

DDD Today

A Publication of the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

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dddnewsletter@dhs.state.nj.us

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner
Dawn Apgar, Deputy Commissioner

Today's Commentary: Results from the 2005 Harris Interactive Survey released by the National Organization on Disability (NOD) show that 53 percent of people with disabilities say that they have not made plans to quickly and safely evacuate their home should an emergency occur.

FEMA ENCOURAGES AMERICANS TO PARTICIPATE IN SEPTEMBER'S NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Ready Campaign, in partnership with Citizen Corps and the Ad Council, recently announced the launch of new web tools that will make it easier for individuals and organizations throughout the nation to join the 2011 National Preparedness Month (NPM) coalition and pledge their support to help prepare their families, businesses and communities for emergencies of all kinds.

The eighth annual NPM kicked off this September, using the slogan: "A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare." The campaign seeks to transform awareness into action by encouraging all Americans to take the necessary steps to ensure that their homes, workplaces and communities are prepared for disasters and emergencies of all kinds.

"As we move forward with planning for this year's events and activities, we also recognize that this September marks the ten year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks," said FEMA Administra-

tor Craig Fugate. "By doing what we can to ensure that our communities, and our nation, are prepared to respond and recover from all types of disasters and hazards, we honor the memory of those who were lost that day."

Individuals and groups can now register to become NPM coalition members by visiting community.fema.gov. Once registered, members have access to a toolkit that includes suggestions for activities and events, templates, articles, banners, and customizable materials. Coalition members also have access to an events calendar allowing them to post and promote preparedness events, share success stories, and participate in national and regional discussion forums to engage with fellow coalition members and FEMA representatives.

By hosting events, promoting volunteer programs, and sharing emergency preparedness information, coalition members can help ensure that their communities are prepared for emergencies. Becoming a coalition member is easy and

free, so register now to get started. Nearly 2,000 coalition members have already joined this year's campaign.

***"A Time to Remember.
A Time to Prepare"-
This year's theme encourages
Americans to take simple steps
to prepare for emergencies.***

While National Preparedness Month is held each September, FEMA's Ready Campaign promotes individual emergency preparedness at home, in the workplace, and throughout America's communities throughout the year. Ready is a national campaign, produced in partnership with The Ad Council, designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

(Continued on Page 4)

New Jersey Office of Emergency Management website www.state.nj.us/njoem
NJ OHSP hotline: 866-4-SAFE-NJ (866) 472-3365.

State of NJ Recognizes Direct Support Professionals Week

Governor Christie has proclaimed the week of September 11-17 as [Direct Support Professionals Week](#) in an effort to honor the more than 30,000 individuals who dedicate themselves to caring for our residents with disabilities. On behalf of everyone here at the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities, we also want to thank each of you for all you do!

To read about the NJ Partnership for Direct Support Professional Workforce Development, visit:
<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/programs/cds.html>

Community Living Education Project

The Community Living Education Project provides information and support to families of people with developmental disabilities who are moving or exploring the possibility of moving to community living from a Developmental Center. The Project is part of the Health Systems and Policy Department of the UMDNJ School of Public Health. Support for the Project is provided by the NJ Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities.

The Community Living Education Project helps families to:

- Envision possibilities for a family member in community living;
- Learn about and participate in the transition process; and
- Provide support to a family member throughout the transition to community living.

Who can benefit from the project?

The Community Living Education Project assists families of people who want to explore a future possibility of living in the community.

The Project is designed for families who:

- *Want to explore the possibility of their family member moving to community living;
- *Want to see the possibilities of community life today;
- *Are beginning the process of moving a family member from Developmental Center to community living;
- *Have concerns and questions about community living; and/or
- *Wish to know more about the range of options for community living in NJ.

