

DDD Today

A Publication of the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Volume VI, Issue IX September 2012
dddnewsletter@dhs.state.nj.us

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner
Dawn Apgar, Deputy Commissioner

CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES MAKING COMMUNITY LIVING FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES A PRIORITY

Submitted by:

**New Jersey Department of Human Services Commissioner Jennifer Velez
& New Jersey Department of Children and Families Commissioner Allison Blake**



In this year's Budget Address, Governor Chris Christie said, "New Jersey has the second highest rate of institutionalization in America. This is a shameful fact. We must change. It's long overdue. We must move aggressively to provide this type of care in the community."

Keeping true to his commitment, Governor Christie committed more than \$40 million in this year's budget for programs and services to support the move of individuals to community residences. Additionally, he signed legislation to create a Task Force on the Closure of State Developmental Centers and charged it with selecting one or more for closure. In late July, the Task Force issued its binding recommendation to close North Jersey Developmental Center in Totowa and Woodbridge Developmental Center within five years and move residents who are able to community-based options.

New Jersey hasn't closed a developmental center since 1998. These closures, announced by the Task Force, represent an incredible shift in philosophy and policy – from caregiving in institutions to caregiving in the community among family, friends and loved ones.

Before the late 1970s, developmental centers were the only option for individuals with developmental disabilities, who could no longer live with family members. By 1977, more than 7,600 people lived in the State's developmental centers. However, as community programs expanded, the State saw a dramatic decline in census, and in the 1990s two developmental centers closed. Today, about 2,400 New Jersey residents still live in the seven remaining developmental centers throughout the State.

Message to Stakeholders from Department of Human Services (DHS) Commissioner Jennifer Velez



Dear stakeholder:

It's hard to believe that summer is coming to a close. There certainly wasn't much downtime, but I appreciated the opportunity to meet with many of you in various meetings and events these past couple of months.

This month, the Department of Human Services is focusing on school readiness including the benefits of scheduling an annual physical with a family or pediatric physician, and requesting vision and hearing screenings - all of which is covered under [NJ FamilyCare](#) and other health insurers. Also, food insecurity, which impacts every facet of life, can lead to poor physical health, learning problems and can stress one's mental health. The [NJ SNAP](#) food assistance program can provide support to families in need. In addition, parents' awareness of [mental health](#) and addiction issues is crucial - especially for college-age students who may experience depression or exhibit behaviors that raise concerns about substance use or abuse. Finally, and probably most significant to the success of students, is the

involvement of family. [Child support](#) is a key anti-poverty measure; certainly custodial parents who receive consistent child support payments are better able to provide the basics for their children and avoid the need for State-subsidized social services.

This past August, the Department collected through employee donations nearly [100 backpacks](#) that were filled with school uniforms, school supplies and other necessities for children in the Trenton area. The generosity of staff was greatly appreciated by [HomeFront](#) and the Never Give Up Foundation, which serve families in Mercer County with the help of dedicated staff and volunteers.

In September, we'll continue to highlight community programs for seniors and individuals with disabilities by raising awareness of fall prevention strategies for seniors, and we'll participate in ribbon cutting and groundbreaking ceremonies for new group homes in South Jersey. We'll also recognize the commitment and devoted work of our State's [Direct Support Providers](#) at an event in New Brunswick and convene the first meeting of the [Interagency Council on Homelessness](#).

Last month, we emphasized community-based health care opportunities for seniors and people with disabilities. Deputy Commissioner Lowell Arye [visited](#) Meadow Lake Retirement Center in West Windsor to view an art exhibit featuring handmade works of art by seniors in Mercer County. He also [toured Parker Adult Day](#) Health Services [in Piscataway](#) to observe how seniors in need of medical support can continue to live in the community with community-based agency support. He also attended an assistive device demonstration in Brick Township where senior citizens [learned to use various tools](#) to become computer literate and did a [radio show](#) with WNJC1360 to discuss the various senior programs available through the Department.

Finally, I hope you had a chance to read my [op-ed](#) about this Administration's commitment to community living for people with developmental disabilities.

I continue, along with members of my executive staff, to meet with stakeholders regularly to remain connected to your interests and concerns.

