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NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2025



New Laws Protect Individuals Seeking Substance Use Treatment

Acting Governor Way signed two bills protecting individuals seeking addiction treatment from being misled, exploited, or referred for profit. These measures strengthen accountability within the substance use treatment industry, supporting patients in making informed choices and ensuring that care decisions are driven by clinical need rather than financial gain.

“It is important to protect individuals dealing with addiction,” **Acting Governor Way said.** “We must ensure proper treatment without exploitation by holding providers accountable and implementing strong safeguards. Too often, vulnerable people are targeted by those who prioritize profit over care, which is unacceptable.”

The first new law ([A3973/S3952](#)) revises the law on patient referrals to substance use disorder treatment facilities, recovery residences, and clinical laboratories, reclassifying patient brokering from a fourth-degree to a third-degree crime. The second new law ([A3974/S3955](#)) prohibits the use of deceptive marketing practices by addiction treatment providers.

“These bill signings represent a major step forward in protecting individuals and families seeking help for substance use disorders,” **Commissioner Sarah Adelman said.** “By strengthening oversight and eliminating deceptive marketing practices, we are ensuring that New Jersey residents can access care that is ethical, transparent, and effective. These laws reflect our unwavering commitment to supporting recovery with dignity and integrity, while holding providers to the highest standards of accountability.”

Deputy Commissioner for Health Services Valerie Mielke
was on hand for the bill signings.

Read more [HERE](#).



COMMUNICATION ACCESS GRANTS

To expand language access for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals including ASL interpreting and captioning services, hearing loops and more.

NEW JERSEY HUMAN SERVICES



New Jersey Human Services Awards Additional Grants to Improve Access to County Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals

Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced that New Jersey Department of Human Services has awarded nearly \$350,000 in grants among five counties to improve communication and language access to county services for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.

“We are excited to award this grant funding to our county partners and look forward to seeing the meaningful changes they will implement to better serve deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind residents,” **Commissioner Adelman**

said. “Ensuring public spaces and services are accessible goes beyond infrastructure; it’s about making sure everyone has the opportunity to connect and participate in their communities. Through collaborative efforts such as this, we can keep building a New Jersey where all communities are inclusive.”

“Through this funding, we are supporting vital tools such as hearing loops, ASL interpretation, captioning, and translated resources to be in key county settings such as libraries and social service offices. We are helping remove barriers that limit access to vital information and services for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind,” **Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire said.** “We commend the counties that are leading these projects and look forward to continuing to build a more inclusive New Jersey for all.”

“Language and communication are fundamental pillars in how we connect, understand, and engage with the world,” **Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Executive Director Elizabeth Hill said.** “This funding empowers individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing to navigate their communities with greater confidence and clarity.”

Read more [HERE](#).



New Jersey Human Services Honors Blind and Visually Impaired Individuals at Trenton Thunder Game

Celebrating the accomplishments of individuals who are blind, deafblind, and visually impaired, Human Services' [Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired \(CBVI\)](#) announced college scholarships for four blind, deafblind, or visually impaired students and recognized other blind and visually impaired students for their academic achievements.

Some of the honorees were celebrated during a recent Trenton Thunder game during Blind and Visually Impaired Awareness Night.

"For over two decades, CBVI has celebrated the talents and achievements of individuals who are blind, deafblind, and visually impaired," **said Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman**. "We are proud to award scholarships to such deserving students and to honor the accomplishments of trailblazers in this community during a special Trenton Thunder game. We look forward to seeing how they'll continue to lead, inspire, and shape the future."

“Education should be within reach for everyone, and these scholarships help ease some of the financial burden of pursuing higher education,” **said Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire**. “These scholarships not only provide financial aid but also celebrate the outstanding talents of these students. These scholarships reflect our commitment to inclusion, emphasizing the importance of diversity, equity, and belonging for all.”

“Recognizing the achievements of students who are blind, deafblind, and visually impaired is both an honor and a priority,” **said Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Executive Director Dr. Bernice Davis**. “We are proud to spotlight these exemplary individuals in front of their families, friends, and loved ones, and we welcome them to the 2025 cohort of scholarship recipients. Their accomplishments inspire us all, and we look forward to seeing them continue to reach their goals and shape a brighter future.”

To read more, visit [HERE](#).