CONTACT INFORMATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

UMDNJ-School of Public Health, Community Living Education Project
 335 George Street, 2nd Floor, Suite 2200, Liberty Plaza
 New Brunswick, NJ 08903
 Phone: 800-500-0448 or 732-235-3277
 E-mail Address: CLEP@umdnj.edu
 Website: www.umdnj.edu/linkweb



MERCER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOSTS ART WORKS BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

ART RECEPTION HIGHLIGHTS PROGRAM FOR ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Arc Mercer recently partnered with the Matheny Arts Access Program to train in a cutting edge method of facilitating art to individuals with disabilities. The Arts Access Program is grounded in the belief that self-expression through art can and will allow each artist to demonstrate that they are more than just a person with a disability. It provides individuals with the opportunity to access, experience, and create art, including visual arts, crafts, music, movement, and drama.

The purpose includes providing venues for emerging artists with disabilities to improve their skills, complete their works, and share their accomplishments with the general public through art exhibits/recitals. Thus far, artists from Arc Mercer have completed a series of works entitled "Revelations." Until recently, the artwork was displayed by Ewing Mayor Bert Steinmann within the Administration wing of the Municipal Building. It can now be viewed at the Mercer County Chamber of Commerce building until October and some of the art was on display at the Septemberfest in Veteran's Park in Hamilton on September 18.

To celebrate the first exhibit in Ewing, the Arc Mercer hosted an afternoon reception on August 3. The reception allowed attendees to view the completed works, meet the artists and program staff, and learn more about the Arc Mercer Art Program. In essence, the event was not only an opportunity to view the works, but to encourage volunteerism within the program, as well as share with attendees how they can contribute to the program.



**For more information, contact Kelly Jiras of the Arc Mercer at:
(609) 406-0181, ext. 146 or kjiras@arcmercercer.org**

DEVELOPMENTAL CENTERS OFFER ASSISTANCE AND SHELTER DURING HURRICANE

During Hurricane Irene and the subsequent flooding, three New Jersey Developmental Centers provided space to serve as Red Cross emergency shelters. In total, Woodbine, Vineland and New Lisbon housed and fed about 1,200 storm evacuees.

Additionally, Woodbridge Developmental Center partnered with the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army to provide hot meals to individuals and families staying in other shelters. The Food Service Department prepared and shipped over 3,200 dinners to the three shelters in Paterson. The meals were prepared in the kitchen by Woodbridge staff, who worked tirelessly to assist under the direction of Marilyn Greaves.

DDD thanks everyone who worked so hard to be of service to New Jersey residents during the disaster.

FEMA ENCOURAGES AMERICANS TO PARTICIPATE IN SEPTEMBER'S NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

(Continued from Page 1)

The Ready Campaign's websites (ready.gov and listo.gov) and toll-free numbers (1-800-BE-READY and 1-888-SE-LISTO) provide free emergency preparedness information and resources available in English and Spanish. Additionally, through FEMA's partnership with the Ad Council, public service announcements are available to increase the American public's involvement in preparedness.

Follow FEMA online at:

- blog.fema.gov
- www.twitter.com/fema
- www.facebook.com/fema
- www.youtube.com/fema

Also, follow Administrator Craig Fugate's activities at www.twitter.com/craigatfema. These social media links provided are for reference only. FEMA does not endorse any non-government websites, companies, or applications. FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Download the National Organization on Disability's guide called Prepare Yourself: Disaster Readiness Tips for People with Developmental or Cognitive Disabilities at:

<http://www.disastersrus.org/MyDisasters/disability/epips3cognitive.pdf>

Did You Know?

It is important to make sure everyone is prepared, including people who may need assistance during an emergency. Thanks to you, in recent years we've seen great strides being taken across the US to bring more equal and fair treatment to people with access and functional needs, and we ask you to take one more step by joining us this year as a National Preparedness Month Coalition Member by signing up at:

<http://community.fema.gov>

Download the National Organization on Disability's guide called Prepare Yourself: Disaster Readiness Tips for People with Developmental or Cognitive Disabilities at:

<http://www.disastersrus.org/MyDisasters/disability/epips3cognitive.pdf>

STORY IDEAS?

E-MAIL US AT: DDDnewsletter@dhs.state.nj.us

We will happily consider your request!

