

**Today's Quote:** *"If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress."* President Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States of America

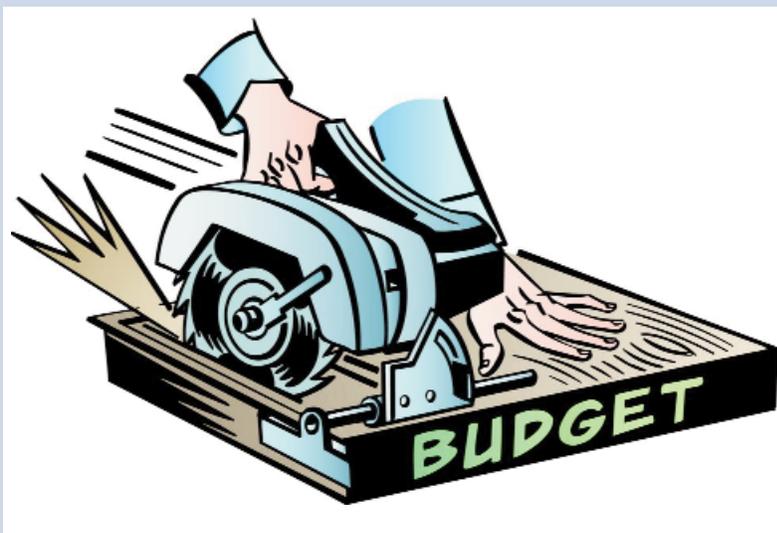
## Letter from Ken Ritchey, Assistant Commissioner: Additional Budget Cuts - Impact DDD Budget

As most people are aware, the State of New Jersey is facing a serious fiscal situation. Even as work continues on balancing the state's budget for FY 2010, Governor Corzine has announced a total of \$812 million in spending reductions, spread across state government, to address the \$2.1 billion hole in the current budget (FY2009). A complete list of the Governor's reductions for FY 2009, including DDD's, can be found online at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/news/2009/p090105a.pdf>

DDD's share of these cuts is approximately \$45.5 million, which will affect both the community and institutional areas of the division. I have had very open and direct discussions with our provider community regarding these reductions and how we plan to address them. The feedback, from discussions regarding our share of the cuts, has been valuable and informative. I will continue to keep the conversation going in order to best address these challenges. One area of particular note is our efforts to consolidate and close cottages on the campuses of our developmental centers.

We are also working with the provider community to develop an overall better contracting system, and will share more details about our plans in the months ahead. One example is our interest in converting our contracts with providers to a fee-for-service model.



We currently are working on a pilot with a small group of volunteers who will help us test this contract model.

In addition, we intend to take full advantage of the opportunity to maximize our federal revenue, which was one result of our successful effort to amend our Community Care Waiver (See December 2008 DDD Today edition for details). In approving our waiver application, CMS gave us permission to bill the federal government retroactively to January 1, 2008, for services that are now waiver-eligible.

Although the state's fiscal situation presents great challenges, DDD has not wavered in its commitment to serving individuals with developmental disabilities. We also remain committed to the set of core principles I have outlined over the past few months with providers, advocates and family groups in numerous community forums. These principles include ensuring the

health and safety of the individuals we serve while also respecting their rights, serving people in New Jersey and avoiding unnecessary institutional placements whenever possible and promoting equity and fairness.

Thank you for your continued support through these very challenging fiscal times.

Sincerely,

*Kenneth W. Ritchey*  
Kenneth W. Ritchey

# Bureau of Guardianship Services Reorganization

Effective February 2, 2009, the Bureau of Guardianship Services (BGS) has relocated services for individuals living in Burlington and Somerset counties by reorganizing its regional offices. The bureau believes this change will strengthen its ability to provide effective guardianship services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Both counties were part of the bureau's Central Region. Burlington County will now be served by the Bureau's Southern Regional Office and Somerset County will be served by its Northern Regional Office.**

**Individuals served by the bureau who live in these counties will receive letters explaining the change and assigning them to new guardians.**

The bureau's three regional offices are:

- The Northern Regional office (973 – 648 - 4638), located in Newark, which now serves:

- o Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Warren and Union Counties; Green Brook Regional Center, North Jersey and Woodbridge Developmental Centers.
- The Central Regional office (609 – 987 - 0881), located in Hamilton, which now serves:
  - o Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Counties; Hunterdon and New Lisbon Developmental Centers.
- The Southern Regional Office (856 – 690 - 5260), located in Vineland, which now serves:
  - o Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties; Vineland and Woodbine Developmental Centers.

BGS hopes this reorganization will not cause any disturbance to services. Anyone with questions can contact the respective regions by using the phone numbers listed above.



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

**July 2007 - June 2008 = 121**

**July 2008 - January 15, 2009 = 53**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **New Jersey Association of Community Providers (NJACP)**

Trainings with *James M. Davy Associates, LLC* - Succession Planning

Developing Your Organization's Leadership Pipeline:

- Tuesday, March 3, 2009 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- NJACP Headquarters - Ewing

Effective Coaching and Mentoring Skills for Improved Organizational Performance – a Facilitative Strength-Based Approach:

- Thursday, March 5, 2009 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- NJACP Headquarters - Ewing

### **The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities & New Jersey APSE State Chapter**

Facing the Future XVII - Aim for Employment

*A conference for professionals highlighting best practices in supporting people with disabilities in career planning, customized employment and transition from school to work:*

- Thursday March 26 & Friday 27, 2009 9:15 AM – 3:45 PM (each day)
- Doubletree Hotel, Somerset, NJ