Regards,

Jennifer Velez
Commissioner

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/documents/SeptemberStakeholderMessage.pdf>

CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES MAKING COMMUNITY LIVING FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES A PRIORITY

Continued from Page 1.

As codified by the 1999 Supreme Court Olmstead decision, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the right to live in the community and to enjoy the experiences that enrich all of our lives. Indeed, it has been argued for decades by individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and advocates that this is an issue of civil rights.

The Department of Human Services' (DHS) Division of Developmental Disabilities provides services to approximately 43,500 people, the majority of whom (more than 29,400) live at home with their families. There also are 2,223 licensed community residential programs located in single family homes, apartments, condominiums, and townhomes. And, there are nearly 700 community care residence providers - people who open their homes to individuals with developmental disabilities and provide caregiving services. These residences look like any other home in a neighborhood and are a part of communities throughout the state.

People with developmental disabilities, particularly individuals moved from developmental centers to community homes, have shared with us that community living has provided new experiences and activities. Even family members, who originally thought their loved one could not live successfully in a community home, have shared that their fears were unfounded and that their loved one has thrived, gaining beneficial opportunities that they could not have imagined.

Certainly, this sentiment is not held by all parents, but the Department and the agencies with which it contracts to provide community services are changing minds through outreach and education. The types of residential living situations available and in development are as diverse as the state itself. Whether in a rural, urban, or suburban setting, staff working with people in these residences are skilled in complex developmental, behavioral, and medical support. And, all community living arrangements have standards that regulate aspects of the operations including, licensing and staff training, which DHS closely monitors.

I would like to acknowledge the thorough work of the Task Force and the continued support of Governor Christie for community living. The Department will work closely with developmental center residents, family members, staff, provider agencies and advocates as we continue to transition individuals from the centers into community living opportunities.



DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS HONORED AT RECOGNITION CEREMONY

To honor Direct Support Professionals in New Jersey, the NJ Partnership for Direct Support Professional Workforce Development held a Recognition Ceremony on September 11, 2012. DHS Deputy Commissioner Dawn Apgar presented a proclamation from Governor Chris Christie designating September 9-15, 2012, as Direct Support Professional Recognition Week in New Jersey.

Training and workforce development for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) is provided through the College of Direct Support (CDS), an online educational program that provides more than 30 courses about disabilities. Nearly 100 service provider agencies offer CDS coursework to their staff and more than 60,000 lessons have been assigned. Coordinated by The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at the University of Medicine and Dentistry-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, the voluntary "Career Path" program utilizes the CDS in combination with onsite mentors to enhance professional skills.

At the NJ Direct Support Professional Recognition Ceremony, Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, Executive Director of The Boggs Center and Chair of The Partnership – Leadership Council, presented, "Honoring the Dedication of DSPs." Brenda Hoagland, Matheny Medical and Educational Center, was honored as NJ's First Nationally Credentialed Direct Support Professional. NJ Career Path Certificates of Completion were presented to more than a dozen Direct Support Professionals.



NJ Direct Support Professionals recognized at the September 11, 2012, DSP Recognition Week Celebration pose with Deputy Commissioner Dawn Apgar.



Deputy Commissioner Apgar poses with DSP Career Path Certificate recipient Bridget Cottel (Matheny Medical & Educational Center) and Shellyann Dacres (Training and Consultation Specialist at the Boggs Center).



DHS Deputy Commissioner Dawn Apgar, with NJ DSP Career Path Certificate Recipient Tinasha Maphosa (Matheny Medical & Educational Center).

Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair of the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities, presented "DSPs in the Lives of People and Families." Andrew, Jaime, and Zinke McGeady with DSP Brandon Burkhardt presented a family perspective. DSPs Patroba Onyango, Camillia Horn, and Jamil Barnes shared their experiences.

The NJ Partnership for DSP Workforce Development is a collaboration between the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities, The Arc of NJ, the NJ Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development, The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, NJ Association of Community Providers, NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities, Direct Support Professionals, and People with Disabilities and Families.