↓↓ *More event pictures below.* ↓↓



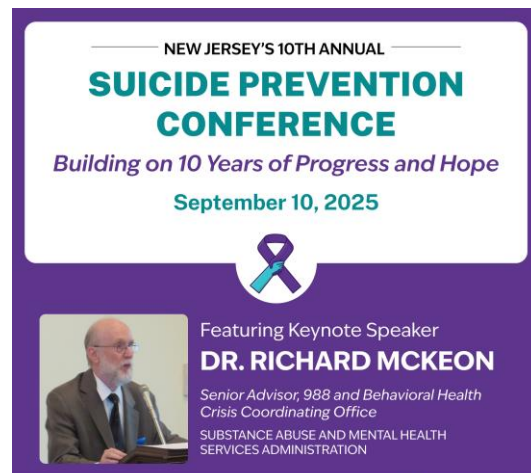
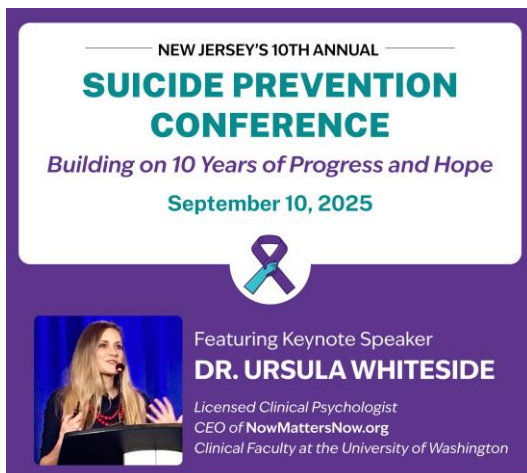
"Medicaid is someone's complete and total life. It's not just health care."
 Commissioner Adelman joined advocates, health care providers,

and disability professionals to share with U.S. Representative Herb Conaway the devastating cuts in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Mercer County Executive Dan Benson, Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health, the Arc of New Jersey, and others shared the human impact the law will have.



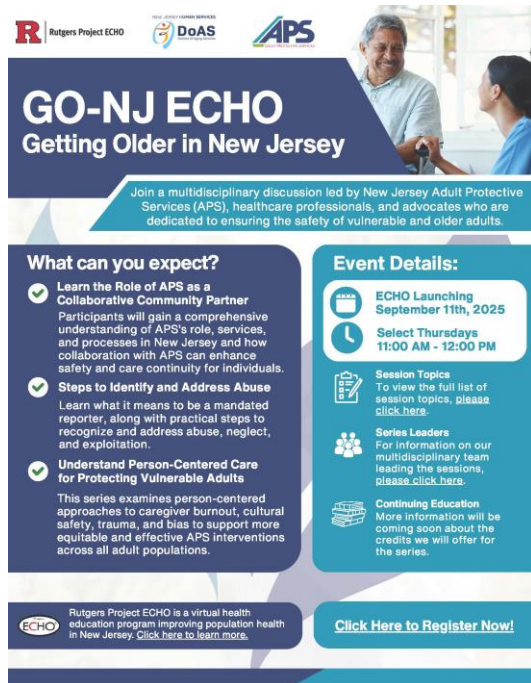


Register today! NJ Human Services' annual virtual Opioid Summit is September 17th. This year's theme: **"New Jersey's Resilience: Improving Lives and Making Strides."** The conference will feature panels, workshops and a keynote. CME and CEU credits available. Register [HERE](#).



Join NJ Department of Human Services, [NJ Department of Health](#) and [NJ Department of Children and Families](#) on September 10th for the 10th Annual Suicide Prevention Conference **"Building on 10 Years of Progress and Hope"**. This event is free, virtual, and all are welcome to join.

Register [HERE](#).



The poster for GO-NJ ECHO features a photograph of an older man and a healthcare professional in a clinical setting. Logos for Rutgers Project ECHO, New Jersey Department of Social Services (DoAS), and APS are at the top. The title 'GO-NJ ECHO' is in large white letters on a dark blue background, with the subtitle 'Getting Older in New Jersey' below it. A text box describes the event as a multidisciplinary discussion led by New Jersey Adult Protective Services (APS), healthcare professionals, and advocates. The 'What can you expect?' section lists three topics: learning the role of APS, steps to identify and address abuse, and understanding person-centered care. The 'Event Details' section provides the launch date (September 11th, 2025), session times (11:00 AM - 12:00 PM), and links for session topics, series leaders, and continuing education. A footer note explains that Rutgers Project ECHO is a virtual health education program, and a 'Click Here to Register Now!' button is at the bottom right.

GO-NJ ECHO
Getting Older in New Jersey

Join a multidisciplinary discussion led by New Jersey Adult Protective Services (APS), healthcare professionals, and advocates who are dedicated to ensuring the safety of vulnerable and older adults.

What can you expect?

