



Supporting Children with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

Background:

Under the Christie administration, the Departments of Human Services (DHS) and Children and Families (DCF) established a Steering Committee to assess the provision of services to children with developmental disabilities whose needs were being met by multiple departments and divisions.

To advance this effort and to streamline care, Governor Chris Christie announced during his Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Address that the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) within DHS will transition its child services to DCF.

This realignment will result in a new, integrated system, which will provide a single point of entry for families to seek services. Underlying this change is the view that children with developmental disabilities and their families should be integrated with, not “carved out” of, the continuum that has been successfully established to serve the whole child and the whole family.

Integrated System of Care for Children with I/DD:

Beginning July 1, 2012, the Department of Children and Families have begun serving children with developmental disabilities that are in residential placements or receiving intensive in-home behavioral services. DHS and DCF are continuing to work closely together to ensure that there is continuity of care during the transition. Children and families should experience no difference in service delivery during this transition.

Effective January 1, 2013, DCF assumed responsibility for the Family Support Program. DHS and DCF are continuing to meet with stakeholder groups (Family Support Regional Planning Councils, Family Support Coalition, and others) to solicit input and feedback regarding how best to serve children and transition them back from DCF to DDD when they age into adult services.

All new children entering the system as of January 1, 2013, will go directly to PerformCare (DCF) for intake and to request services. When a child reaches the age of 16, DDD will begin providing transitional planning assistance and at the age of 18, a child can go through the intake process at DDD to be determined eligible for adult DDD services. All direct services (residential, in-home, behavioral, family support, etc.) will continue to be provided by DCF until **age 21**. At age 21, all adult individuals who are functionally eligible for DDD services and Medicaid eligible will be able to access direct services (family support, residential, day program, etc.) that will be provided by DDD.

Transition Planning and Contact Information:

Throughout the transition and beyond, staff from DHS and DCF will be working collaboratively to facilitate a seamless transition and plan for the future.

Additional information can be found at NJ Children’s System of Care website located here: <http://www.performcarenj.org/families/integrated-services.aspx>.

If you don’t have access to a computer, please contact PerformCare by phone at 1-877-652-7624.