STATEWIDE SUMMIT ON THE STATUS OF NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



New Jersey Commission on Recreation
for Individuals with Disabilities

Cordially Invites You to Attend

PLAY ON: IMPACT OF RECREATION – AUTISM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 2011

Registration: 8:00 am-9:00 am Workshop: 9:00 am-3:45 pm

At

Special Olympics NJ Headquarters
3 Princess Drive, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DR. LINDA MEYER, Ed.D., MPA, BCBA-D, CPT
Executive Director, Autism New Jersey

PROMOTING INCLUSION IN COMMUNITY FITNESS & RECREATION PROGRAMS

This one-day workshop will also cover:

- **Autism – Myths & Facts** by Adrienne Robertiello*, Autism Educator and Rosann Pagano Pizzi*, Psy.D. Psychology Supervisor
- **Parents Perspective** by Dr. Eileen Harmon Council, Ed.D. and Megan Fennelly*
- **Social Skills** by Lauren Whitmore*, LSW, Autism Program
*Children's Specialized Hospital

Registration fees: \$25.00, after October 21st, \$40.00, if space is still available.

PRESENTED BY THE:

New Jersey Commission on Recreation for Individuals with Disabilities
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Office of Recreation
Special Olympics New Jersey, Host Agency
New Jersey Recreation and Park Association, Therapeutic Recreation Section

Check the following website for updates information www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dhcr/rec/.
Link to directions: <http://www.sonj.org/Basic/Directions.php?LocationId=-2>

AUTISM AND FAITH GUIDE RE-PRINTED IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH

The guidebook *Autism and Faith: A Journey into Community* has been reprinted by the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities with funding from the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities. The guidebook is now available in both English and Spanish.

The guide has been very popular with families and congregations. It is a resource that has led to a number of inclusive religious education and congregational opportunities, including being able to participate in religious rites of transition, such as Confirmation, First Communion, and others. It was originally developed and published with funding from The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation (see www.djfiddlefoundation.org).



The order form is available on The Boggs Center's website:

http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/products/Product_FaithBased.html

Both the English and Spanish version can be downloaded for free.

WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS



ACCESSING ADULT SERVICES - As families prepare for the transition from school to adult services, securing and preserving eligibility for key funding streams is vital. Our presenter, from the law firm of Hinkle, Fingles and Prior, will explain the complex funding issues, available programs and eligibility criteria for services for adults with autism. Parents also will learn about the financial and legal implications of planning for adult services, particularly protecting the assets and income resources that will help ensure their son or daughter has the opportunity to lead a full life in the community. Clinic date is as follows:

SEPTEMBER 27 FROM 6:30-8:30 PM
 Burlington County Special Services School District
 20 Pioneer Boulevard
 Westampton, NJ 08060



[Click here to register for Accessing Adult Services](#)



Visit our website for a complete and updated listing of Autism New Jersey's offerings for parents and professionals. Advanced registration is required.

NEW JERSEY DISABILITY PRIDE PARADE & CELEBRATION

The inaugural **NEW JERSEY DISABILITY PRIDE PARADE & CELEBRATION** will be held on Thursday, October 6, in downtown Trenton, NJ. Hundreds of people and organizations representing a wide variety of disabilities are expected to march and roll from the State House on West State Street to the post-parade celebration at Mill Hill Park on East Lafayette Street.

The purpose of the New Jersey Disability Pride Parade & Celebration is to bring people, organizations, and businesses together to celebrate pride with the disability community and to promote the belief that disability is a natural and beautiful part of human diversity while generating national awareness for the disability community.

The **NEW JERSEY DISABILITY PRIDE PARADE & CELEBRATION** is a grass-roots effort organized and hosted by the Alliance Center for Independence (Alliance) with the support of the statewide disability community. Founded in 1986, the Alliance is a 501(c)(3) organization designated as a Center for Independent Living in New Jersey. The Alliance's goal is to promote choice, self-direction, and independent living in the lives of people with disabilities.

Individuals and groups must register to participate in the New Jersey Disability Pride Parade & Celebration. Volunteer, sponsorship, and donor opportunities are also available. For details and the most up-to-date information, please visit:

www.njdisabilityprideparade.com

If you have any questions, please contact Carole Tonks, director of the Alliance, at (732) 738-4388 or ctonks@adacil.org.