- ✓ **Learn the Role of APS as a Collaborative Community Partner**
Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of APS's role, services, and processes in New Jersey and how collaboration with APS can enhance safety and care continuity for individuals.
- ✓ **Steps to Identify and Address Abuse**
Learn what it means to be a mandated reporter, along with practical steps to recognize and address abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- ✓ **Understand Person-Centered Care for Protecting Vulnerable Adults**
This series examines person-centered approaches to caregiver burnout, cultural safety, trauma, and bias to support more equitable and effective APS interventions across all adult populations.

Event Details:

- ECHO Launching**
September 11th, 2025
- Select Thursdays**
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Session Topics**
To view the full list of session topics, please [click here](#).
- Series Leaders**
For information on our multidisciplinary team leading the sessions, please [click here](#).
- Continuing Education**
More information will be coming soon about the credits we will offer for the series.




Rutgers Project ECHO is a virtual health education program improving population health in New Jersey. [Click here to learn more.](#)

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)

Join a multidisciplinary discussion led by [New Jersey Adult Protective Services](#) (APS), healthcare professionals, and advocates who are dedicated to ensuring the safety of vulnerable and older adults. Sessions will be held on select Thursdays from September 11, 2025 through February 19, 2026.

Register [HERE](#)

The [Division of Disability Services](#) is hosting an art sale on September 17 featuring artists from Green Brook Regional Center and Hunterdon Developmental Center. Please join us in supporting the artists at the front entrance of 11A Quakerbridge Plaza, from 11am – 3 pm, Sale items will include paintings, drawings, mosaics, ceramics, flowers and more! Cash and Checks ONLY. Rain Date: Thursday, September 18th, 11am – 3 pm.



NEW JERSEY HUMAN SERVICES
DDS
DIVISION OF
DISABILITY
SERVICES

Department of Human Services Division of Disability Services is hosting an

Art Sale


featuring the artists from
**Green Brook Regional Center and Hunterdon
Developmental Center**

Please join us in supporting the artists at the front entrance of
11A Quakerbridge Plaza

Wednesday, September 17th
11:00am - 3:00pm

Sale items will include paintings, drawings, mosaics, ceramics, calendars,
T-shirts, mugs, plants, flowers, hanging baskets and succulents.

Cash and Checks ONLY
Rain Date: Thursday, September 18th, 11:00am-3pm





[The Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#) led by Dr. Bernice Davis visited [The Seeing Eye, Inc.](#) in Morristown to learn its history and tour the facility. The Seeing Eye enhances independence through the use of guide dogs.

Learn more [HERE](#).



Elizabeth Hill, Executive Director of the [Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#), represented New Jersey at this year's [National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing \(NASADHH\) Policy Summit](#).



NJ kicked off **National Health Center Week** at Franklin Middle School, soon to be home to a [Zufall Health](#) school-based Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Commissioner Adelman spoke at the event about the importance of partnerships in providing quality, compassionate care to all.



Commissioner Sarah Adelman and [NJBPU](#) President Christine Guhl-Sadovy toured the [Joseph Kohn Training Center](#) to see improvements made possible by the NJBPU's State Facilities Initiative & the Clean Energy Fund. \$600,000 was invested to upgrade lighting and controls which allowed for cost cutting and improved accessibility.



Deputy Commissioner and Chief of Staff Jonathan Chebra joined the [NAACP Willingboro](#) to engage with the community regarding the best ways to mitigate the harms of [H.R. 1 \(One Big Beautiful Bill\)](#) for residents who rely on Medicaid and SNAP.



Deputy Commissioner Jonathan Chebra swore in the newest class of [NJ Human Services Police](#) recruits along with three officers who were promoted to detective. Human Services Police protect the people of the state with a focus on children, families, individuals with disabilities and special needs.



Congratulations to Officer Matthew Kenyon and Officer Jonathan Farkas for successfully completing the Newark Police Academy, joining Class 25-26. Officer Kenyon was also the recipient of the class Academic Award. Officer Farkas will be assigned to our Central Region Command and Officer Kenyon will be assigned to the Northern Region Command.

Welcome to [Human Services Police](#).



Various members from [NJ Department of Human Services Police](#) participated in [National Night Out 2025](#) events in both Ewing and Vineland.

National Night Out is a yearly event that is focused on strengthening the relationship between Law Enforcement and the communities we serve.



The NJ State Police [New Jersey Office of Emergency Management](#) recognized and awarded certificates to members of the State's Incident Management Team who deployed to North Carolina to support Hurricane Helene recovery efforts.

James Manski from [NJ Department of Human Services Office of Emergency Management](#) was a member of the first team that deployed.



