



**Provider Update:  
Georgia Collaborative Administrative Services Organization (ASO)  
May 22, 2015**

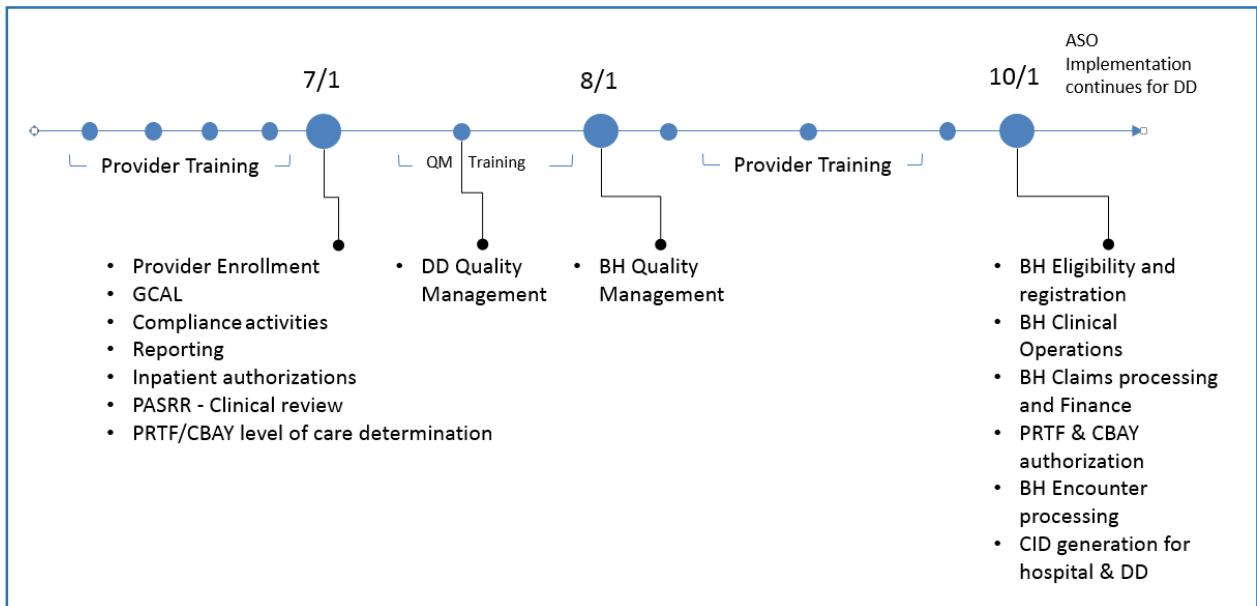
A joint update for DBHDD Providers from:	Melissa Sperbeck, Deputy Chief of Staff, DBHDD Jason Bearden, CEO, Georgia Collaborative ASO
--	---

**Executive Summary and Overview:**

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) in collaboration with Beacon Health Options (Beacon), the vendor for the Georgia Collaborative ASO (the Collaborative), has embarked on an ambitious partnership to further realize our vision of easy access to high-quality care that leads to a life of recovery and independence for the people we serve. DBHDD and Beacon are thankful to the providers, individuals and families we serve, and advocacy groups for their thoughtful feedback as we continue on this journey.

As a result of these discussions and our own review of the path ahead of us, we have made some modifications to our implementation strategy. Our go-live date for certain behavioral health (BH) and intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) services remains July 1, 2015. However, certain activities will be phased beyond this date as part of our ongoing implementation.

**High Level Timeline of key events**



DBHDD is pleased to announce the continued progress and partnership with Beacon toward full implementation of the Collaborative. The Collaborative will consolidate the functions of several DBHDD contracts into a single, integrated system which supports both behavioral health and intellectual and developmental disability services. This new and innovative approach will aid DBHDD and our provider network as we strive to provide easy access to high-quality care for the people we serve.

Over the past months, DBHDD and Beacon have engaged providers, individuals and families we serve and advocacy groups to gain varied perspectives on a successful system and implementation. We appreciate the thoughtful feedback and insight as we progress toward these shared goals. The implementation of the Collaborative has been a detailed and intensive process within DBHDD and we understand that the adoption of new processes and technology will require a phased approach with providers.

This document provides details related to coming activities and communications associated with the Georgia Collaborative. These activities will support a phased go-live beginning July 2015. In order to support the provider network in implementing these changes within their internal structures, the Collaborative will coordinate implementation in partnership with the current external review organization, APS Healthcare. As outlined below, APS Healthcare will continue to maintain their current systems that support automated authorization and encounter processes for behavioral health services to allow additional time for providers to make necessary IT changes and test their systems.

As we continue on this journey, we would like to ask you, as our valued providers, for your continued engagement, participation, responsiveness, and most importantly, your continued candid feedback. This has gone a long way towards allowing us to make important modifications to enhance our implementation.

#### Communications and Training:

The Collaborative, in conjunction with DBHDD will conduct targeted trainings during June and July 2015 for all providers. A training calendar will be posted to the [DBHDD ASO Webpage](#). Providers will receive invitations for trainings appropriate to the services they offer.

In addition, the new Georgia Collaborative ASO website hosted by Beacon will soon offer information and documents including the Provider Handbook, ProviderConnect demo, trainings, and additional resources.

#### Provider Enrollment

The Collaborative will assume many of the provider enrollment and expansion activities currently conducted by DBHDD. (Please note, this does not include the contracting process which will be maintained by DBHDD.) Letters of Intent (LOI) and applications for behavioral health services and intellectual and developmental disability services that are currently under review at DBHDD will be completed by DBHDD. Providers who meet the qualifications of the LOI's that are being reviewed will be invited to submit applications to the Collaborative, who will complete the enrollment process.

Enrollment for both new and existing providers of intellectual and developmental disability services will be assumed by the Collaborative beginning with a provider forum to be hosted in mid-July. DBHDD will not accept any requests from IDD providers to expand services after June 1st. Those requests must be submitted to the Collaborative following the enrollment forum in mid-July.

### Quality Management Initiatives

New quality management initiatives, including quality reviews for providers of behavioral health and intellectual and developmental disability services, will go live with the Collaborative beginning in July 2015. The review of intellectual and developmental disabilities services has been modified, and the implementation of the revised review process will begin in mid-July. Reviews for behavioral health providers will begin in early August.

### Community Behavioral Health Authorization Processes

The adjustment in the authorization system from the APS MICP system to the Beacon CONNECTS system represents the most labor-intensive adjustment for behavioral health providers. Through provider feedback, we understand that additional time is necessary to allow for the internal testing and training that needs to be conducted. Therefore, the implementation of the authorization process will be phased in over the course of the first quarter of fiscal year 2016 (July – September). The phased-in process is a result of a partnership between Beacon and APS with authorization processes occurring as outlined in the chart below. During this time, most services will continue to be authorized through APS while providers test, train, and work internally to adopt the new system on October 1, 2015.

The implementation of [ICD-10](#), the Adult Needs and Strength Assessment (ANSA), and the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS) will take effect on October 1, 2015 alongside the new authorization process supported by the Collaborative.

Additional training and materials will be provided regarding the processes summarized below:

<b>Community Behavioral Health Services</b>	All community behavioral health service authorizations will continue to be submitted to and processed by APS through September 30, 2015. APS will continue to receive authorization requests via the Care Connection system and batch processes. For certain services, such as ACT where supporting documentation is required, APS will continue to review and vet the documentation for authorization.
---	---

<p><b>PRTF and CBAY</b></p>	<p>APS and the Collaborative will work jointly to make PRTF level of care determinations and authorizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referrals to PRTF/CBAY level of care will be submitted to and vetted by the Collaborative</li> <li>• Initial and concurrent authorization requests from PRTFs will be submitted via APS' Care Connection until Oct. 1, 2015</li> <li>• CBAY authorization requests (submitted by CMEs) will be submitted to DBHDD using current processes</li> </ul>
<p><b>PASRR</b></p>	<p>The Collaborative will conduct PASRR determinations. APS and the Collaborative will work together to create the necessary Prior Authorization for PASRR. Any necessary supporting documentation will be submitted to the Collaborative via secure fax or email. Providers of Specialized Services will continue to request those PASRR services through the APS Care Connection system.</p>
<p><b>Contracted Inpatient Hospitalization (as applicable)</b></p>	<p>The Collaborative will assume responsibility for this authorization process on July 1, 2015. Referrals and initial authorization will be provided by the Georgia Crisis and Access Line (a part of the Collaborative) and clinicians at the Collaborative will work with hospitals to review and vet concurrent authorizations for inpatient services.</p>

**Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Information System**

The design and development of the case management information system for intellectual and disability services is underway. The go-live date for this system is being evaluated. Columbus will continue to support DBHDD through the Columbus Information System during this transition.

Thank you for your partnership and valued feedback.  
 If you have questions about this communication, please submit via email:  
[GACollaborative@beaconhealthoptions.com](mailto:GACollaborative@beaconhealthoptions.com)