For more on this topic, read DHS Deputy Commissioner Dawn Apgar's article "Professional Caregivers Deserve Praise" at: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/news/press/2012/approved/20120917b.html>

ARC MERCER INTRODUCES SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT

On Wednesday, June 13, 2012, Arc Mercer and Nexus Energy Solutions hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate and unveil their new solar energy partnership. The event featured remarks on the latest solar initiatives by vested parties and dignitaries, including:

- Steve Cook, Executive Director of Arc Mercer
- Bill Harris, President of Nexus Energy Solutions
- Commissioner Joseph Fiordaliso, NJ Board of Public Utilities
- Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes
- Joseph Prusik, Manager of PSE&G Direct Install Energy Efficiency Program
- Mayor Bert Steinmann, Ewing, NJ
- Senator Peter Inverso



The Arc Mercer sought and reviewed proposals for solar energy projects that would further build on the energy savings achieved by recent renovations to their Ewing and Trenton properties. Nexus Energy Solutions was decided upon as the best partner for Arc Mercer. Their proposal was a Hybrid Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) where, unlike traditional PPAs, all energy produced from the solar panels would be provided directly to Arc Mercer at no cost. The entire system was installed at no cost to the agency, and the only cost that will be associated with the agreement will be the final purchase of the system for \$1 at the end of the contract term. As a result, Arc Mercer anticipates a utility savings of \$375,000 during the 15 year contract term!

This unique program allowed Arc Mercer to take immediate steps to decrease energy costs and build on recent initiatives to become more efficient. In 2011, Arc Mercer became involved with energy savings through the PSEG Direct Install Energy Program. The Direct Install Program offers affordable, energy-saving solutions to help non-profits lower energy costs by replacing lighting, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning equipment. Through the PSEG Direct Install Program, the Arc Mercer was able to replace air conditioning and lighting equipment at their Occupational Training Center in Trenton, NJ. With these changes alone, the Arc Mercer will experience a savings of \$25,000 per year.



As part of the launch of their new solar energy program, Steve Cook was joined by several guests of honor in flipping the ceremonial switch, celebrating the newly outfitted Arc Mercer. The organization was also presented with a ceremonial resolution on behalf of Assemblyman Reed Gusciora and Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW DDD STAKEHOLDER INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

Check out our **Important Resources** page for new **Stakeholder** information at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/resources/>

On the site, a draft of the **Self-Directed Services Policies and Procedures Manual** is available for review.

In addition, we have posted a **Fact Sheet and FAQ** for the **Supports Program**.

Please visit the web for details.



CHECK OUT ABLE NEWSPAPER FOR MORE DISABILITY-RELATED NEWS

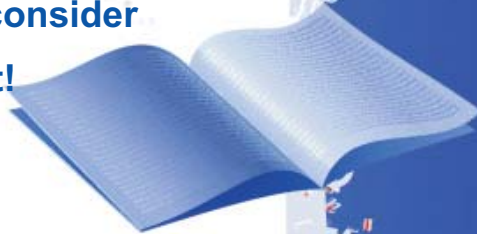
Able Newspaper is an established, widely known publication in the disability community. The New Jersey edition of Able can be read online for free. Just visit www.ablenews.com and click on the "**Click Here for Free Edition**" at the top of the page.

STORY IDEAS?

E-MAIL US AT:

DDDnewsletter@dhs.state.nj.us

We will happily consider
your request!



TEACH ACT OF 2012

H.R. 6084 TO PROVIDE TAX CREDIT FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN AUTISM



Congressman Chris Smith (pictured l to r with Autism New Jersey Executive Director Dr. Linda Meyer and Board of Trustees President James Paone), accompanied by his Public Policy Director, Jeff Sagnip, visited Autism New Jersey on Friday, July 6, 2012. Upon doing so, Congressman Smith used the occasion to announce that he would be re-introducing the “Teacher Education for Autistic Children (TEACH) Act of 2012” in the House (Washington, DC). Congressman Smith has been a longtime active advocate for individuals with autism. Autism New Jersey was honored by his choice of venue for this announcement.