DOCUMENTARY ON AMERICANS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

While there are close to 50 million Americans living with disabilities, *Lives Worth Living* is the first television history of their decades-long struggle for equal rights. The documentary premieres on the PBS series *Independent Lens* on Thursday, October 27 at 10 pm (check local listings).



To learn more about the film and the issues involved, visit:
www.pbs.org/independentlens/

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Ocean County Caregiver Coalition's

CAREGIVING AWARENESS NIGHT

NOVEMBER 1, 2011

from 4pm - 7pm

*to be held at the
Toms River Elks Lodge #1875
600 Washington St.
Toms River, NJ 08753*

The event will include the official launch of the Ocean County Caregiver Coalition, information tables, door prizes, refreshments and a speaker panel comprised of an elderly care attorney and representatives from the Alzheimer's Association and the disability community.

Join us as we welcome the celebrated Rosemarie Poverman as our Keynote Speaker for the evening. Rosemarie Poverman, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, prefers the title, "Clinical Edutainer." Most importantly she leaves caregivers with a renewed sense of the ability to be creative and stay energized while learning and laughing.



If you are a professional or family caregiver caring for an elderly parent, loved one with a chronic illness or a parent of a child with a disability...

JOIN US!



To RSVP, contact Michelle Smith at (732) 262-8020

or via email at msmith@njcaregivers.org

THE ELIZABETH M. BOGGS CENTER ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2011

Aging and End of Life

- * Grief and Loss: Supporting Adults with Developmental Disabilities at End of Life

Community Building and Connection

- * In Community: Supporting People with Developmental Disabilities in Establishing Meaningful Community Connections

Direct Support Workforce Development – College of Direct Support

- * Making the College of Direct Support Work for Your Agency
- * CDS Administrator Training

Employment Specialist

- * Employment Specialist: Introductory Level
- * Employment Specialist: Advanced Level
- * Employment Specialist Supplemental Training: Returning to Work After Brain Injury

Faith Based Supports

- * **NEW!** Building Connections and Community Supports with Your Congregation or Faith Community: A Workshop for Individuals, Families, and Community Members

Individual Habilitation Plan

- * IHP Plan Coordinator Training

Management

- * Survival Skills for Managers in Community Supports
- * Leadership Skills for Managers in Community Supports
- * Personal Skills for Managers in Community Supports

Person Centered Thinking

- * Person Centered Thinking

Positive Behavior Support

- * Basic Positive Behavior Support
- * Applied Strategies for Implementing Positive Behavior Support
- * Mental Health Supports



View training courses, dates, locations, and register online at:
<http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/training/overview.html>

View continuing education information for training courses at:
<http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/continued/index.html>

MAKING HOMES THAT WORK: A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR FAMILIES LIVING WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER + CO-OCCURRING BEHAVIORS

A new resource for policymakers, caseworkers and families living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and co-occurring behaviors

Developed by Creative Housing Solutions LLC and Rowell Brokaw Architects PC, “Making Homes That Work” explains how conventional housing often fails families and individuals experiencing significant ASD, and how appropriate, cost-effective modifications to the home environment can support an individual with a disability in living a more independent, self-directed life.

“This resource guide makes the case for including environmental assessment and home modifications in person-centered planning,” state George Braddock and John Rowell, authors of the guide. “Traditionally, the environment has been viewed as neutral, and assistance for families in crisis has focused on human supports. This project challenges the prevailing assumptions that human supports alone are enough. It suggests that the right physical environment can help individuals and families experiencing ASD and co-occurring behaviors to live full, meaningful, and rich self-directed lives, thereby

making human supports more effective.”

“Making Homes That Work” includes a step-by-step process by which caregivers can assess the home environment and implement modifications that are person-centered, and that respect the diversity of family and individual situations. The guide identifies patterns of activity and interaction that are common to many people with significant ASD, and documents the “Six Most Common Modifications” that support individuals with ASD remaining in the family home. Strategies that address the “Specific Challenges” of co-occurring behavior and aggression are also included.

The methods and recommendations presented in the guide are drawn from the authors’ 25 years of experience working on more than 1,500 projects for families and individuals experiencing disability. A series of case studies show how families have modified their homes and seen substantial improvements in quality of life and

their ability to live together. Graphic cost comparisons illustrate how environmental modifications with in-home supports cost remarkably little in comparison with out-of-home placement.

