

Today's Quote: *"Whenever you see a successful person you only see the public glories, never the private sacrifices to reach them."* Greg Evans, American Writer 1978 -

The Arc of Somerset partners with Boggs Center and DDD for Pilot Project Building a Person-Centered System

Submitted by - Lauren Panarella-
Executive Director, Arc of Somerset

The Arc of Somerset County (Arc) began participating in a pilot project titled "Building a Person-Centered System" in October 2009. The pilot is a collaboration among the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and the Arc.

The Arc of Somerset County is very pleased to be the **first**

agency in the state to pilot this exciting initiative. The "Building a Person-Centered System" project will take concepts contained in "Person Centered Thinking" training (developed and offered by the Boggs Center) and apply them both to our organization and to the delivery of our services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

DDD's involvement helps to ensure that experience

gained through the pilot will be linked to the larger service delivery system and will lead to a wider implementation of person-centered practices. DDD also is helping to provide a framework for change at organizational and system levels, and to create a sense of urgency about the changes in policies, practices and structures that will be needed if the Person Centered System is implemented statewide. *continued on page 2*

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.

Morris County Family Meeting

Date: Was held on July 15, 2010.....
Subsequent meetings are scheduled for
Sept. 15, 2010; Nov. 10, 2010; Jan. 12, 2011;
March 9, 2011 and May 11, 2011.

Time: 6:30 - 8:45 PM

Location: Morris County Library, 30 East
Hanover Ave., Whippany, NJ 07981

Gloucester County Family Forum

Date: July 27, 2010

Time: 6:30 - 9:00 PM

Location: Gloucester County College,
Instructional Center, Conference Room 430,
1400 Tanyard Road, Sewell, NJ 08080.
Parking is in Lot F.

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

Building a Person-Centered System continued from page 1

The ultimate goal is to create a person-centered system both within The Arc of Somerset County; and in the larger system of care that serves individuals with developmental disabilities throughout New Jersey. This will truly enhance the quality of life for many individuals.

Through the "Building a Person-Centered System" project, we will focus on outcomes in three specific areas:

1. The individuals we serve (children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities)
2. Our employees
3. The agency as a whole

We began participating in this project by enlisting a broad cross-section of all employees from all departments to attend training and work group sessions. Parents, board members, and DDD representatives also are participating.

These participants were divided into two groups – Coaches and Leaders. Coaches are each charged with putting person-centered thinking tools into action and bringing their knowledge about the individuals we serve to the leadership team. After hearing from the Coaches, the Leaders determine what needs to be celebrated, shared and/or changed.

Some of ideas central to this effort include:

- Changes in rules (policy) and practice will be driven by an understanding of what is, and what is not, working for the individuals we serve
- The consistent use of a set of well-defined, value-based skills will drive changes throughout the service-delivery system
- Using these skills in conjunction with quality management and organizational development tools will improve quality of life for the

individuals we serve and increase organizational effectiveness and efficiency.

Moving forward, the work and the knowledge that is gained from the trainings will be made available to all of our employees. We strongly encourage and support staff participation. We believe this will be an exciting process of enhancement for both the agency and the individuals we serve.

We will continue to communicate our progress and will give everyone opportunities to provide input and to participate in the exciting possibilities offered by the use of a system that truly is person centered. **STAY TUNED!**

The DDD staff members involved with this project are Frank Kirkland, Director, Individualized Services; Kathy Jones, County Administrator for Somerset County and Connie Jeramias, Olmstead Unit.

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: July 2009 – June 30, 2010 = 62

Goal for FY10 Reached!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Autism New Jersey (ANJ) Workshops - Healthcare Resources:
Access and Funding for Autism. [Click here for details](#)

MONMOUTH COUNTY ACCESSIBLE BEACH GUIDE:

The Monmouth County Office on Disabilities is pleased to present the **2010 Accessible Beach Guide**.

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services has launched a new website for parents called **Parent Link**, the Early Childhood, Parenting and Professional Resource Center: <http://www.njparentlink.nj.gov/>. **NJ Parent Link** is the new "central station" for receiving early childhood updates, events and networking opportunities.

\$60 million in Affordable Care Act grants available

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced the availability of \$60 million in Affordable Care Act grants. These grants are intended to assist states and communities as they help individuals and their caregivers better understand and navigate their health and long-term care options.

These grants will fund approaches that take into account the unique needs of seniors, Americans with disabilities and their caregivers. Some specific areas of focus include assisting older adults and individuals with disabilities to live at home or in settings of their choosing with the right supports, and assisting people as they transition from hospitals or nursing homes back to the community. The application deadline is July 30, 2010.

For more information visit this link: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/06/20100603b.html>

"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.