

DDD Today

A Publication of the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Volume VI, Issue VIII August 2012
dddnewsletter@dhs.state.nj.us

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner
Dawn Apgar, Deputy Commissioner

STATE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDS CLOSURE OF TWO DEVELOPMENTAL CENTERS



As many of you know, last December (2011), legislation creating a ‘Task Force on the Closure of State Developmental Centers’ was signed into law. The group was charged with identifying ‘one or more’ developmental centers for closure.

On July 23rd, the Task Force recommended the closure of North Jersey Developmental Center (NJDC) followed by Woodbridge Developmental Center (WDC) within five years.

During this process, the Department of Human Services’ Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) will continue to move individuals who have been approved for and desire a community placement. DDD will work to ensure a smooth transition for every resident during this process.

Over the next several weeks, DDD will be hosting a series of informational meetings for NJDC and WDC families and guardians to discuss the closure and answer questions.

Visit a link for community living information at: <http://youtu.be/V7fwnHgwMC4>

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

Dear Stakeholder,

Like all of you, the Department has remained very busy this summer. After the passage of the budget and start of the new Fiscal Year, we have focused on highlighting community programs and services for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

For example, I participated in a [bill signing ceremony](#) with Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno. The statute, formerly bill [S-618](#), requires school bus drivers to use flashing red lights when picking up or dropping off passengers with disabilities and it requires drivers of vehicles approaching the school bus to stop at least 25 feet when the bus has activated its flashing lights. The new law establishes penalties for violators, consistent with those currently in effect for child passengers on school buses.



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

Continued from previous page.

I also stood with Governor Chris Christie as he signed a [Drug Court expansion pilot initiative](#) at the Trenton Rescue Mission, where we were able to [meet and talk with](#) several people who have benefited from the program. The Governor has made clear that drug offenders should have an opportunity to be treated and recover from their addictions rather than be incarcerated. At the event, he said, “We will no longer simply warehouse individuals in prison who are not a threat to society while the underlying cause of their criminality goes unaddressed. And we won’t wait for them to come to the conclusion that they need treatment on their own. With this legislation, we are building on our record of reducing recidivism, reclaiming lives by breaking the vicious cycle of crime and addiction, and doing so in a way that is less costly and more effective in getting results.”

And Division of Disability Services’ Director Joseph Amoroso participated in a [ramp ribbon cutting](#) at the Christ Care Unit Missionary Baptist Church in Sicklerville. Last March, three regional food pantries were awarded about \$5,000 each to renovate or retrofit their buildings to improve access for individuals using mobility devices. Christ Care was the first to [complete its work](#) with the help of a local contractor. The other award recipients were The Lord’s Pantry, Trinity United Methodist Church in Hackettstown, and Fixer of Hearts Food Pantry, Community Church Fixer of Hearts in North Brunswick.

On our Facebook page, we [recognized](#) the New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies’ award to Governor Chris Christie for his leadership in fighting stigma, and we [posted pictures](#) of the HomeFront Family Preservation Center’s 21st Birthday Celebration.

On July 23rd, the Task Force on the Closure of State Developmental Centers finalized its binding recommendations. You’ll recall that this Task Force was created by statute in December 2011. It was charged by the Governor and Legislature with reviewing several factors related to the State’s seven developmental centers and making a decision to close “one or more.” The group’s [report](#) identifies North Jersey and Woodbridge Developmental Centers for closure within five years. The Department will immediately develop a comprehensive closure plan that is resident-focused and advances our commitment to respecting the rights of people in the developmental centers to live in the community, if they so choose. We’ll provide updates on this initiative regularly on our [website and Facebook](#) page.

This month, we continue to highlight community living. Members of my executive staff and I each have events that include attending a senior art exhibit, touring a medical day program, and visiting a behavioral health center and a new group home opening.

There are about 20 stakeholder meetings scheduled in August. I look forward to seeing and working with each of you.

Regards,

Jennifer Velez
Commissioner

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

NEW LISBON DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER PLANNING FOR 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



New Lisbon Developmental Center (NLDC) will be celebrating its 100th year anniversary in 2014. We continue to evolve in all areas, most notably, in the Vocations Department.

NLDC's Vocations Department provides a wide array of services for the local community as well as nationally recognized companies, such as Lowe's, Sears, and Home Depot. Currently, we employ over 250 individuals. We have a standard of working with our individuals and employing them in areas where they have an interest in working. Simultaneously, the men's and women's jobs increase their self-esteem as they are able to contribute to their community in a meaningful and productive way. We offer diverse work schedules for our residents who prefer morning, afternoon, or evening hours.