“People experiencing significant ASD can continue to live in their own homes for as long as they wish—provided they have appropriate support and they have the right physical environment,” write the authors. This project was funded by the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) with support from Lucinda Grant-Griffin, director of the Office of Housing Initiatives & Supports. It was made possible by the pioneering efforts of families who have transformed their homes and shared their experiences.

For more information, visit: Rowell Brokaw Architects, PC at www.rowellbrokaw.com or Creative Housing Solutions at www.gbchcs.com



NJ TRANSIT LAUNCHES TAP>RIDE PROGRAM

At the end of July, NJ TRANSIT's ADA Task Force met to discuss several agenda items. During the meeting, an update was given on NJ TRANSIT's Tap>Ride program, which is being tested in the Jersey City area. Currently, the program operates on six bus routes (6, 43, 80, 81, 87, and 120) out of Greenville garage. The unique part about the Tap>Ride program is that it allows customers to pay their fare by simply tapping their contactless credit or debit card on newly installed readers located near the fare box. Customers will no longer have to search for exact fare or fumble for change.

NJ TRANSIT is currently inviting people with disabilities to participate in the pilot program so they can try out the wristband that will act as a contactless credit card. The wristband is specifically designed for people who have difficulty in handling cash or credit cards. The device can also be used in other ways to pay the fare.

If you would like to participate or know someone who would like to participate in the pilot program, NJ TRANSIT will offer that person a \$75 prepaid wristband that will act as his/her contactless credit/debit card. The wristband would need to come into close proximity to the reader near the fare box in order for it to be read. The wristband will have \$50 of NJ TRANSIT value and \$25 that can be used outside of NJ TRANSIT. For example, participants can get \$50 of free transit rides and \$25 of free groceries or something else they need.

As mentioned, if you chose to participate, you will simply board the bus, tap the oval of the wristband to the reader near the fare box and enjoy the ride. In order to participate, you must:

- Use the 6, 43, 80, 81, 87, and/or 120 bus routes
- Be willing to participate in a focus group at the conclusion of the pilot program (compensation will be provided to all focus group participants)
- Be willing to accept that the free transit rides will be deducted at the full fare (The Reduced Fare Card program is not currently part of this program but will be included if we were to move this technology system-wide.)
- Be able to communicate with us via email

The objectives of this program are to better understand:

- Expectations about a new contactless fare collection system
- Perceived benefits and/or disadvantages
- Gauge differences or similarities in attitudes among key segments of NJ TRANSIT users
- Durability and ease of use of the wristband
- Identify issues for customers with disabilities that may be different from other commuters



If you meet the criteria and are willing to participate in focus groups to assist NJ TRANSIT in evaluating the objectives, please e-mail: TAPRIDEADA@NJTRANSIT.COM

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SPAN TO HOST CONFERENCE ON UNIVERSAL LEARNING INCLUSION Mini-Conference

Success For All Students: Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

Co-sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Education Office
of Special Education (NJOSSE)

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) / Funded by IDEA Part B

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a research-based framework used to enable ALL children to gain knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm for learning. During this mini-conference, families of children with disabilities will learn about UDL and ways that this approach can help their children achieve success in the general education classroom.

In addition to an interactive presentation, a panel of educators, parents, and students from school districts in New Jersey will share stories and experiences of how they have embraced a universal design for learning to ensure that ALL students have equal opportunities to learn the general curriculum in the least restrictive environment.

Target Audience: Parents, grandparents, educators, and caretakers

Professional Development: Certificates for professional development hours will be available.

TWO LOCATIONS

9:00 am – 12:30 pm

SOUTH

Saturday, October 22, 2011

Cherry Hill Library

1100 Kings Highway North

Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

856-667-0300

CENTRAL/NORTH

Saturday, October 29, 2011

City of Perth Amboy

Alexander F. Jankowski Community Center

One Olive Street

Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

732-826-1690

To register, visit: <http://www.spannj.org/START/trainingregistration.htm>

Or call SPAN at 973-642-8100 ext. 123

E-mail: start@spannj.org Visit: <http://www.spannj.org/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS



THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND PILOTS AUTISM THEATRE INITIATIVE AT DISNEY'S LANDMARK MUSICAL, THE LION KING

First show in Broadway history to offer a performance tailored to the needs of adults and children on the autism spectrum at Broadway's Minskoff Theatre

Theatre Development Fund, a not-for-profit performing arts service organization whose mission includes making theatre accessible for all audiences, is piloting a new program called Autism Theatre Initiative. The program aims to make theatre accessible to children and adults on the autism spectrum, as well as their families.

