

May, 2011

FY'12 Proposed Budget

Archived audio for the Assembly and Senate Budget Hearings is available on the Legislative website. The Commissioner's responses to committee members' questions can be found under the Assembly Budget Committee (hearings only category) on [4/7/11](#), 10 AM; and in the Senate Budget Committee archive [5/2/11](#), 1:30 PM. Her written testimony is on the DHS [website](#).

Commissioner's Calendar

- [5/17/11](#) - Council of Public Affairs Conference – Trenton
- [5/20/11](#) – Protecting the Rights of People Who Are Blind and Visually Impaired – Conference – New Brunswick
- [5/23/11](#) – Eastern Regional Child Support Association – Annual Conference – Atlantic City

Hot Topics

Medicaid Comprehensive Waiver

Commissioner Velez hosted a legislative briefing at the State House on Thursday, April 28th, and Stakeholder and Press calls on Friday, April 29th outlining the Waiver's framework. The calls were well received by the stakeholder community, and the Department committed to outreach specific interest groups in May and June for input on the Waiver blueprint. A summary [PowerPoint](#) has been posted on the DHS web site for public review.

May is Mental Health Month

DHS thanks Governor Chris Christie for recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month with a [proclamation](#).

Vineland Developmental Center

Several of NJ's largest DD agency and advocacy organizations have collaborated to create a [website](#) to urge the closure of Vineland Development Center, to dispel myths surrounding the appropriateness of people with multiple disabilities in the community and to provide perspective to the public.

For comments and suggestions or to be removed from this distribution list, please email Robin.Beard@dhs.state.nj.us.

Also in DHS News...

General Assistance (GA) Waiver approved

The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) granted DMAHS a General Assistance (GA) Waiver enabling the Division to receive a federal match for health services for the GA population. Previously, the health care benefits were provided with state-only funds. The Department's press release is [online](#).

Managed Care - Mandatory Enrollment

Effective July 1, 2011, upon adoption of the SFY 2012 budget, clients who were previously exempt from managed care enrollment, including the Aged, Blind and Disabled population, must be enrolled in one of four Medicaid health maintenance organizations (HMOs). Further information explaining the change can be found on the [DMAHS website](#).

Family Learning Conference a success

The fourth biennial Family Learning Conference for families with children who are Deaf and hard of hearing was held in April. More than 175 people attended the event, which empowers parents with resources to assist them address the impact of hearing loss on family life. The conference was sponsored by the NJ Department of Human Services' [Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#), the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services' Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program, and the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network NJ Statewide Parent to Parent. Funding for the conference included a federal grant from the Center for Disease Control.

Office on Autism Website and Resource Guide Launched with First Lady

In an effort to provide a central location for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) information, DDD joined First Lady Mary Pat Christie at Children's Specialized Hospital in New Brunswick to launch a [website](#) and resource [guide](#) for families. See the First Lady's [press release](#) for details.