The NLDC Vocations Program is a 24-hour/7 days a week operation. We also have several senior citizens employed by Experience Works, a federally funded program, which pays minimum wages to employees who are 55 or more years of age.

We believe that everyday is a natural teaching moment. We have set standards and practices to prepare individuals for the many challenges they will encounter in the working world. When they move into the community, the transition is a positive experience and we are an intricate part of their success.

We have three center-based programs. Esteemed Industries and the Vocational Enhancement Program are located on the NLDC Campus. The Esteemed Industries Satellite Program is located in Browns Mills, NJ. We are sub-contracted by FEDCAP and All Clean to provide janitorial services in the community for the NJ State Police, DYFS and MVA—just to name a few.

Teamwork and great customer service are the key ingredients that continue to fuel the success of the Vocations Programs. We have an extended customer base with several relationships in existence for over 20 years!

We have the expertise of vocational counselors, teachers, senior therapy program assistants, instructor counselors, supervisors, direct care staff, and our production staff. We brainstorm to find solutions to problems, use modern technology to streamline jobs and provide quality control, and we work along with the individuals' Interdisciplinary Teams to provide quality services to our vendors. When we send the finished products out and when we are in the community working, it is a positive reflection on the individuals first, and on the staff working with the individuals. We all take pride in the services we provide and the good reputation we have earned over the years. We are committed to working hard to employ NLDC residents.

We also provide a variety of craft items created by our individuals in the Crafter's Co-op/Paper Nature Program located in the Vocational Enhancement Program (VEP) building. These are great gifts that can be purchased for special occasions and they are displayed annually at the DDD Central Office Annual Craft Fair.

Of course, no one is an island. Therefore, we are thankful for the assistance we receive from all NLDC Departments and Disciplines because without their support, we would not be able to perform as well as we do or meet our obligations.

If you look around, you will not see Esteem Industries advertised; however, we are thankful for the loyal vendors we have who do not hesitate to recommend our services. We have secured several jobs by word of mouth.

We see no limit to our potential to grow. Who knows what jobs we may be offered after everyone reads this article! So, if you need items packaged, assembled, and/or shredded, give us a call at **609-726-1000, extension 4535**. We may be able to help.

ACTING GOVERNOR KIM GUADAGNO SIGNS LEGISLATION INCREASING TRANSPORTATION SAFETY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

New Law Protects Persons with Disabilities as They Travel on School Buses

Trenton, NJ – Taking another important step in the Christie Administration’s commitment to support individuals with developmental disabilities, Acting Governor Kim Guadagno recently signed into law legislation that secures school bus safety precautions for adult students with developmental disabilities.



The legislation, S-618, requires school bus drivers to use flashing red lights when picking up or discharging passengers with disabilities and requires drivers of vehicles approaching or overtaking a school bus to stop at least 25 feet when the bus has activated its flashing lights. The legislation also establishes penalties for violators, consistent with protections and violations currently in effect for child passengers on school buses.

“By signing this bill into law, we are taking a commonsense and important step to provide adult students with developmental disabilities with the same protections currently in place for child passengers. We are not only increasing the safety factor for persons with disabilities but also making safety indicators more consistent for motorists who encounter school buses in their daily travels,” said Acting Governor Guadagno. “Motorists will know without a doubt when they see a school bus come to a stop and lights are flashing, they must stop their vehicles for passengers who are getting on or off the bus.”

“As the father of an adult daughter with a developmental disability, I know the challenges these individuals face every day. It is our responsibility to ensure that we are protecting them from harm whenever and wherever possible,” said Senate President Steve Sweeney. “This is really just a commonsense law that will require school bus drivers and motorists to use the same precautionary measures that are used when a school bus is transporting school children.”



The new law prohibits the driver of the school bus from starting the bus or discontinuing the flashing red lights until every person with a developmental disability who exited the bus has reached a place of safety and extends penalties for failing to comply with the law. Motorists who pass a school bus stopped with flashing red lights and carrying persons with disabilities face a fine of no less than \$100, could be subject to up to 15 days in jail, or could face 15 days of community service. Violators will also receive 5 points on their drivers license.

“The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities supports the passing of this important piece of legislation, as it recognizes that safety and accessibility in transportation are key elements to meaningful community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities in New Jersey,” said Executive Director Alison Lozano. “With this bill, the Governor and Legislature acknowledge the fact that we must consider all citizens in the planning and implementation of public programs and services.”