As a part of TDF's Accessibility Programs (TAP), the program will present the first ever autism-friendly performance in Broadway history at Disney's landmark musical The Lion King on Sunday, October 2, at 1 pm. For this special performance, TDF has purchased every seat in the theatre for sale to families whose members include individuals on the autism spectrum.

Tickets for this performance are sold out and were purchased by tri-state area schools and members of organizations that serve people on the autism spectrum. However, if you are interested in being notified of future autism-friendly performances, please go to: www.tdf.org/autism

To ensure that TDF will meet the needs of this audience, TDF is working with an advisory panel of experts in the field of autism. The panel will provide TDF with expertise and counsel throughout the development and implementation of this pilot program.

"We're very excited to be able to create a program specifically for this underserved community for whom it can be extremely difficult to near impossible to attend the theatre," said Victoria Bailey, TDF's executive director. "We're grateful to Thomas Schumacher and everyone at Disney Theatrical Productions who have been extremely supportive and are committed to helping us provide an unforgettable experience for these families."

"For the first time in Broadway history a designated performance of a show will be open to the autism community," said Lisa Carling, TDF's director of Accessibility Programs (TAP). "Our goal is to be as inclusive as possible, welcoming families with children and adults on the autism spectrum, including Asperger's syndrome, to fill the theatre and be assured that everyone involved with the production from the cast, production crew, and theatre staff - is delighted to have the audience there. No judgments - just united support in making the theatre experience as enjoyable as possible for its audience."

"Autism Speaks is delighted to see TDF's support of the autism community," said Dana Marnane, Autism Speaks vice president of Awareness and Events. "Many families with a loved one on the spectrum struggle to attend the movies or theatre. Creating compassionate environments for families will help to raise awareness and acceptance everywhere."

In order to be "autism-friendly," the show is being performed in a friendly, supportive environment for an audience of families and friends with children or adults who are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder or other sensitivity issues. Slight adjustments to the production will include reduction of any jarring sounds or strobe lights focused into the audience. In the theatre lobby area, there will be designated quiet areas, staffed with autism experts, if anyone needs to leave their seats during the performance.

(Continued on the next page)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND PILOTS AUTISM THEATRE INITIATIVE AT DISNEY'S LANDMARK MUSICAL, THE LION KING - Continued

ABOUT TDF ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAMS (TAP)

TDF Accessibility Programs (TAP) was established in 1979 to provide access to the performing arts for people with physical disabilities. TAP serves theatregoers with mild to profound hearing loss with regularly scheduled open captioned and American Sign Language interpreted performances of Broadway and Off Broadway shows; theatregoers who are partially sighted or blind with special audio described performances; people who for medical reasons cannot climb stairs; and people who require aisle seating or use wheelchairs.

Through TAP, TDF offers discount orchestra tickets that are chosen with the customer's specific seating needs in mind. TAP made Broadway history when it presented the first sign interpreted performance of a Broadway show with *The Elephant Man* in 1980. TAP again made Broadway history in 1997 with the first open-captioned performance of a Broadway show, *Barrymore*, thus opening up theater to an entire population of deaf and hard of hearing individuals who are unable to utilize American Sign Language or receive only partial help from assistive listening devices. This is the third season that TAP has added audio-described performances to its services for theatregoers who are blind or have low vision.

TAP's Access for Young Audiences Program makes theatre accessible to students with mild to severe hearing loss with simultaneously open captioned and sign language interpreted performances, as well as audio described performances for students who are blind or have low vision. For more information on TAP's services, go to www.tdf.org/tap.

