



Department of Human Services

Dear Stakeholder,

On April 16th at 10 a.m., I'll be testifying before the Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee. If you're able, you can listen to the hearing live at this link: http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/media/live_audio.asp. As I mentioned in last month's correspondence, I believe we have a lot of very positive news about the Department's programs and services to share. I look forward to advocating the Governor's proposed funding.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to announce the selection of Myers and Stauffer LC to work with the Divisions of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS) on a statewide rate setting process.

Myers and Stauffer's many years of experience reflect its extensive work on developing cost reporting systems and databases in support of Medicaid rate studies plus active ongoing support in operations of various rate setting systems.

M&S has worked over the last several years with the New Jersey Medicaid system within the following areas:

- Evaluation of the nursing facility case-mix rate reimbursement
- Auditing nursing facility cost reports on behalf of the New Jersey Medicaid program
- Performing acuity and DSH Hospital audits
- Assisting with updates and refinements to the hospital reimbursement system

The Department is pleased that M&S has included on its rate setting team the firm of Johnston, Villegas-Grubbs and Associates LLC ("JVGA"). JVGA carries a vast knowledge and

in-depth skill set having assisted in rate setting and Medicaid Waiver projects in Arizona, California, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Minnesota, and Oregon.

The Department anticipates holding an internal kickoff meeting with M&S to start the rate setting process within one to two weeks. Additional detail about opportunities for stakeholder input into the process will become available later this month. The scope of work behind the study will produce a final product during FY14. The scope of work includes:

- Meetings with provider agencies (to be scheduled in the near future)
- State and provider readiness reviews
- Analysis of existing rates
- Modeling and budget impact analysis
- Developing and providing necessary training
- Draft and Final Rate Recommendations
- Transition and Rate Revision Plan

M&S and JVGA are excited to take on this project and are committing significant resources and staff hours to the task. The Department looks forward to working with all stakeholders to ensure that this process is efficient, accurate, and produces a useful plan for the transition to a fee-for-service system.

March was a productive month for us. Below, I've included some of the highlights of our activities and announcements:

- Governor Chris Christie and I [visited the Metropolitan Family Health Network](#) in Jersey City to show how community-based health centers provide critical health services and care for individuals and families who need it most. The program is one of 105 Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) sites in New Jersey.

- It was announced that [the Department received a \\$226 million Hurricane Sandy supplemental Social Services Block Grant](#) (SSBG) from the US Department of Health and Human Services. This funding is critical to rebuilding and preserving the social service safety net in the areas most impacted by Hurricane Sandy. In the months and years to come, these services will be essential to facilitating the state's full recovery. The SSBG supplemental funding is allocated to DHS and distributed among other state agencies for eligible expenditures.
- It was announced that [DHS awarded about \\$8.7 million](#) to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton for Disaster Case Management (DCM) services for New Jersey residents in need of post-Sandy assistance. To facilitate recovery, Catholic Charities will coordinate Disaster Case Management activities with Catholic Charities, New Jersey to provide one-to-one guidance, linking those impacted by Sandy to federal, state or local resources.
- I had the pleasure of [accompanying Governor Chris Christie](#) to Hilltop Group Home in Robbinsville to talk with residents and their families about the importance of increasing community-based residential programs throughout the state. Since Fiscal Year 2011, about 1,000 new units, or 300 new homes, have been developed with new funding.
- Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno [toured the Arc of Mercer County Health Care Center](#) and met with clients who receive assistance. The center delivers both primary health care and mental health services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Governor Chris Christie and Department of Children and Families Commissioner Dr. Allison Blake [toured the Arc of Middlesex County](#) to get a first-hand look at the agency's family support services, including its after-school program.
- [Transitional Sheltering Assistance \(TSA\) Program was extended](#) at the Administration's request for an additional 14 days to the end of April 5, 2013. The extension means eligible people can receive TSA assistance through April 5 with a check-out date of April 6, 2013.
- New Jersey residents impacted by Sandy [now have until May 1, 2013](#) to register for individual disaster assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The deadline extension applies for homeowner, renter, and business

registration with the Small Business Administration (SBA) for Disaster Loan Assistance.

Regards,

Jennifer Velez