ACTING GOVERNOR KIM GUADAGNO SIGNS LEGISLATION INCREASING TRANSPORTATION SAFETY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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Primary sponsors of the bill are Senator Steve Sweeney (D-Salem, Cumberland, Gloucester), Senator Diane Allen (R-Burlington, Camden), Assemblywoman Celeste Riley (D-Salem, Cumberland, Gloucester), and Assemblyman John Burzichelli (D-Salem, Cumberland, Gloucester).

The Christie Administration is committed to helping New Jerseyans with developmental disabilities or mental illness lead richer lives. The Fiscal Year 2013 Budget furthers that commitment through enhanced funding provided to support community placements and additional programs and services. In addition, a realignment of programs for children with disabilities or in need of behavioral health services will occur in order to enable the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to provide family-oriented support services that care for the whole child.

Recognizing the Unique Needs of Individuals With Developmental Disabilities

This year's budget reaffirms the Christie Administration's commitment to a fundamental rethinking of how individuals with developmental disabilities receive services. Governor Christie has long spoken of the State's moral imperative to recognize the individuality and unique needs of every New Jerseyan with a developmental disability.

Rethinking How to Serve Children With Developmental Disabilities

The creation of the Division of Child Integrated System of Care Services in the DCF will finally address the holistic needs and concerns of families with children with developmental disabilities in one place. The reorganization is designed to ensure that families of people with developmental disabilities have access to every possible support that State government provides. The new division will become the departmental "home" for children with multiple needs, bringing together programs now scattered throughout State government. This will allow for a more family-centric approach.

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.

THREE ATHLETES SELECTED TO REPRESENT NEW JERSEY AT THE 2013 SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD WINTER GAMES IN PYEONGCHANG, KOREA

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ – Special Olympics New Jersey (SONJ) is proud to announce it has chosen three athletes to represent New Jersey on Team USA at the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games.

The Special Olympics Team USA will be joining nearly 3,300 fellow athletes and teams from over 100 nations around the world in PyeongChang, Korea in January 2013. Special Olympics athletes of all ability levels will compete in eight different Olympic-type sports, including Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Snow Boarding, Snow Shoeing, Short Track Speed Skating, Figure Skating, Floor Hockey, and Floor Ball demonstration.

SONJ will participate in three of the eight sports offered at the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games: Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, and Snowshoeing.

REPRESENTING NEW JERSEY:

Maureen Larson, 24, from Sea Isle City – Alpine Skiing

Maureen qualified for the 2013 World Winter Games after she took home the Gold in both Intermediate Slalom and Intermediate Super G at the SONJ 2012 Winter Games. She also competes in Track & Field (800M, 1500M, 4x100, and 4x400), and Cycling (10K and 5K). Maureen previously competed in Track & Field at the 2003 World Summer Games in Ireland.

Becky Scheick, 23, from Ewing – Snowshoeing

Becky qualified for the 2013 World Winter Games after she took home Gold in the 100M and 200M at the SONJ 2012 Winter Games. She also competes in Aquatics (50M Backstroke, 50M Freestyle, 4x25 Medley Relay, 4x40 Free Relay, and 4x50 Medley Relay), Bowling, and Soccer. Becky previously competed in the 2009 World Winter Games in Idaho in Cross Country Skiing, before switching to Snowshoeing in 2012.

Junichi Kusakawa, 27, from West Windsor – Cross Country Skiing

Junichi qualified for the 2013 World Winter Games after he took home the Gold in the 1K. He also took home Silver in the 500M, and he previously competed in Cross Country Skiing at the 2009 World Winter Games in Idaho. Junichi also competes in Bowling at the area and state level.

“We are extremely proud of the individuals chosen to represent New Jersey,” said Marc Edenzon, president of Special Olympics New Jersey. “World Games is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for these athletes to transcend the boundaries of geography, nationality, and culture and come together in the thrill of true athletic competition.”

Throughout the week-long competition from January 29 to February 5, 2013, athletes will display their athletic skill, determination, and courage. Special Olympics athletes not competing in the World Games also will play important leadership roles off the sports field as officials, assistant coaches, reporters, and spokespeople.

Continued on page 16

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE: OCT. 13

29th Annual Self-Advocacy Conference

**Date: Saturday,
October 13, 2012**

**The New Jersey
Self-Advocacy Project
985 Livingston Ave.
North Brunswick, NJ
732-246-2525 ext.37**

The 29th Annual Self-Advocacy Conference is scheduled to be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset, New Jersey.

