



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

Frank W. Berry, Commissioner

Office of the Commissioner

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MEMORANDUM

To: DBHDD Providers of Development Disabilities Services

From: Frank W. Berry, Commissioner

CC: Judy Fitzgerald, Deputy Commissioner
Dr. Charles Li, Assistant Commissioner for Developmental Disabilities
Michael Link, DBHDD Director of Regional Operations
Judy Feimster, Director of Provider Network Management

Date: February 20, 2013

Re: Mandatory Developmental Disabilities Provider Meeting

As you may know, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) is engaged in a settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that requires us to transition all individuals with developmental disabilities from state hospital settings into community placements. This mandate is aligned with DBHDD's vision for all people to live in the most appropriate setting, promoting integration and facilitating a life of recovery and independence.

Recently, the DOJ has expressed a deep concern about the state's compliance with the quality of community placements for individuals with developmental disabilities. As a state, we must do better. In response, we committed to the DOJ that we would convene all DD providers across Georgia to inform them of our expectations regarding the delivery of quality care in integrated settings, as well as our plans to increase oversight and accountability.

As such, a mandatory meeting for all DD providers will be held on Friday, March 15, 2013. At this meeting, the DBHDD leadership team will outline expectations and inform you of upcoming plans. We can only be successful if the state works in partnership with our provider network to achieve our common goals. The details of the mandatory meeting are as follows:

Meeting Location:

State Offices South at Tift College
Roberts Chapel
300 Patrol Road
Forsyth, GA 31029

Meeting Time:

There will be two separate sessions that are identical in content. Please plan to attend one session or the other, not both.

- Session #1: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Session #2: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Participants:

Each agency should send their Executive Director and their Clinical Director or Developmental Disabilities Director. Given the volume of DD providers, we can only accommodate a maximum of two people from each agency.

Registration:

Participants are required to register through the following link <http://www.cvent.com/d/xcqfc9/1Q>.

Additional Information:

We have anticipated a few questions you might ask and we have attached a Q & A document to address some of those. Please review those, and if you still have questions, please contact David Blanchard, Director of Division DD Service Support at dcblanchard@dhr.state.ga.us.

We believe this meeting is an opportunity to renew our shared commitment to quality services and we want to ensure that our partnership is leading toward desired outcomes for the people we serve. We look forward to seeing you on March 15, 2013.