Additionally, on Monday, July 9, 2012, H.R. 6084 was introduced to the House and referred to The Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 6084 is a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable tax credit for the expenses of education and training related to autism spectrum disorders in an effort to increase the number of teachers with such expertise. Autism New Jersey looks forward to the opportunity to work with Congressman Smith in support of this bill. Pictured (from l to r) is Autism New Jersey Public Policy Coordinator Deb Charette, Autism New Jersey Director of Public Policy Robert Titus, Autism New Jersey Executive Director Dr. Linda Meyer, Congressman Chris Smith, Autism New Jersey Board President Jim Paone, Autism New Jersey Self-Advocates Advisory Board Member John Richardson, Autism New Jersey Board Vice President and Public Policy Committee Chair Gino Valiant.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



FREEDOM'S WINGS INTERNATIONAL FLYING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Freedom's Wings International is a non-profit organization that provides the opportunity for persons with disabilities to fly in specially adapted sailplanes.

On Saturday, October 13, and Sunday, October 14, Freedom's Wings will offer free introductory rides to persons with disabilities. The rain dates will be the following weekend. The event will be hosted by the Adirondack Soaring Club at Saratoga County Airport in Ballston Spa, New York. Additionally, there will be a cookout Saturday afternoon for all participants and their families.

Interested participants should call the toll-free number to reserve a timeslot for a 20-minute ride. There are only a limited number of flights available, so call now if you want to experience the thrill of soaring flight. Check out the pictures and comments from last year's participants at our website.

Freedom's Wings International
1-800-382-1197

www.freedomswings.org

The Adirondack Soaring Club

www.adirondacksoaring.com



Check Out the Latest Edition of the New Jersey Workforce Development Insider

To view The New Jersey Partnership for
Direct Support Professional Workforce Development's newsletter, visit:
<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/programs/cdsdsp.html>

Funding for the development of this newsletter is provided by the
Division of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Human Services.

PROJECT FREEDOM TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION IN HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP'S INVITATION RESULTS IN 72 MORE APARTMENTS



Submitted by Norman Smith, Associate Executive Director of Project Freedom

Project Freedom Inc. will soon be building its next apartment complex in Hopewell, NJ.

“Freedom Village at Hopewell” will feature 72 apartments in six two-story buildings, plus a community building and Project Freedom’s signature Gazebo. The design is similar to Freedom Village at Woodstown in Salem County.

Several years ago, Hopewell expressed interest in having Project Freedom housing come into the township. The invitation included the donation of 20 acres of land and \$150,000 in pre-development funds.

Last month, Project Freedom was notified that it would receive Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) from NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA) as the last piece of a funding package for Hopewell. The package includes funding from the Mercer County HOME program, the Federal Home Loan Bank of NY through Roma Bank, and NJHMFA’s Special Needs Housing Trust Fund.

The 72 apartments will be a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom units, with 25% being wheelchair accessible and 75% being universally designed for anybody’s use. The universal design means that the apartments can be easily adapted for someone in a wheelchair.

Project Freedom will quickly move into the construction phase to meet requirements of LIHTC funding. VJ Scozzari & Sons will be the contractor, with Joseph F. McKernan as the architect. TD Bank will be providing the construction loan and NJHMFA providing the permanent mortgage.

The award of LIHTC Tax Credits in July culminated years of planning and development work by Project Freedom to create another “community of opportunities” the Project Freedom way.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Save the Date

November 10, 2012

4TH ANNUAL CAPE MAY COUNTY COMMUNITY DISABILITIES AWARENESS DAY

**You are invited to celebrate Cape May County's
4th Annual Community Disabilities Awareness Day!**

**This community event will be held on
Saturday, November 10, 2012, from 10 am to 1 pm
in the Avalon Community Center at
3001 AVALON Ave. in Avalon, NJ.
Admission is free.**

If you need special assistance of any kind, please bring a companion
with you to the event.

For more information, please contact: Paulann T. Pierson
C M C Dept. of Aging & Disability Services: (609) 886-2784

MAKING “CENTS” OUT OF RECYCLING

Submitted by Geri Lordi, of Allies, Inc.



A “going green” initiative established by Allies, Inc. in 2010, the Greensleeves Boutique provides gently worn clothing, vintage, and fabulous finds to the public, while providing on-site job training and education to individuals with disabilities.

Participants in the program experience the gratification of working in teams to develop innovative ideas to creatively address some of society’s biggest challenges while developing an understanding of environmental sustainability. Participants also may choose to work independently with the assistance of our on-site trained employee specialists. The outcome of these combined efforts has resulted in a charming green boutique.

