



Georgia Department of Human Services
Division of Aging Services

DAS NEWSLETTER

Aging | Disability | Support | Safety

22 complete Options Counseling certification

It is a great accomplishment to see a new class of 22 people complete their certification in Options Counseling. With the addition of this class, Georgia has 49 Certified Options Counselors and a new class of 29 people working toward certification.

Options Counseling is defined as “an interactive decision support process where consumers, family members and/or significant others are supported in their discussions to determine appropriate long-term choices based on the consumer’s needs, preferences and values.”

Please join us in congratulating these new Certified Options Counselors:

ARC: Nina Armstrong; Yoll Baldwin; Allison Davis; Michelle Glover; Angela White; Celia Williams

CSRA: Shannon Chastain; Sharonda Chavous; Marinda Jones; Christine Peek; Latoya Smalls;

Coastal: Nekita Dukes; Tori Windsor Foisy; Peggy Luukkonen; Audrey Massey; Marge Parrish; Pamela Rogers; Tamala Williams

Middle Georgia: Tanesha Thomas

Northwest: Jenny Williams

River Valley: LaCarole Lloyd

Three Rivers: Brooke Rakestraw

The Division of Aging Services is responsible for certifying staff across the state to provide options counseling through the Aging and Disability Resource Connections (ADRCs).

To become a Certified Options Counselor,

you must enroll and successfully complete six online course modules through Boston University’s Center for Aging & Disability Education & Research (CADER). Course topics include Core Issues, Aging in the Community, Caregivers, Consumer Control, Mental Health and Ethics.

Following the online coursework, participants take a written exam to show their understanding of the Options Counselor role and how to effectively work with individuals and families. Finally, the DAS Options Counseling Specialist has a conversation with the participant to determine the participant’s proficiency as an Options Counselor.

Certified Options Counselors work with individuals on plans to delay or avoid long term care placement and with those in long term care facilities who want to return to their homes and communities.

Grants to provide creative, educational activities at senior centers in Georgia

From art therapy to hydroponic gardening, drumming circles and outdoor exercise programs, Georgia’s seniors will have new opportunities to learn, create and stay active.

Last summer, the Thanks Mom & Dad Fund began a new partnership with the Department of Human Services Division of Aging Services. Through a request for proposals and application reviews, 50 senior centers across the state of Georgia were selected to be funded for innovation programming and services.

Thanks to DHS funding, this year marks Thanks Mom and Dad’s largest for



providing grants: \$125,000 to support activities and services for seniors across Georgia. Our new partnership and your donations will directly impact and improve the lives of seniors in our state.

We look forward to sharing success stories from the grantees. Thank you for making seniors a priority!

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Tips for Community Organizers

How to partner with the Aging Network

“Maximize” is a nonprofit buzzword for good reason. Every wise steward maximizes resources.

But how many of us do the same with our relationships? Take a second look at your region’s Area Agency on Aging to make sure that you’re getting the most out of this unique community ally.

AAAs are members of the nation’s Aging Network – a structure that includes the Administration for Community Living, State Units on Aging, selected tribal and native Hawaiian organizations.

AAAs subcontract with local government, nonprofits and/or for-profit groups to provide services and information to older adults and their families.

Building strong ties with the AAA in your region can help

you tighten your strategy, double your connections and grow your organization in surprising new ways.

Tighten your strategy.

Every four years, each AAA produces an Area Plan on Aging – a comprehensive report that includes regional demographic trends, needs analysis based on public hearings and research, challenges, descriptions of available aging services, and goals for the future. Ask the AAA for a copy of the document and use it as a resource for your strategic planning.

Double your connections.

Have you ever served a community member with a ride, a meal, or companionship and wondered how to pull together the missing pieces

of the puzzle? Your AAA can assess the person’s needs, recommend free or low-cost services and information that will help him or her successfully age in place, and identify ways to make services as affordable as possible. Think of the AAA and its providers as part of your group’s care team.

Grow your organization.

The AAA can help you increase your appeal to supporters and potential partners. Foundations, businesses, and government entities prefer to fund organizations that:

- use data to apply limited resources to the most pressing community needs;
- understand precisely how they fit into the area’s broader service system;

- coordinate with others accordingly.

To ramp up coordination efforts, ask the AAA about coalitions, advisory groups, and new initiatives in your area. The AAA is your bridge to many exciting community-wide partnerships that will benefit your organization and the people you serve.

