1, 2020 through November 30, 2021 through the Georgia Supported Employment Capacity Building Initiative.

[Click here](#) to register.

Submitted by:

Gloria Jackson-McLean
Supported Employment Coordinator
Division of Developmental Disabilities

Office of Provider Relations

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT... highlights from previous bulletins

IDD Residential Bed Board

The Division of Developmental Disabilities encourages our Community Residential Alternative (CRA) providers to utilize the IDD Residential Bed Board. This tool was developed in response to the expressed need from CRA providers, Support Coordination agencies, and Regional staff. The IDD Residential Bed Board is a very user-friendly application allowing CRA providers to maintain their current capacity status along with vacancy availability to support referral activities. This system was designed to maintain basic site-specific information about the capacity and vacancy of the provider network across the state.



The CRA providers should have access to the IDD Residential Bed Board and have a clear understanding of how to use the website. Regional staff and Support Coordination can utilize this system to identify and engage CRA providers in the referral process with more accuracy. Your assistance in updating/validating your agency residential site(s) within the IDD Residential Bed Board system is needed.

Training documentation and an FAQ for the IDD Residential Bed Board can be found under the [Provider Toolkit](#) on the DBHDD website. The training module/reference guide is listed as “**IDD Residential Beds - User Training**” within the Provider Toolkit. CRA providers should have submitted contact information for two to three staff members who will be responsible for maintaining their agencies’ information within the IDD Residential Bed Board.

If you have any questions or need assistance with accessing the IDD Residential Bed Board website, please contact the IDD Residential Bed Board directly via e-mail address: ddresidential.boardrequests@dbhdd.ga.gov. Latonya Williams is the Division of Developmental Disabilities contact for the IDD Residential Bed Board and will respond directly to any requests submitted to this mailbox. We appreciate your help and continued partnership.

During the month of November, DBHDD held the **2x2 Series: Daily Self-Care Tips and Support for Health Care and Emergency Response Workers**. This series was presented as Webex events and were designed to provide daily self-care tips and support for health care and emergency response workers. Each session provided attendees with mental health tips about managing stress, grief, work/life balance, and wellness.

If you could not attend the live sessions, each one was recorded and is available for review on the DBHDD website: <https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/2x2-series>.



Senior Provider Relations Manager

Carole Crowley

Provider Relations Manager

Sharon Pyles

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BE INFORMEDNETWORK
BULLETIN

To All Direct Service Professionals:

While our provider community is always at the top of the list for things we at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities are most grateful and humbled to be a part of, this holiday season, we find ourselves particularly in awe of you, our Direct Service Professionals, and the contributions you've made to our communities while facing the extreme challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some say people have a calling to be a DSP because they are so committed and giving. Every day, DSPs are faced with new challenges, new circumstances, and an evolving health care environment as we have witnessed over the last year. Despite these obstacles, DSPs wake-up and tackle each and every day with a can-do spirit. To you, the DSP, your commitment to serve and provide quality care is appreciated. Even COVID-19 challenges do not stop you from completing your mission. You show up, put on your personal protective equipment, and selflessly continue to provide quality care to the people we serve.

DBHDD has witnessed the dedication of our employees, providers, and volunteers throughout the state of Georgia. The commitment of DSPs to the overall health, safety, and well-being of each individual and their families honors the trust we have placed in you to provide high-quality care. We are proud of the work DSPs are doing to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We want to pause and be thankful there are signs of hope on the horizon, but we know there is still a long and winding road ahead. We have all been through a lot this year, but we stand ready to take on the new year alongside our outstanding DSP network.

Be safe and be well and we hope that you will be able to have time to celebrate the holidays with your family and friends.

Sincerely,

Ronald Wakefield
Developmental Disabilities Division Director

Judy Fitzgerald

Commissioner
Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

[Download the full letter](#)

Office of Provider Relations

Senior Provider Relations Manager

Carole Crowley

Provider Relations Manager

Sharon Pyles

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BE CONNECTEDNETWORK
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Important Reminder from Our Partners at DPH

COVID-19 VACCINE

As the initial COVID-19 vaccine supply is limited, the Department of Public Health (DPH) is following the recommendations of the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) and prioritizing healthcare personnel and residents of long-term care facilities for vaccination.



A synopsis of the DPH COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Plan can be found by [clicking here](#). This webpage identifies the individuals targeted for Phase 1 of the vaccine distribution. The detailed DPH COVID vaccine plan for Georgia is available on this webpage as well. Additionally, an FAQ about the vaccine can be found on the DPH website [here](#).

Providers can register for the vaccine through your local health department by [clicking here](#). Once on this webpage, locate the Public Health District for the appropriate county where the facility is located and complete the *COVID-19 Vaccination Request Form for Providers*.

For questions about the vaccine, please contact DPH at:
DPH-COVID19Vaccine@dph.ga.gov. You may also contact your local DPH District

Emergency Coordinator. Their contact information, along with the counties they cover, are **available here**. You can also view a DPH District Map by **clicking here**.

