

DDD Today

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dddnewsletter@dhs.state.nj.us

Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lt. GovernorJennifer Velez, Commissioner
Kenneth W. Ritchey, Assistant Commissioner

Today's Quote: *"Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together."*
Vincent Van Gogh, 1853 - 1890, Dutch Painter

DDD Urges Developmental Disability Community to Participate in 2010 Census

With the 2010 U.S. Census in full swing, DDD urges everyone to participate in helping the federal government get an accurate count of the country's population. Many individuals and agencies already have complied by completing and returning census forms mailed earlier this year. Others will receive a visit from census workers who will assist in completing the forms by July 1st.

DDD especially encourages the agencies to work with census workers who will contact them about individuals in their facilities. While some agencies may have concern about privacy rights of the individuals under their care, census workers are not authorized to collect any health related information. The American Hospital

Association (AHA) also has said that the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) should not create an issue.

Census workers will ask for the name, gender, age, date of birth, race and ethnicity of each individual who lived in the household on April 1st. DDD was advised by the U.S. Census that providing an individual's MIS number and date of birth would be sufficient information for census compliance.

The first federal census took place in 1790. Conducting a national census every ten years is required by the U.S. Constitution. The population count resulting from the census is used to help determine congressional representation for the United States. The federal government also uses census results to help determine how approximately \$400 billion in funding should get distributed each year for important services and programs including services for older adults, health assistance, employment and education funding.

For more information about the census, please call the Census Bureau Call Center General Telephone Lines: 1-800-923-8282 (Monday to Thursday: 8:30 - 5:30 ET Friday: 8:30 - 4:30 ET). Or, you can visit www.2010census.gov. This website includes a working with individuals with disabilities section, Toolkit for Reaching People with Disabilities, that can be easily downloaded.



DDD: Celebrating 50 years of Service

Legislative Update

The DDD tracks legislation that has a direct impact on the individuals we serve, the agencies with whom we partner or the individuals who are employed to serve and protect our consumers. Several bills that will impact DDD or our partners were passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Jon Corzine during the past legislative session that ended in December. You may find these and other laws on the New Jersey Legislature's website at <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>.

Below is a brief summary of legislation that passed in the last session (213th):

Pamphlet Law (P.L.) 2009, c.205 – Clarifies provisions of “Law Against Discrimination” concerning persons with an autism spectrum disorder. This legislation is based on one of the recommendations from the Department of Human Services’ Adults with Autism Task Force Report, which was issued in October 2009. It specifies that the terminology “developmental disability,” as referenced in the definition of “disability” under the P.L. 1945, c. 169, includes “autism spectrum disorders.” The task force completed its mandated work and its recommendations are available on the DHS website at: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/services/>; look under “Adults with Autism Task Force - Final Report (DDD).”

P.L. 2009, c.270 – Authorizes negotiations with a bargaining representative of community care residential providers. Based on Governor Jon Corzine’s Executive Order # 97, this legislation authorizes the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO (CWA) to act as the exclusive representative for community care residential providers for adults with developmental disabilities.

P.L. 2009, c.254 – Permanently disqualifies certain persons convicted of child endangerment from working with children. This legislation amends the laws requiring criminal history record background checks for all employees of a facility for the mentally ill or the developmentally disabled, and for community agency heads or their employees who provide services for persons with developmental disabilities. The Department of Human Services and particularly DDD has done background checks for years. However, this legislation allows for those checks to search for convictions for child endangerment. In years past there were opportunities for persons convicted to find another job working with children particularly in community settings. This legislation attempts to prevent that by permanently disqualifying persons convicted from working with children no matter what setting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DDD Presents County-Based Forums

DDD invites individuals who are in Real Life Choices, Self-Determination, or at the top of the Priority and Priority-Deferred categories of the Waiting List for Waiver Services (formerly known as Community Services Waiting List [CSWL] or Residential Waiting List) to attend a county-based family forum.

These forums are geared toward the family's need to plan and prepare for the well-being of their adult child/children with developmental disabilities. Forums are being held in each state county.

For information, contact Janice Delorenzo at 609-689-1794 or janice.delorenzo@dhs.state.nj.us.

Morris County Family

- Date: Thursday, May 13, 2010
- Time: 6:30 - 9:00 PM
- Location: The Morris County Library
30 East Hanover Ave., Whippany, NJ 07981



Ocean County FAST meeting

- Date: Thursday June 10, 2010
- Time: 6:30 - 9:00 PM
- Location: The Ocean County Library
Mancini Hall, 101 Washington St., Toms River, NJ 08753

How many people have recently moved to the community from developmental centers?

Year One: July 2006 – June 2007 = 86

Year Two: July 2007 - June 2008 = 121

Year Three: July 2008 - June 2009 = 112

Year Four: June 2009 – April 14, 2010 = 48

“The Family Support Center of New Jersey (www.fscnj.org)” has re-established “The Training Calendar,” an online resource for information about training opportunities, lectures, and other activities for caregivers and receiving support and care. Please visit www.thetrainingcalendar.org for more information.

On www.fscnj.org, you also will find the new Spring 2010 Training Schedule and registration information for Life Line For the Journey, Pathways To Adult Life or Preparation for Life After 21.