ABOUT THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND (TDF)

Theatre Development Fund (TDF) has played a unique role in strengthening live theater and dance in New York City for the past 43 years. This not-for-profit service organization's programs have filled over 78 million seats at discount prices (with theatre lovers who would normally not be able to attend live performance) and returned nearly two billion dollars in revenue to thousands of theatre, dance, and music productions. Best known for its TKTS Discount Booths, TDF's membership, voucher, access, and education programs as well as its Costume Collection, help to make the unique experience of theatre available to everyone. TDF's book, *Outrageous Fortune: The Life and Times of the New American Play* has spurred a national conversation about the way playwrights and theatre companies interact. TDF recently launched the Official TKTS app for iPhone and Android which has been embraced by theatre fans the world over.

For more information, visit: <http://www.spannj.org/>



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Arab American Communities and Disabilities Conference:



*Getting to Know You,
Getting to Know Us*

HOLD THE DATE!

**Saturday,
December 10, 2011**

**Doubletree Hotel
Somerset, NJ**

8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Conference goals:

1. To increase the knowledge of disability service providers and advocacy groups of the Arab American cultures in New Jersey for more effective outreach and service; and
2. To enable families, people with disabilities, and leaders in the Arab American communities to have a better understanding of the services available in New Jersey

For:

- Providers of Disability Services in New Jersey
- Leaders in the Arab American Community in New Jersey
- Families and people with disabilities in the Arab American Community in New Jersey

Sponsors:

- The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
UMDNJ–Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Pediatrics
- Disability Rights New Jersey
- NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities
- NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities

Co-sponsors:

- Rutgers Center for Middle Eastern Studies
- Statewide Parent Advocacy Network

Partner:

- NJ Division of Disability Services

In Collaboration With:

- Leaders and organizations from the Arab American communities in New Jersey

The registration brochure will be available in October 2011. Visit The Boggs Center web site: <http://rwims.umdni.edu/boggscenter> or call Elizabeth Ong at 732-235-9327 to receive a brochure in the mail.

Sponsorship, Partnership, and Exhibitor opportunities are available.

Contact: Robyn Carroll at The Boggs Center at: robyn.carroll@umdni.edu or phone: 732-235-9310

The Boggs Center Sponsors Arab American Communities and Disabilities Conference

The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, working in collaboration with its NJ ADD partners, Disability Rights New Jersey and the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, other statewide disability organizations, including the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities, the NJ Division of Disability Services, and the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, is sponsoring the third in a series of cultural awareness conferences. The first two conferences focused on Latino and South Asian communities, respectively.

This conference, Arab American Communities and Disabilities: Getting to Know You, Getting to Know Us, is being planned in collaboration with the leadership of a variety of Arab American networks and organizations in New Jersey. As the name implies, its purpose is two-fold: (1) strengthening the awareness and capacity of disability service providers, support networks, and advocacy organizations to provide supports and services with Arab American individuals, families, and organizations, and (2) strengthening the knowledge within Arab American communities of the services and supports available to them as residents of New Jersey.

“Planning the conference has been a wonderful process,” notes Bill Gaventa, Committee Coordinator. “The response from Arab American networks and organizations has been overwhelmingly positive. We have already learned a lot as sponsoring organizations.”

The conference will be held on December 10, 2011, in Somerset, New Jersey. For more information, visit the announcement on the previous page or visit The Boggs Center’s website at:

<http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/conferences/CulturalAwarenessConference.html>

DDD Today

A Publication of the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Contact us at:

Division of
Developmental Disabilities
P.O. Box 727
Trenton, NJ 08625-0726

**DDD Information and DHS
Central Registry Hotline:
1-800-832-9173**

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) was created in response to the need for better and more effective services for state residents with developmental disabilities. Advocates for those services included many parents and other family members who wanted community-based alternatives to the institutional care that had been their only option for many decades.

Today, more than 43,000 individuals are eligible to receive services funded by the division, including a growing number who are under the age of 22. Most DDD-eligible individuals live in the community, either with family or in a community residence such as a group home or supervised apartment or in a Community Care Residence with a family caregiver. Almost 2,600 individuals reside in one of the seven developmental centers now administered by DDD.

Visit us on the Web at: www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd