

Olmstead Implementation and Planning Advisory Council News Update

The Olmstead Implementation and Planning Advisory Council Steering Committee met three times in 2007 and have set dates for all of the 2008 quarterly meetings. Most of the workgroups convened at least one meeting, during the months of December 2007 - January 2008, to discuss their workgroup charges and finalize their action plans. You can access all agendas and minutes of the 2007 Steering Committee Meetings, the Opportunity Statements and Workgroup Charges for each workgroup at <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/pac.htm>.

DDD is still seeking additional nominations for **self-advocates** and **family members** to participate on workgroups and subcommittees. Please contact Cassandra Ross (via e-mail at kassandra.ross@dhs.state.nj.us or by telephone at 609-987-0936) with the complete contact information, including an e-mail address of the individual(s) you are nominating.

NOTE: If you were nominated for or volunteered to participate on a workgroup and have **not** been contacted regarding meeting dates and times, please contact Cassandra.

NJ National Core Indicator Project

In July of 2007, the division joined the National Core Indicators Project (NCI), a partnership of states seeking to identify and measure key indicators of quality in their service delivery systems. NCI is sponsored by the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and managed by the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI).

The Divisions' Office of Quality Management and Planning (OQM&P) is charged with managing the NCI project and plans to conduct 500 interviews during the project's first year. This project was initiated in October 2006 with face-to-face consumer interviews, and, to date, we have completed 200. A portion of the individuals to be interviewed will be transitioning from developmental centers.

In the spring of 2008, NCI mail-surveys will be sent to a sample of families with children at home, families of adults living at home, and families with individuals living in a residential placement, to gather information regarding the experiences/satisfaction with the division's services.

Also, in the spring of 2008, OQM&P will conduct a Web-based survey to gather information from our provider organizations.

In June 2008, information collected by the DDD will be submitted to NCI. Interested stakeholders may access Annual NCI Reports on their website at: <http://www.hsri.org/nci/>

Crisis Intervention and Stabilization Services for Adults Now Available Statewide

Statewide Clinical Consultation and Training (SCCAT) now offers clinical consultation, face-to-face assessment, and on-site crisis intervention and stabilization services throughout the entire state of New Jersey. SCCAT serves developmentally disabled adults with behavioral and mental health needs.

The hope in expanding services is that people will learn and realize that they can call SCCAT before the need for behavioral assistance reaches a crisis point. SCCAT services are available to families, mental health and developmental disability service providers, along with DDD staff. SCCAT has four offices in New Jersey and a toll-free 24/7 hotline for referrals. SCCAT is dedicated to providing timely response to all crisis

calls; a triage system is in place to expedite the most urgent calls to SCCAT clinicians.

In the coming months, SCCAT will be holding two Open Houses at two different locations. Please take this opportunity to meet the SCCAT team and to learn about their services:

February 14, 2008

1:00 - 4:00 PM

DDD's SRO at Echelon Plaza

221 Laurel Road

Suite 210, Conference Room 2

Voorhees, NJ 08043

March 20, 2008

1:00 - 4:00 PM

SCCAT

1800 Rt. 34 North

Suite 404-B, Bldg. 4

Wall Twp., NJ 07719

For more information, please call 1-888-393-3007 (x 201) to RSVP, or visit the SCCAT website at www.sccatnj.org.

What's in a Name? The Midland School's Transition Class knows the Secret!

In November, the winner of the "Name That Newsletter" contest was unveiled. Students from the Midland School, located in North Branch, New Jersey were the winners, branding the DDD newsletter "DDD Today," which is now the official name of this publication.

The Midland School, as described on the website, "is a non-profit comprehensive special education school serving the individual social, emotional, academic and career needs of children with developmental disabilities." The school of 245 students sits on 54 acres in Somerset County and serves as a sending district for close to 100 local school districts. The Transition Class, led by Mrs. Roberta Serrano, consists of 25 special needs students who spend their days preparing for the workforce or in several cases working on their own jobs. The Midland School has two areas, Adult services and group homes, which are funded by the DDD.

Assistant Commissioner Ken Ritchey took a trip to meet with the students and thanked them for participating in the contest and naming the newsletter. Upon arriving at the school, Assistant Commissioner Ritchey was greeted by Mrs. Serrano and Tim Cole (a former student and current participant in the Adult Services program run by the school). Tim shared stories of his experiences at Midland School; and he led the tour of the school and the Adult Services building that is shared by students and clients (graduates honing their employment skills).

After the tour, Assistant Commissioner Ritchey met with several students from the Transition Class and



spoke about their career goals. David Terpstra enthusiastically described his love for dogs and hopes to work with animals one day. Nicole Leonardi sees herself working in Walgreens, but it was evident she was not limiting her choices as she displayed her telephone etiquette while managing the phone line in

the teacher's room. At one point, Nicole answered the phone and alerted an incoming caller from the main school that "her class would not be down for gym or at leastnot today! We have visitors," she exclaimed.

All the class participants, including Joe Kranz, James Ferugheli, Lou Garbarino, and James Henry, sat with Tim, David and Nicole while enjoying the conversation, ranging from discussions of favorite jobs to preferred dog breeds to dreams of starting a football team for the school. The school's effort to teach the students, about staying involved and informed, is evident in their participation in the naming of our division's newsletter.



Mrs. Serrano, Lou Garbarino, James Henry, Miss Hoff-Teachers Aide, David Terpstra,, James Ferugheli, Tim Cole, Nicole Leonardi, Joe Kranz, Philip M. Gartlan, Executive Director, Midland Schools, Assistant Commissioner Ritchey.