Aging Network Links

To explore the aging network, visit these websites and their links:

Administration for Community Living (federal)
acl.gov

DHS Division of Aging (state) Services
aging.georgia.gov

Area Agencies on Aging in Georgia (Regional)
aging.georgia.gov/locations

Study: Georgia’s elder abuse protections rank 23rd in nation

Georgia ranks 23rd in the country for how well elder abuse laws actually protect senior citizens according to research conducted by WalletHub. Read the study [here](#).

HARMONY UPDATES: Activities screen gets enhancement

DAS has added the Fund Code/Division column to the client activity list screen so staff can be more aware if there are any inconsistencies.

Let James Moorhead or Chris Johnson know if you can think of any other columns that might be useful to see to keep from having to open each activity one at a time.

Prioritized Reports in Queue

Program	Description	Program	Description	Program	Description
HCBS	Client Missing Data Elements Report	GACARES	MIPPA Outreach Events Report	CCSP	Active PMAO Clients Report
HCBS	New and Discharged Clients Report	GACARES	MIPPA Training Report	HCBS	Active Veterans Report
HCBS	Disposition Codes Summary Report	GACARES	OSCS Report	HCBS	Consumer Notes Report (for AAAs)
HCBS	Program Performance Report	GACARES	Off-site Counseling Stations Totals Report	HCBS	EBP Analysis Report
PI	Clients By Program - Statewide	GACARES	ELAP Referral Report	HCBS	Authorization Approved by AAA by Worker
Program	Description	HCBS	Meal Impact Report	HCBS	Assessments in Pending Status
CCSP	Clients by Ordered/ Brokered Date	HCBS	Hunger Impact Report	HCBS	Active Veterans Report
CCSP	Triage and Emergency Report	HCBS	Senior Center Participation Report	HCBS	Waiting List Analysis Report
GACARES	Partnership Tracking	HCBS	Client Cost Analysis Report	PGO	Care Plan Due
				PGO	Personal Status Reports Due

REPORTS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ON HARMONY

Program	HAR Report Name	DAS	AAA	DCH
ADRC/OC	ADRC - BIP Quarterly Report	x		
ADRC/OC	ADRC - Call Details	x	x	
ADRC/OC	ADRC Monthly Report (Archive 2017-08-29)	x	x	
ADRC/OC	ADRC Monthly Report	x	x	
ADRC/OC	HCBS - Wailing List Summary	x	x	
HCBS	HCBS - Average Length of Stay for Active Discharged and All Clients	x		
HCBS	HCBS - Consumer Notes Report	x	x	
HCBS	HCBS - Group Activities Service Allocation	x	x	
HCBS	HCBS - Mailing List	x	x	
HCBS	HCBS - Unit Cost Service Allocation	x	x	
HCBS	HCBS - WL - Support Options	x	x	
HCBS	HCBS - NSI Over 6	x		
CCSP	CCSP - Active and Terminated Clients		x	x
CCSP	CCSP - MDS and Care Plan Tickler		x	x
CCSP	CCSP - SOP for MDS, 30 and 90-Day Care Plans		x	x
CCSP	CCSP - Complaint Assessment Log		x	x
ADMIN	Harmony Workers and user Roles	x	x	
MFP	VIF (Import File)	x	x	
MFP	MFP TC Consumer Associated Contacts_v170417	x		
PGO	PGO - Demographics	x		
PGO	PGO - Placement Type and Location Report	x		
PGO	PGO - Active Cases with Most Recent Note Date	x		
PGO	PGO - Flat File Report	x		
PGO	PGO - Guardianship Type	x		
FSIU	FSIU Activities	x		
NHT	CIL Providers-MFP and NHT Enrollment Program Status with Primary Worker	x		
NHT	MFP and NHT Enrollment Program Status with Primary Worker - Fundcode Parameter Added	x		
CCSP	CCSP - Active clients by Secondary Worker		x	x
ADRC/OC	ADRC Client Report	x	x	
CCSP	CCSP - LOC Verification Status Report		x	x
HCBS	HCBS Client Demographic Report	x		
HCBS	HCBS - List of Active Clients	x		
GACARES	GACARES - SMP Complex Issues Report	x		
CCSP	CCSP - Critical Incident Report			x
CCSP	CCSP Workflow Report			x
HCBS	HCBS List of Inactive Clients Report	x	x	
ADRC/OC	CCSP Rescreen List	x	x	
ADRC/OC	HCBS Rescreen List	x	x	
CCSP	CCSP - Cost of Care Report		x	x
HCBS	Client Birthday List	x	x	