Greensleeves is very excited to introduce the latest phase of our green initiatives program. In addition to our Ladies Boutique in Somerville and Thrifty Finds in Mount Holly, we have enhanced our programs with a series of learning modules featuring hands-on experiences and visual activities. These lessons help us to advance our knowledge of sustainable living and our mission to become humanitarians.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Once upon a time, the 3 Rs meant Reading, ‘Riting, and ’Rithmetic. Now they mean Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. When you view our world from an environmental perspective, it becomes clear we are using far more and sustaining our resources less. Whether it is energy, water, food, plastics, or cars, it is important we focus our efforts on wasting less and making the most of what we use. But where do we begin?

Our aluminum can crusade was our first green initiative implemented in 2008. We are able to compact used aluminum cans onsite and redeem for them for .59 -.69 cents per pound at our local recycling center. Our team’s efficiency in this project has generated income for our program. The money raised enables us to give back to our communities and our planet.

Our first opportunity to “pay it forward” was inspired by the Heifer Foundation. We chose this special program to help us get started on our first project. Through the Heifer Foundation and with our earned income through our aluminum can crusade, we will provide the gift of a flock of chicks to help a family in Tanzania. You may wonder, “What kind of gift are chicks? How can that help?” The concept is simple, but the results are huge. Our contribution will provide a struggling family with a gift of reliance and hope for the future. For example, the hen will lay eggs, the eggs can be eaten or taken to market for bartering or to be sold - giving the family a source of food and income as well as the ability to pass on the gift and become a link in the chain of good will.

Continued on the next page.

MAKING “CENTS” OUT OF RECYCLING

Continued from previous page.

Back home in New Jersey, we will incubate several fertilized eggs provided by Rosedale Farms. The eggs will be nurtured and eagerly watched. After 21 days, the eggs will hatch before our client’s eyes, introducing them to our very own flock of chicks. The chicks will need to be fed and cared for before we connect them to their “forever home” with a local family. This hands-on activity will help those we serve connect their personal experience with the flock of chicks provided to the family in Tanzania.

Our Theory

A sustainable solution is most often better than a short-term fix. To think, our contribution was made possible by a few crushed cans! This example is one small step of our larger initiative. We plan to take the experience several steps further by visiting organic farms, watersheds, and recycling centers. We will repurpose items into works of art, as well as can and preserve vegetables and fruits in our onsite kitchen, and many more engaging activities. We are eager to make a big difference in small ways by reducing our carbon footprint and learning through discovery. We invite you to visit and share in the experience.

Ways You Can Help:

Save your aluminum cans for us
Donate children, women, or men’s clothes
Shop resale before retail
Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

Upcoming Learning Modules:

New ways of thinking
What is a Humanitarian?
Heal the Planet
The Buzz on Batteries
Keep it out of the landfill
Living Green
Precious Rainwater



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DDD/ARC MERCER CONSUMERS CREATE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Marlene Brockington, an 18 year old DDD consumer who has cerebral palsy and attends the Arc Mercer's Aftercare Respite Program, has a love of writing that led her to develop a monthly newsletter called The Respite Reader. Brockington co-edits the newsletter with her friend Tammi Wieger, who also has cerebral palsy, is a DDD consumer, and attends the same respite program. Respite staff at the Arc Mercer oversee the publication.

The following article is an excerpt from The Respite Reader, which is written entirely by participants in the Respite Program. It is our hope to run an article from The Respite Reader in DDD Today each month.



HOW I GOT MY HOME HEALTH AIDES

by Tammi Wieger

I have two Home Health Aides. The way I got my two Home Health Aides was by asking my DDD Division of Developmental Disabilities caseworker for help, and I also asked my Senior Care social worker. We had meetings.

I have two Home Health Aides for five days a week. Every (placement) is different (in terms of) how many hours (the consumer can have an Aide) depending on (your) need and your health insurance plan. My Home Health Aides do a lot for me and with me, and they also help me get ready in the morning and the night.

So if you would like to find out if you are eligible for a Home Health Aide, you can talk to your case manager.

(This article was part of a monthly column on subjects related to how consumers can become more independent.)