Time: 8:30 am - 3 pm

**Sponsored by:
The New Jersey Self-Advocacy
Project of The Arc of New Jersey
working with The New Jersey
Statewide Self-Advocacy Network.**

**Registration forms
coming in August.**

AT&T HIRES INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY THE ARC OF SOMERSET COUNTY FOR 2012 DEMOCRATIC & REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION PROJECTS

Individuals working at The Arc of Somerset County's Branchburg Adult Training Center are getting into the political spirit this election year. Thanks to a contract with AT&T, the communications company providing products and services for both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have been hired to assemble gift bags for delegates.

"We are particularly excited for this job," remarked Jim O'Rourke, Director of Employment Services at The Arc of Somerset County. "This contract will provide employment for a number of individuals we serve."

The timing for such work is critical as well. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for individuals with a disability was 15% in 2011 – nearly double that of people without a disability. Through local and national advocacy, The Arc strives to raise awareness about this disparity and other disability employment issues.

"We are honored to have community partners like AT&T that demonstrate a commitment to disability employment," stated Lauren Panarella, Executive Director of The Arc of Somerset County. "By hiring The Arc and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities for this project, AT&T is bringing disability employment awareness to the national level."

Through its Employment Services program, The Arc of Somerset County partners with local organizations to create and develop employment opportunities for people served. Through center-based jobs, like the AT&T contract, to community-based employment opportunities, The Arc presently supports more than 260 adults in their pursuit of gainful employment.

"It is our mission to support growth and achievement at every stage of life for the individuals we serve," remarked Panarella. "We believe that the opportunity to work, which leads to a paycheck and a sense of self-sufficiency and pride, is vital to that achievement."

The Arc of Somerset County, currently celebrating its 40th Anniversary, provides advocacy and services for more than 1,000 children, adolescents, and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.



Warren, an individual working at The Arc's Branchburg Adult Training Center, assembles gift bags for the 2012 Democratic National Convention.

Photo byline: Laura E. Ziegler

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AT&T HIRES INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY THE ARC OF SOMERSET COUNTY FOR 2012 DEMOCRATIC & REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION PROJECTS

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About The Arc of Somerset County

As an affiliate of The Arc of the United States and The Arc of New Jersey, The Arc of Somerset County serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families from birth through the senior years of life through our many programs and services in Somerset County. Today, we serve over 1,000 children, adults, and their families in 33 locations, including 27 group homes and apartments, four employment centers, the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families, and Camp Jotoni.

About Center-Based Employment at The Arc

The Arc of Somerset County provides center-based adult programs at four facilities in Somerset County. Activities are designed to fit the cognitive and physical skill levels as well as the interests of the individuals enrolled in the various programs. The focus of the program is to foster positive work attitudes and behaviors while increasing social skill development for individuals who have little or no exposure to a work environment.

In addition to assessment, counseling, and training, fulfillment and production tasks are offered as a means of developing work skills and earning money. The Arc of Somerset provides business solutions to customers from a variety of industries, such as communications, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, professional services, and county organizations.

DIRECTOR OF NJ DIVISION OF DISABILITY SERVICES DISCUSSES ADA IN HONOR OF THE LEGISLATION'S 22ND ANNIVERSARY



Director of Disability Services, Joseph Amoroso, talked on July 26th about the 22nd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Watch his short message at the link.

<http://youtu.be/H7-WDjHEwdo>

Progressive Achievement Center in Ewing Holds July 4th Picnic for Consumers in Day Program

SERV Achievement Centers, Inc

EWING - The Progressive Achievement Center (PAC), a day program of SERV, held a picnic for 38 consumers with developmental disabilities at its Ewing branch to celebrate Independence Day. PAC consumers, along with staff and volunteers, enjoyed grilled food, games, activities, and live music performed by one of the supervisors and his band.

Jake Jones, program supervisor for PAC, along with John and Joe Casalino, performed jazz and rock numbers throughout the day.

PAC, which has locations in Ewing and Cranford, is an adult vocational training service for individuals with developmental disabilities and/or behavioral challenges. The program is designed to promote independence and provide individualized instruction in the areas that relate to employment. SERV Achievement Centers is an affiliate of SERV Behavioral Health System, Inc., a statewide non-profit organization that serves individuals who have emotional, behavioral, and/or developmental disabilities. For more information, visit www.servbhs.org or call 609-406-0391.



PAC consumers and staff who enjoyed a Fourth of July picnic with live music (photo, top right) include Duane S. and Scottie W., above photo; and, from left, in photo at right, Malic A., staffers Nina Latorre and Nadia Rahin, Maria K., Josef K., Nicky G. and Tiki O.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



TECHConnection @ Family Resource Associates, Inc. (FRA) presents

Assistive Device Demonstration and Loan Expo FOR SENIORS

in partnership with the Family Support Center of New Jersey (FSCNJ)

**Come and learn how to make your computer easier to use!
Plus, many low cost or no cost specialty items for seniors**

When: Tuesday, August 28th

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Overview and presentation

3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hands-on trial in computer lab
with lending library

**Light refreshments will be available*

If you are in need of a computer, please call FRA and ask about our recycled computer donation program.

Five computers, along with other door prizes, will be given away at this workshop!



- Difficulty using a mouse? Try great mouse alternatives.
- Devices for shaky hands and arthritis
- See the screen easier
- Type with your voice
- Considering an iPad? Test it out.

**Where: The Family Support Center of New Jersey
Lions Head Office Park
35 Beaverson Blvd. Building 11
Brick, NJ 08723**

Please RSVP to Janine Sims of FRA at (732) 747-5310 ext. 111. Limited seating is available. Funding for this event was provided by Disability Rights New Jersey, Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAÇ).

Workshop provided by: Family Resource Assoc., Inc. 35 Hadison Ave. Shrewsbury, NJ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

F.S.M.A. Night at the Phillies



Come cheer on The Phightin' Phils to help support research & families battling Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA)

**Friday, August 24, 2012
vs. Washington Nationals @ 7:05 p.m.**



A portion of each ticket sold will benefit Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy. For more information and to purchase tickets, e-mail: pennsylvania@fsma.org (Please place your orders ASAP!)

Families of SMA funds and directs the leading SMA research programs to develop a treatment and cure for the disease. The successful results and progress that the organization has delivered, from basic research to drug discovery to clinical trials, provide real hope for families and patients impacted by the disease. The charity has invested over \$50 million in research and been involved in funding half of all the ongoing novel drug programs for SMA.

Field Day at Hunterdon Developmental Center

Written by: Bill Steiner, Assistant Supervisor of Recreation at HDC

On Wednesday, May 30, the annual Hunterdon Developmental Center (HDC) Field Day was held with approximately 100 athletes from HDC along with two from Area 4 participating. Many other HDC clients attended the event as spectators.

The event started at approximately 1:30 pm with the Opening Ceremonies. Several athletes began the ceremonies by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing the National Anthem. Next, an athlete from HDC arrived with the Olympic Torch as the Olympic Fanfare was played. The ceremonies concluded with the Olympic Oath being recited by several athletes and the games being declared open.



Events offered for ambulatory athletes included the following: Softball Throw, Standing Long Jump, Sit-Ups, 25M Walk, 25M Run, 50M Walk, 50M Run, 100M Walk, and 100M Run. Events offered for non-ambulatory athletes included the following: Softball Throw, 10M Wheelchair Race, 25M Wheelchair Race, 30M Motorized Slalom, and 50M Motorized Slalom. The majority of ambulatory athletes competed in four events, while non-ambulatory athletes participated in three. Clients received 1st through 5th place ribbons in each event they participated in.

Special thanks to all the HDC employees who volunteered to assist with the events, making them an enjoyable experience for all who participated.



SPAN Parent Leadership & Advocacy Conference

Saturday, November 3, 2012 at the Atlantic City Convention Center



Mark your calendars and share the news about our upcoming conference for Parent Leaders and Parent Advocates. It will bring together parent leaders who are working to improve communities, addressing issues in education, health care, mental health, family support, human services, and child welfare. This conference is about creating change by creating strong parent-led organizations, strong families, excellent schools, and stronger communities. The goals of the conference are to mobilize & inspire parent leaders to action across systems. Participants will leave the conference energized and motivated.

For more information please visit The Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN): <http://www.spannj.org>
[Be a Sponsor or Exhibitor and support scholarships for parents to attend](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Direct Support Professional
Recognition Week is

Sept. 9 – 15, 2012

*Direct Support Professionals across New Jersey are
dedicated to supporting and empowering people
with disabilities to live meaningful lives.*

Take this time to...

Thank your DSPs!

A tool-kit for celebrating DSP week can be found at:

www.nj.gov/ddd/dspwd

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NJ DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REVEALS NEW WEB DESIGN

A message from Allison Blake, Commissioner of the NJ Department of Children and Families

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great excitement that I share with you a link to the newly redesigned Department of Children and Families web site, just launched to the public: <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/>

We have been working diligently over the past few months to create a site that is user-friendly and easier to navigate, yet still comprehensive and all-inclusive of the programs and services offered by DCF. New tabs, such as “Families, Adolescents, Women, and Providers/Stakeholders” at the top of the home page, allow you to find specific content based on your needs. Streamlined links to news, our divisions and offices, as well as general information about the department are now easily accessible from the home page too.

These are just a few of the many improvements you’ll find on our site, but more good things are on the way. While we are proud to launch this new site, we know that web sites are always a work in progress, so we will be continuing to refine, upgrade, and enhance the content found here on an ongoing basis. We welcome your feedback and suggestions on how to make our web site even more beneficial. Please feel free to email us your comments and suggestions at communications@dcf.state.nj.us.

For now, I encourage you to take a few moments to surf through our new site. I hope you will find it as helpful as I have.

Warm regards,
Allison

ADDRESSING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE IEP

**Offered by the Family Support Center of New Jersey
Wednesday, September 5, 2012 from 7 - 8 pm**

Click [here](#) to register.

While educators of children with autism spectrum disorders may automatically include academics into their students' Individualized Education Plans (IEP), too often social skills and emotional development are treated as an afterthought. Parents are commonly told that an IEP must focus only on those skills that impact upon performance in school, without any acknowledgment of the significant impact of social skills and emotional development upon academic success. This workshop will help to identify areas in need of assessment and intervention and describe advocacy strategies designed to insure that these areas are fully addressed within the student's IEP.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



VSA New Jersey Seeking Authors for Statewide Writing Competition

New Brunswick- The Unlimited Potential Theater Company (UPTCo), a project of VSA New Jersey (VSA/NJ), is seeking poems, essays, short stories, and plays by New Jersey residents 18 years of age or over for its 19th annual Joyce Indik New Jersey Wordsmith Competition. The contest is open to all writers, and submissions by writers with disabilities are especially encouraged. All works submitted will be juried by a panel of judges who are professionals in the fields of theater and/or literature. Selected works will be showcased at the New Jersey Readers' Theater in the Spring of 2013. The deadline for submissions is September 18, 2012.

Founded in 1978, VSA/NJ is a part of the international VSA arts network, an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and is dedicated to promoting the creative power of people with disabilities. UPTCo is a project of VSA/NJ. Major funding for VSA New Jersey is provided in part by the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission and NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as additional foundations and donors.

There is no entry fee for this competition. In lieu of a fee, a donation of any amount is welcomed and encouraged to cover the cost of the competition. To request an application or to receive additional information, contact VSA arts of New Jersey, 703 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, (732) 745-3885, (732) 745-3913 (TTY) or info@vsanj.org. Visit VSA New Jersey online at www.vsanj.org

Olympics World Winter Games

Continued from Page 6.

ABOUT THE 2013 WORLD WINTER GAMES:

The 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games will be held from January 29 to February 5 in PyeongChang, Korea. This multi-sport event will be one of the largest sporting events held in the world in 2013. Every two years, thousands of Special Olympics athletes worldwide come together to showcase their athletic skills and celebrate the spirit of Special Olympics. Alternating between Summer Games and Winter Games, Special Olympics World Games bring public attention to the talents and capabilities of people with intellectual disabilities, helping to change attitudes and break down barriers that excluded them from the mainstream of the community. To learn more about the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games, visit www.2013sopoc.org

ABOUT SONJ:

Special Olympics New Jersey provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for more than 22,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community. For more information about Special Olympics New Jersey, visit www.sonj.org or call 609-896-8000.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COME CHECK OUT OUR “FAMOUS”
TEAM GLIMMER (SPECIAL NEEDS CHEERLEADING)
AS FEATURED IN THE TRENTON TIMES NEWSPAPER!**

COME TO OUR INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Monday, August 20, 2012, at 6:30 pm

Everyone age 7 and up is welcome - male or female.

Hamilton Starz is located at 5 Commerce Way, Suite 145, Hamilton, NJ 08691

(609) 838-2423

www.hamiltonstarz.com

STORY IDEAS?

E-MAIL US AT:

DDDnewsletter@dhs.state.nj.us

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