

Today's Quote: *"All human beings are created equal in the sense that each has the capacity and a hunger for moral excellence, for courage, for friendship and for love."* Eunice Kennedy Shriver, 1921-2009, Executive Vice President, Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation, Founder and Honorary Chairperson, Special Olympics

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Champion of the Intellectually Challenged



Mrs. Shriver, who passed on August 11, 2009, was founder and honorary chairperson of Special Olympics and executive vice president of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation. According to her website, the Foundation was established to "seek the prevention of intellectual disabilities by identifying its causes, and to improve the means by which society deals with citizens who have intellectual abilities." The website further notes that: "Eunice Kennedy Shriver was a leader in the worldwide struggle to improve and enhance the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities for more than three decades." For additional information, go to: <http://www.eunicekennedyshriver.org/bios/eks>

Mrs. Shriver, who was a sister of U.S. President John F. Kennedy (1917-1963), U.S. Senator and Attorney General Robert Kennedy (1925-1968) and U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy (1932-2009), was born to a family that has had a long commitment to public service. She dedicated her life to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities, so that they may have opportunities to live richer and more fulfilling lives.

Mrs. Shriver's path in life was profoundly affected by having an older sister with profound developmental disabilities. She used her passion, intelligence and influence to foster change in the way society interacts with individuals with intellectual disabilities. She accomplished many things over the course of her life, but some of her most notable achievements include the creation of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation (now known as the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities), the development of the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), and the creation of Special Olympics, which today involves more than three million athletes throughout the world.

The developmental disabilities community greatly mourns her loss. She will be long remembered as a champion for persons with intellectual disabilities.

This month, Mrs. Shriver's brother, Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy, the patriarch of the first family of Democratic politics, also died Tuesday August 25, 2009 at his home in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts. He was 77. Sen. Kennedy, recognized as the "Lion of the Senate," died after a lengthy battle with brain cancer. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, a few feet from the graves of his brothers.

For more information on Mrs. Eunice Kenney Shriver, please visit <http://www.eunicekennedyshriver.org/>.

Important information about the H1N1 flu pandemic

As most people are aware from television reports, newspaper articles and the Internet, the World Health Organization has declared an H1N1 (swine) flu pandemic; and the United States is preparing for a widespread outbreak this fall. Here is some important information you should know about H1N1:

- The Department of Health and Senior Services (www.state.nj.us/health) is New Jersey's primary source of authoritative information about H1N1.
- Information from the federal Centers for Disease Control and other federal agencies is posted on www.flu.gov.
- The DHS Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) is concerned about the individuals it serves and their families. In July, DDD issued an Alert in conjunction with The Arc of New Jersey (www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/alerts) that contains important information for people who are caring for, or who care about, someone with a developmental disability. It is especially important for people to understand that individuals with developmental disabilities can have underlying medical issues that are associated with complications from the flu.
- DDD continues to monitor information about H1N1. Assistant Commissioner Kenneth W. Ritchey is working with the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services (NASDDDS) on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities to make sure their concerns are raised to the CDC and other agencies that make decisions about how to respond to the flu pandemic.
- The federal government is working to develop a flu vaccine that will be available in mid-October.
- It is important to take steps to prevent catching the flu:
 - Cover your mouth when you cough,
 - Wash your hands frequently and keep surfaces around you that are touched frequently clean,
 - If you have a fever, stay at home for at least 24 hours after the fever has ended, and
 - Get vaccinated when the vaccine becomes available.



DDD Creates New Housing in FY 2009

One of the most challenging jobs at the DHS Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) falls to the unit that helps to create community housing for individuals with developmental disabilities.

So DDD counted it as very good news that the Housing Unit recently reported the creation of 52 new residences, with capacity for 174 individuals, within the fiscal year (FY2009) that ended on June 30. The new residences include a mixture of group homes, supported housing and rentals.

The new housing represents thousands of hours of staff time spent planning for the housing and working with developers, local officials, provider agencies and other state agencies, as well as the individuals who eventually will move into the housing.

It can take as long as 15 months to develop one accessible new home. This includes the time spent making sure the individuals who live in a particular home are compatible individuals, who each have the services they need in order to live in the community.

DDD currently is committed to providing services and residential placements, as appropriate, for:

- Individuals transitioning from the state's seven developmental centers through the state's Olmstead plan, "Path to Progress";
- Individuals who are being reached on the Community Services Waiting List;
- Individuals returning to New Jersey from out-of-state residential facilities;
- Individuals who develop an emergency need for care, such as after the loss of a family caregiver, and
- Children with very challenging behaviors being served through the C-PEP program.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DDD Presents County-Based Forums

DDD is inviting 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 (WLWS) – formerly known as the 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 of the state's 21 counties. For information, contact Janice Delorenzo at 609-689-1794 or janice.delorenzo@dhs.state.nj.us.

Sussex County:

- Forum -- 9/30 from 6:30 to 9:00 PM
 - Location: , Project Self-Sufficiency, 127 Mill St., Newton, NJ 07860

Union:

- Planning Meeting -- 9/8 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM
 - Location: TBD;
- Forum -- 10/7 from 6:30 to 9:00 PM
 - Location: TBD.

Upcoming Counties for the Fall: Monmouth, Burlington and Passaic.

New Jersey Association of Community Providers - presents its 26th Annual Conference, **"The Vision Becomes Reality"** on November 19 and 20, 2009, at the Atlantic City Convention Center in Atlantic City, NJ

Conference attendees will have the opportunity explore "best practices and new approaches" at a time when New Jersey moves toward a consumer-driven system for supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and brain injuries.

The conference will include:

- Pre-Conference Symposium featuring Stephen Haines' presentation on the Roller Coaster of Change;
- Monica Oss of Open Minds speaking on Business Model Innovation in the Disability Support Field;
- Two full days of varied and enriching workshops; and
- The keynote address by Danny Murphy, actor and founder of Blue Zone Productions, a theatre company for performers with disabilities, on **Seeing and Thinking Beyond Disabilities**.

To register through a new online registration process, go to: www.njacp.org.

Workshop: Navigating the New System -- What Families Need to Know about the Major Changes in the System that Serves Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

New Jersey's system of service provision for individuals with developmental disabilities is changing. In order to navigate this new system, individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will need to develop new skills and understand new terminology.

This workshop, presented by The Arc of New Jersey and the New Jersey DHS Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), will provide families with valuable information regarding significant changes in the system including:

- What it means to be on the Community Care Waiver, how individuals will be affected by the move to a Waiting List for Waiver Services, and
- The shift to self-directed services with individualized budgets.

Join other families at this workshop and learn about the system that serves individuals with developmental disabilities as these changes occur. This workshop is being presented in every county of New Jersey throughout the year.

The workshop schedule is below:

Thursday, August 27, 2009

Gloucester County Woodbury ATS
814 North Broad Street
Woodbury, NJ 08096 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Light refreshments
RSVP to (856) 848-8648
Hosted by The Arc of Gloucester County

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Sussex County
Project Self –Sufficiency
127 Mill Street
Newton, NJ 07860
6:30 PM – 9:00 PM
Light refreshments
RSVP to Pam Michaluk, (973) 383-7442 x244 or pmichaluk@scarc.org
Hosted by SCARC Inc.

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Essex County
Location/Time – TBA

(Workshops Continued on next page:)

The Fall 2009 Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series is a community and continuing education activity of The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Pediatrics. There is no registration fee, but advanced registration is required. Sessions are held from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM. For more details and to register, visit our website at http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter/dd_lecture/DD_lecture.html

Friday, October 2, 2009

Mental Health Needs in People with Developmental Disabilities

Anne Hurley, Ph.D.

Hilton-Woodbridge

Friday, October 16, 2009

Employment and the New World

Karen Flippo, M.A.

Hilton-Woodbridge

Friday, October 30, 2009

Sharing Lives that Matter

Jeffrey Strully, M.A.

Doubletree Guest Suites, Mt. Laurel

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Lives of Distinction: Keys to Co-creating Community Membership and Contribution in the Lives of People with Disabilities

Beth Mount, Ph.D.

Doubletree Guest Suites, Mt. Laurel



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

Year One: July 2007 - June 2008 = 121

Year Two: July 2008 - June 2009 = 112

Year Three: June 2009 – August 19, 2009 = 22