

November 2025

Office of Integrated Health Supports Network

The Office of Integrated Health – Health Supports Network Regional Community Nursing Meetings

“A safe space for nurses to discuss challenges, experiences, and ask questions.”

Goals

- To ensure individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are receiving needed services.
- To provide a forum in which nurses (and others) can discuss ideas, challenges, policy needs (e.g. health policies, which affect individuals with IDD, to bring policy needs forward).
- To provide a forum for caregivers to interact with state agency representatives, to express concerns, develop educational tools and resources, and further enhance train-the-trainer models.

Region 1: November 5, 2025

10am - 12:00pm

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/t/4b119407-c2f4-46ea-9d68-7471ff256cb5@620ae5a9-4ec1-4fa0-8641-5d9f386c7309>

Community Nurse Leader:

Kevyn Burn- kburn@wallresidences.com

Region 2: November 19, 2025

10am - 12:00pm

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/t/13e3f9c4-075f-4d7d-82ce-4afd74beff5f@620ae5a9-4ec1-4fa0-8641-5d9f386c7309>

Community Nurse Leader:

Vacant

Meeting Dates

Region 3: November 21, 2025

10am - 12:00pm

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/cc445d79-0732-41d4-9704-51136173e46e@620ae5a9-4ec1-4fa0-8641-5d9f386c7309>

Community Nurse Leader:

Vacant

Region 4: November 10, 2025

11am - 1:00pm

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/f99c2b8b-3baf-41ad-bb7d-b913128df2ce@620ae5a9-4ec1-4fa0-8641-5d9f386c7309>

Community Nurse Leader:

Jeannette Gholson- jgholson.thc@gmail.com

Region 5: November 24, 2025

10am - 12:00pm

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/14975d61-2393-4f62-82e6-3f3f0ef9550f@620ae5a9-4ec1-4fa0-8641-5d9f386c7309>

Community Nurse Leader:

Crystal Parker- cparker@uecares.com

Virtual Meeting Platform:

- The Regional Nursing Meetings will be conducted in the Microsoft Office TEAMS Webinar virtual platform. Registration will continue to be required to receive the meeting URL link, and phone access to each meeting. Registering using the URL link prior to the meeting date is recommended to avoid technical issues the day of the meeting. Some regions are beginning to meet in-person and/or hold hybrid meetings.

Presentation:

- There will be a guest speaker this month. Michele Thomas, DBHDS Pharmacist, will be giving a presentation on medication side effects which effect balance and may linked to falls in the community.

Issues and Concerns Relevant to each Region:

- Open Group Discussion. Please feel free to share general issues or concerns you may be having, to obtain suggestions, resources and feedback from others. The meeting is a safe and supportive place for those providing care to individuals with IDD. Please do not share any personal health information about any individual.

Monthly CNE Opportunity: OIHSN Health & Safety Alert Review and Discussion:

- This month the CNE topic will be Falls and Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Health & Safety Alert. To receive **1 FREE CNE**, you must attend the meeting and return the quiz/evaluation by email, fax, or text. Just scan or take a picture of your completed quiz with your smart phone, and text or email it to your regional RNCC, with your name and email address clearly displayed. Your CNE certificate will be emailed back to you at the address on your quiz.

NOTE: You don't have to be a nurse to attend. Anyone can attend the Regional Nurses Meeting of their choice. You do not have to attend the Regional Nursing Meeting where you work or reside. Simply register with the link provided to attend.

The Office of Integrated Health Supports Network Registered Nurse Care Consultants
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Working with Adults with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Disorders

Substance use impacted over 48 million people in 2024 (SAMHSA, 2024). While it is unfortunate that so many people struggle with substance use, the good news is there are many ways for people to get help and support. The bad news is that many of the current pathways of support are not set up to help people with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Even when help is available, it needs to be adapted.

When it comes to people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD), the signs of substance use disorder (SUD) can be easily missed, or mistaken, or ignored. In many cases, signs of substance use, like disorganization, forgetfulness and confusion, are similar to behaviors that may be stereotyped for some people with IDD. When this happens, people do not get the help they need.

We here at DBHDS noticed this and saw a growing need for substance use education. We partnered with the Center for Implementation and Evaluation of Education Systems (CIEES) at Old Dominion University (ODU) to develop an 11-module training program designed to educate anyone who loves or supports someone with intellectual or developmental disabilities on substance use disorders.

The training is available now and can be accessed by clicking this link

[Working with Adults with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Disorders - CIEES](#)

References:

1. Phelps, B. (2025, October). Working with adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities and substance use disorders. ABA Snippet, Health Trends Newsletter, The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. 1-2.
2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). (2024). Highlights for the 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/data-we-collect/nsduh-national-survey-drug-use-and-health/national-releases/2024#highlights>

Curious about the new substance use disorder (SUD) and intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) training modules?

They're designed for caregivers, supporters, and professionals to learn how to better respond to the unique challenges at the intersection of SUD and IDD. Gain knowledge, build skills, and support better care for individuals with substance use disorders (SUD) and intellectual & developmental disabilities (IDD). Learn at your own pace, anytime.

Meet Hugo. He's 23, has IDD, lives in a group home, and struggles with alcohol use.

Through his story in the training modules, you'll see how compassion, resources, and the right support can make recovery possible.

Follow Hugo's journey inside the modules.

Myth vs. Fact: Substance Use & IDD

MYTH

People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) don't develop substance use disorders.

FACT

People with IDD can develop SUD, but it often goes unrecognized due to diagnostic overshadowing and lack of research.

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Why People with IDD Face Higher SUD Risks

Social pressure, medication misuse, and barriers to prevention increase risks.

- + Hard-to-access prevention programs
- + Complex info not adapted for IDD
- + Social vulnerability



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