Lastly, as more information becomes available it will be posted on the DPH website. DBHDD encourages all providers to visit this site often to stay up-to-date on information pertaining to the vaccine.

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- **Person Centered Thinking Training Webinar Series**
- **Cultural & Linguistic Competence Training Series: Diversity Works Series**
- **Helping the Helping Professional Webinar Series**
- **HRST: Intensive/Support Coordinators, State Service Coordinators, and Intensive SC Clinical Supervisors**
- **HRST: Provider Raters and RNs**
- **Participant Direction New Enrollment Webinar Series**
- **Provider HRST Nursing Assessment Training**
- **Provider HRST Healthcare Plan Training**

If you have any questions, please contact DBHDD.Learning@dbhdd.ga.gov.

Winter Weather Preparedness: Be Ready Ahead of the Predictions

While we focus our attention on "co-existing with COVID," we also need to remember that winter weather



is a likely occurrence. Even if you aren't in North Georgia, winter weather can impact supply chains leaving you without PPE and other necessary supplies.

The [Georgia Emergency Management Agency](#) has helpful information on winter weather on their website and [this page](#) includes a video in American Sign Language for people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

The webpage breaks winter weather into four categories and the first one is preparedness with links containing information on how to set up a household communication plan and Ready-Kit for at least three days of self-sufficiency. It also has information on how to prepare your vehicle and disaster preparation for pets.

During winter weather, GEMA recommends a [NOAA Weather Radio](#) to stay informed about winter weather watches and warnings. The page also contains tips on safely preparing your home and information on frostbite and hyperthermia. There are also sections on driving in winter weather and winter weather terminology.

The best time to prepare is now. Be ready ahead of the predictions.

Submitted by:
Jeannette David
Disaster Mental Health Coordinator



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Developmental Disabilities

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We appreciate your help and continued partnership!

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Submitted by:
Gloria Jackson-McLean
Supported Employment Coordinator

Behavioral Health

Tier 1 & Tier 2 E&M CPT Code Changes

Effective January 1, 2021



reminder

Please see the following important information regarding national Evaluation and Management (E&M) CPT code changes that go into effect January 1, 2021.

The American Medical Association (AMA) has proposed changes to E&M CPT codes, which the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) has globally adopted. The DBHDD and DCH have quickly absorbed and considered these changes in conjunction with Georgia's current Medicaid State Plan (which defines current reimbursement methodology). The changes adopted by CMS will be implemented for Georgia under Community Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (CBHRS) COS 440 as defined in the linked documents.

As always, DBHDD State Funded FFS E&M code, rate, and policy changes will mirror state Medicaid CBHRS changes. The content released herein serves as our official guidance.

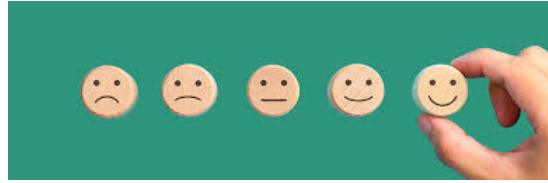
Information system partners (ASO and GAMMIS) are activated and considering the IT changes necessary to implement these changes. Implementation of the new practice must occur on January 1, 2021, however, please see the memorandum which notes that Information Systems may not be ready for the change on that date.

1. [Memorandum: Changes to Psychiatric Evaluation & Management \(E&M\) Procedure Codes](#)
2. Draft revision to the [Psychiatric Treatment service guideline in the Provider Manual for Community Behavioral Health Providers](#) regarding the E&M CPT code changes.

Submitted by:
Monica Johnson, Director
Division of Behavioral Health

AND

Wendy Tiegreen, Director
Office of Medicaid Coordination & Health System Innovation



Georgia Apex Program: Service Delivery During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Georgia Apex Program is a partnership between community-based mental health providers and local school districts, with support from the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, that has been increasing access to mental health services for Georgia students since its inception in 2015. The Apex Program currently exists in 27% of the state's 2,300 public schools, 65% of the state's 118 school districts, and 111 of the 159 counties in Georgia. During the 2019–2020 academic year, mental health clinicians provided 76,621 services in schools and served 15,607 unique students.

As a result of Gov. Brian Kemp's shelter-at-home restrictions due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, mental health providers transitioned traditional services offered in schools to be delivered virtually via telemedicine.

[Click here](#) to review a synthesis of information shared during telephone interviews documenting the experience of eight individuals representing six Georgia Apex Program community-based mental health organizations.

Moving forward, providers will continue engaging with schools and districts to be a resource and thought partner as they operationalize state and federal guidelines regarding safe COVID-19 practices and protocols to support in-person service delivery. Evolving COVID-19 lessons learned and guidance will inform how Apex providers continue adapting to support their communities.

During the month of December, DBHDD held the **2x2 Series: Daily Self-Care Tips and Support for Health Care and Emergency Response Workers**. This series was presented as Webex events and were designed to provide daily self-care tips and support for health care and emergency response workers. Each session provided attendees with mental health tips about managing stress, grief, work/life balance, and wellness.

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