NJ Human Services' Office of Emergency Management in coordination with the Disaster and Terrorism Branch had its final Family Assistance Center event at [Kean University](#). Deputy Commissioner for Health Services Valerie Mielke provided opening remarks about establishing a Family Assistance Center in the aftermath of a tragic event.



The Department's [Office of Emergency Management](#) held its annual mass care meeting at the Red Cross HQ in Tinton Falls. Representatives of the Mass Care Coordination Group consisted of Federal, State and Non-Governmental agencies to discuss mass care planning, response and recovery efforts. During the meeting, Richard Sensi of the Department's Office of Emergency Management and Edward Blanchard of the Red Cross were recognized for their services to the citizens of the State.

www.accessnaturenj.org

A directory of parks and
natural and scenic areas
throughout the state
that are accessible for
people with disabilities



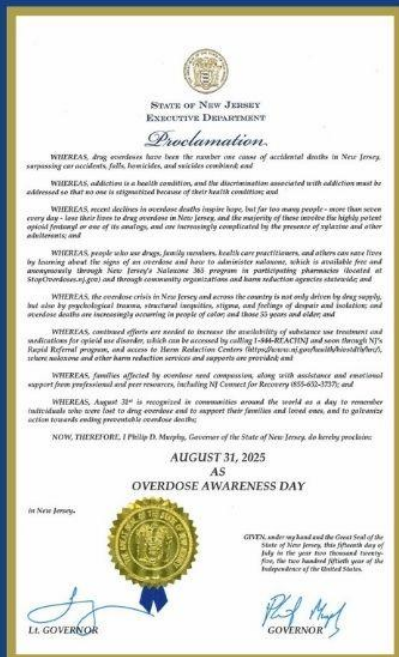
Nature:
ACCESSIBLE
FOR ALL



Explore nature in New Jersey. Visit <http://accessnaturenj.org>
to find parks and natural areas throughout the state that are
accessible for people with disabilities.



Governor's August Proclamations



Overdose Awareness Day



Accessible Air Travel Day



August 21st was **National Senior Citizens Day!** Older residents and people with disabilities can save money without leaving home!

The Division of Aging Services offers NJSave, an online application to help older adults and individuals with disabilities save money on Medicare premiums, prescription costs, and other living expenses.

Check out our video to learn more, and visit [HERE](#) to apply today.

August 26th was **Women's Equality Day**. We honor and celebrate NJ Human Services women leaders working to ensure women have health and child care, child support, food assistance and more. Visit:

njfamilycare.org childcarenj.gov

njchildsupport.org njhelps.org

nj.gov/connectingnj



WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY 2025



Sarah Adelman
Commissioner



Kaylee McGuire
Deputy Commissioner
for Aging and
Disability Services



Valerie Mielke
Deputy Commissioner
for Health Services



Renee Burawski
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Mental Health
and Addiction Services



Johanna Calle
Director
Office of
New Americans



Dr. Bernice Davis
Executive Director
Commission for the Blind
and Visually Impaired



Lisa Gaffney
Director
Human Resources



Elizabeth Hill
Executive Director
Division of the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing



Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner
Division of
Family Development



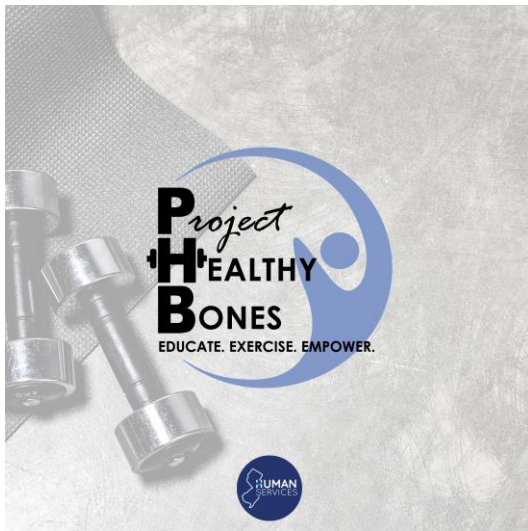
Jacqueline Moskowitz
Senior Director
Division of
Disability Services



Deborah Robinson
Director
Office of Program Integrity
and Accountability



Louise Rush
Assistant Commissioner
Division of
Aging Services



In August, we highlighted bone health for older adults. Keep your bones healthy with **Project Healthy Bones**, an exercise and education program for people with, or at risk for osteoporosis. The 24-week program can help participants improve strength, balance and flexibility.

Learn more [HERE](#).

August was **Child Support Awareness Month**, a time to raise awareness about all the critical supports that help kids thrive.

Visit [HERE](#) to learn more.



[NJ SNAP](#) | [NJ FAMILYCARE](#) | [NJHELPS](#)

FOLLOW US!

