



Call for Clinical Providers

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) is expanding its statewide pool of clinical providers to work with adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who also have physical and nutritional support needs and are living in the community. There are currently 12,000 adults funded through DD Waiver programs living throughout Georgia. Clinical supports needed for some individuals include:

- **Physical Therapy** is needed to assist adults with improving or maintaining their highest individual level of strength and flexibility, and to promote safe alignment, seating, positioning, mobility and transfers. PTs also oversee ordering, fitting, and maintenance of equipment, such as wheelchairs, splints, gait trainers, and standing frames. PTs sometimes work in tandem with speech and occupational therapy to develop and implement 24-hour aspiration plans. When a person has very limited independent mobility, PTs often establish and oversee schedules for repositioning and alternate positioning.
- **Occupational Therapy** works with individuals to maintain and increase skills in activities of daily living. OTs sometimes work in tandem with speech and physical therapy on safe eating and 24-hour positioning needs. Some adults with I/DD have sensory challenges; for these people, OTs are essential in working to increase tolerance to common environments, and to promote safe orientation and mobility.
- **Speech Language Pathologists** are important in assisting individuals to increase communication with those around them, including accessing augmentative and alternative communication devices where these would be valuable. SLPs frequently work on helping individuals safely eat, including identifying the appropriate mealtime equipment, alternative food textures and consistencies, pace and volume, and ongoing training of staff to provide support.
- **Direct Nursing Services and overall health care coordination is needed to ensure that** people with complex medical needs live safely in the community and engage in work including meaningful and purposeful activities of their choice. “Nursing” will include training, oversight, supervision and



coordination with community I/DD providers and their staff as well as serving as a liaison with other health care providers including clinicians and specialists.

- **Adult Nutrition Services** are needed to provide evaluation and dietary intervention services to better ensure the health and safety of individuals living in the community. Adult Nutrition Services include nutrition evaluation, education of the individual, family and support staff, as well as periodic monitoring and dietary intervention to improve nutrition-related health conditions.

ALL clinicians are expected to work with other clinicians involved with the individual to ensure a coordinated, holistic approach. ALL clinicians are expected to provide ongoing training of staff to ensure consistency of supports and interventions.

ALL clinicians working with adults under the Waivers are expected to identify any therapy needs arising from acute health issues (as opposed to chronic needs). This will allow the team to coordinate Medicaid/Medicare home health services to address the acute need and reserve the more limited Waiver funds for services to address chronic issues.

Who can apply?

Any PT, OT, SLP, Registered Dietician or Registered Nurse with a current Georgia license is invited to apply. DBHDD accepts applicant agencies as well as individual practitioners. Prior experience working with adults or children with I/DD and/or with Medicaid payment systems is helpful, but not required. Technical assistance is available on a limited basis for those providers new to working with adults or persons with I/DD.

The next Provider Enrollment Forum is scheduled for July 12, 2017 at

The Morrow Center, Southlake Mall

1180 Southlake Circle, STE 100

Morrow, GA 30260

Registration and more information for the event can be found at the following link:

<http://www.georgiacollaborative.com/providers/prv-IDD-Services.html>

You may also contact Sharon Pyles, DBHDD Account Manager at 229-227-4310 for questions.