



## Provider communication

*General information and system updates*

February 6, 2024

### **Bridging the Gap for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and Behavioral Health Needs**

**Applicable to: Mercy Care DD Behavioral Health Providers**

We received the below communication from the Division of Developmental Disabilities that they asked us to pass along to our Provider Network.

**Please note that the below training applies only to Mercy DD Behavioral Health Providers with Relias accounts:**

#### **Division of Developmental Disabilities Training Initiatives for Behavioral Health Providers Relias Training Plan and Incentive Opportunity**

Last fall, the Division, in collaboration with its sub-contracted health plans UnitedHealthcare Community Plan and Mercy Care, launched a training initiative and incentive program. The training focuses on best practices for working with individuals who have both a developmental disability and a behavioral health diagnosis. The goal of this initiative is to enhance provider competency, offer opportunities for professional development, improve member outcomes, and bridge gaps in knowledge for the professionals who serve individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

The **Intellectual and Developmental Disability (I/DD) Course Library** was added to the Relias training catalog on 8/1/2023 and is available to all AHCCCS-registered behavioral health providers who have access to Relias. The full course library includes more than 100 I/DD-related courses that learners have access to, including many that are CEU-eligible.

Incentive funding is available to eligible behavioral health provider agencies that have a minimum of 10% of their clinical staff (BHMP, BHP, BHT, BHPP) complete a Training Plan available on Relias titled **“DDD - Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Essential Knowledge for BH Providers.”** The Training Plan includes 12 computer-based courses and one virtual instructor-led course with content focused on coordination between DDD and the behavioral health system. For details on the training plan and incentive opportunity, see:

<https://des.az.gov/services/disabilities/developmental-disabilities/vendors-providers/dual-diagnosis-training>

**DEADLINE EXTENSION:** To ensure that all interested behavioral health provider agencies are able to participate, the Division has extended the deadline for completion of training to June 30, 2024.

**PROGRESS REPORT:**

Between October 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023:

- 46 Behavioral Health Provider Agencies have enrolled one or more staff members in the training plan
- 1,239 Behavioral Health Provider Agency staff members have completed one or more of the courses in the training plan
- 6,053 total courses in the training plan have been completed.

As of January 24, 2024, 898 individuals have completed the virtual instructor-led course.

If you would like to receive a report detailing your organization's progress in completing the training plan, or if you have any questions about this initiative, contact us by email at:

[ddbtraining@azdes.gov](mailto:ddbtraining@azdes.gov).

**SAVE THE DATE**

**DDD Conference for Behavioral Health Providers  
Bridging the Gap for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities  
and Behavioral Health Needs**

**May 9 - 10, 2024 – Casino Del Sol, Tucson, AZ**

September 5 – 7, 2024 - Desert Willow Conference Center, Phoenix, AZ

**Target Audience:** Behavioral Health Provider Agency supervisors, counselors, case managers, peer and family support specialists, behavior coaches, and additional positions who may provide services for individuals enrolled with the Division of Developmental Disabilities. The Phoenix conference will also have a training track for Behavioral Health Medical Professionals, and on September 5, 2024, we will offer a track for Behavior Analysts.

There will be presentations and workshops by locally and nationally recognized experts covering best practices in serving individuals with a developmental disability and behavioral health needs.

Continuing education credits will be available to attendees.

There is no cost to attend, but registration is limited to the first 250 who enroll.

If you offer any specialized programs for individuals with developmental disabilities and would like to have a vendor table at the conference, contact our team at: [ddbtraining@azdes.gov](mailto:ddbtraining@azdes.gov).

**Watch for future announcements and registration information.**

[Sign up for our email list](#)

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