Tammi Wieger and Marlene Brockington pose with copies of the monthly newsletter they created and co-edit, called The Respite Rader.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ELIZABETH M. BOGGS CENTER
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Department of Pediatrics

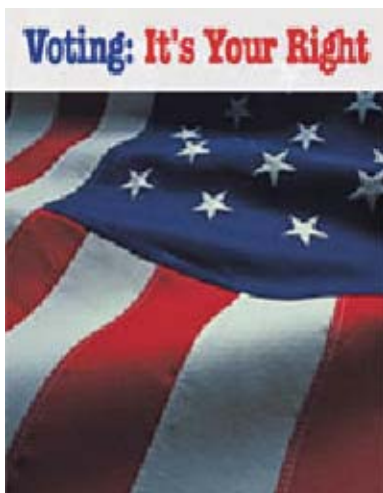


ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON
MEDICAL SCHOOL

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

NOW AVAILABLE!

VOTING: IT'S YOUR RIGHT



The Boggs Center has announced the publication of *Voting: It's Your Right*. The guide was written for individuals with intellectual disabilities but will be equally useful for anyone who's interested in the legal and practical issues related to voting. It's available in English and Spanish and includes clear information about voting rights and the voting process in New Jersey.

The guide covers such topics as:

- Who can vote in a government election?
- What are you asked to decide when you register to vote?
- What to do to prepare to vote?
- How do you vote in person?
- How do you vote by mail? and
- What should you know about voting and accessibility?

Voting: It's Your Right was developed by The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in collaboration with New Jersey's Administration on Developmental Disabilities Partners, [Disability Rights New Jersey](#), and the [NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities](#). It was funded by Disability Rights New Jersey's Protection and Advocacy for Voter Access (PAVA) from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Administration on Children and Families, US Department of Health and Senior Services.

Both the English and Spanish versions of the guide are available in hard copies and as PDFs on The Boggs Center's website at:

[View the guide in PDF](#)
[the guide in PDF format-Spanish](#)
[Order online from The Boggs Center](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ELIZABETH M. BOGGS CENTER
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Department of Pediatrics



ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON
MEDICAL SCHOOL

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

PLEASE ALSO SEE THE BOGGS CENTER WEBSITE TO ORDER THESE RE-PRINTED RESOURCES:

Everyone can be employed...Your child is not “too disabled” to pursue employment!

Developed by the NJ Alliance for Full Participation Employment First Policy Group; available in English and Spanish PDF and print copies.

[View the resource in PDF format-English](#)

[View the resource in PDF format-Spanish](#)

[Order online from The Boggs Center](#)

Autism and Faith: A Journey Into Community

Available in English and Spanish PDF and print copies.

[View the booklet in PDF format-English](#)

[View the booklet in PDF format-Spanish](#)

[Order online from The Boggs Center](#)

Being a Healthy Adult: How to Advocate for Your Health and Health Care

Available in English and Spanish PDF, audio files, and print copies.

[Order print copies from The Boggs Center](#)

[Download the PDF and mp3 audio files](#)

For more details on these and other products, please visit:

http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter/products/product_info.html

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Jersey Association of Community Providers

NJACP

29th Annual Conference

***Synergy
in
Motion***

**Pre-Conference
Symposium
Thursday
November 15, 2012**

**Conference
Friday
November 16, 2012**

Atlantic City, NJ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FREE CONFERENCE FOR NEW JERSEY FAMILIES ON COMMUNITY CARE WAIVER



A free conference for New Jersey families on the future of services will be held on Friday, October 12, from 9 am – 1 pm at Hackensack University Medical Center's Hekemian Conference Center, 30 Prospect Avenue in Hackensack.

The conference will focus on the Medicaid Community Care Waiver and its impact on residents with developmental disabilities. Deputy Commissioner Dawn Apgar of the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services, Acting Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities, will be the keynote speaker. Kim Todd, CEO, New Jersey Association of Community Providers, and Ann Martinelli, parent, Advocates for Alternatives, will also present on families and service providers working together.

Pre-registration is required as space is limited. For more information or to register, contact Abbe Wittenberg at abbe.wittenberg@yai.org or 212-273-6472.

The conference is sponsored by the National Institute for People with Disabilities of New Jersey, a member agency of YAI.

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