



Commissioner's Welcome

In what is believed to be the largest single-day public distribution event of its kind, NJ Human Services on June 18 provided free naloxone – the opioid overdose drug commonly known as Narcan – to more than 16,000 New Jerseyans who visited participating pharmacies across the state. Each pack contained two doses of naloxone nasal spray, resulting in more than 32,000 doses being distributed in one day. We encourage everyone to carry naloxone and to be prepared to help intervene and reverse opioid overdoses.



(left to right) Commissioner Johnson, Governor Murphy and pharmacist Chirag Patel at a Walgreens that distributed naloxone in Hamilton.

Our goal is to save lives, and we are so grateful to the thousands of residents who came out to participate and send a clear message that New Jerseyans stand together in our work to turn the tide of the opioid epidemic.

This distribution was made possible because of the Governor's opioid initiative, and we look forward to continuing to advance innovative strategies to combat the opioid epidemic through the Governor's budget.

Free Naloxone Day is one of several steps NJ Human Services has taken to combat the opioid epidemic. As of April 1st, we have ensured that Medicaid no longer requires prior authorization for medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction, meaning that a health care provider does not need prior approval from a health plan before initiating treatment. It is critical that we get people started on treatment as soon as possible, and this is one more step in getting us there.

I was delighted to join clinical leaders from our Department and our Department-funded Rowan Medicaid Center for Excellence for opioid treatment at the Medical Society of New Jersey's annual meeting to talk with physicians from across the state about the work we are doing to expand access to medication-assisted treatment through Medicaid, including new reimbursement policies and supports. We were encouraged by their support and enthusiasm for the approach and look forward to continuing to work with community-based physicians and nurse practitioners as we focus on creating more opportunities for connecting people to opioid treatment.

This summer, we'll also expand access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction at syringe access programs in Atlantic City and Asbury Park. We are partnering with the Department of Corrections and wardens at county jails on an effort to better connect justice-involved individuals with opioid addiction to treatment. And, we are working with community partners across the state to improve education and information about alternatives to opioid prescribing.

You also may have seen our 844-ReachNJ digital ads, bus ads and billboards. We are working hard to get the word out that treatment assistance is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week through our assistance line, and we welcome your help in spreading that message.

This is all part of Governor Murphy's all-hands-on-deck approach to combating the opioid epidemic, and part of Human Services' effort to go all-in on medication-assisted treatment.

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Commissioner's Welcome...continued



Commissioner Johnson talks to 6ABC about the naloxone distribution day.

Over the past several months, we've also announced several steps to make it easier for individuals and families who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to receive critical services and assistance, including child care, in a timely way. This was an important step forward in our fight for a stronger and fairer New Jersey.

We've also made addressing the unacceptable racial disparities in infant and

maternal mortality in New Jersey a priority. We were proud to stand with the Governor, First Lady and legislative leaders to mark the enactment of several legislative changes in Medicaid to improve services and change payment in ways that support better health outcomes for moms and babies of color. We're also pleased that the Governor's budget makes critical investments

in our work to create a new doula services benefit in Medicaid. Doulas support healthy pregnancies by providing culturally appropriate social and emotional support to pregnant women throughout the prenatal period, labor and delivery, and the postpartum period.

In addition, on World Refugee Day, we were delighted to join the International Rescue Committee and community partners from across the state in meeting with new refugees, hearing their compelling stories, and re-emphasizing the importance of New Jersey being a welcoming state for all.

We are also proud to share our newly revised and redesigned NJ Human Services Resources Guide, a comprehensive listing of services and supports across the state, with you. Links and details below. We hope you will take a look and use this important resource in your work.

We look forward to continuing to work with each of you on our shared goals of helping New Jerseyans and their families to thrive.



Carol Johnson
NJ Human Services Commissioner

Murphy Administration Distributes Free Naloxone Throughout New Jersey on June 18

NJ Human Services Distributes More Than 16,000 Naloxone Packs to Reverse Opioid Overdoses

The New Jersey Department of Human Services on June 18 distributed more than 16,000 packs of naloxone -- the opioid overdose reversal drug commonly known as Narcan -- to New Jerseyans on June 18th.

The distribution was part of the Department's initiative to provide naloxone for free and anonymously at pharmacies throughout the state.

Each pack contained two doses of naloxone nasal spray, resulting in more than 32,000 doses distributed in one day. The Department encourages individuals to carry naloxone and to be prepared to help intervene and reverse opioid overdoses.

"Our goal is to save lives," **Commissioner Johnson said.** "We launched our free naloxone day initiative to give residents a lifesaving tool and the chance to save friends, loved ones and community members. New Jerseyans responded in overwhelming numbers, and I want to thank everyone who took the opportunity to get naloxone and is now prepared to help stop overdoses and turn the tide of this epidemic."

"The scourge of opioids continues to devastate families and communities across our state, and we must do everything we can to end the opioid epidemic," **said Governor Murphy.**

NJ Human Services made naloxone available for free and without individual prescriptions at 174 pharmacies. More than 3,000 New Jerseyans died of drug overdoses in 2018.



Free naloxone day also was an opportunity to share information about the importance of getting connected to treatment. Commissioner Johnson urged anyone needing help with addiction to call the State's treatment assistance hotline anytime day or night at 1-844-REACHNJ.

"Giving people this live-saving antidote was also an opportunity to get people on the path to recovery," **said New Jersey Department of Human Services Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke**, who manages Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. "Naloxone use is an opportunity to get individuals with opioid addiction on the path to long-term recovery."



Commissioner Johnson Highlights Minimum Wage Increase at Community Foodbank of New Jersey's Food Service Training Academy Graduation

Commissioner Johnson highlighted Governor Murphy's minimum wage increase as she joined the Community FoodBank of New Jersey to congratulate new Food Service Training Academy graduates.

The Food Service Training Academy exemplifies the FoodBank's commitment to providing not only food, but also a recipe for a better life. The free, 15-week culinary and life skills program teaches students about nutrition and healthy cooking. Students benefit from employment services to receive hands-on experience through internships and to help them find full-time jobs prior to graduation. The program graduates four classes per year and has an average job-placement rate exceeding 90-percent within one month of completion.

The Community FoodBank of New Jersey works with Human Services to provide access to SNAP and workforce development initiatives to low-income residents.

"Across the Murphy Administration, we are working hard to improve economic opportunity for New Jerseyans. As the Commissioner of Human Services, my commitment is to helping vulnerable individuals and families get on the best possible financial footing – and we are taking important steps to support these New Jerseyans by increasing the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2024," **said Commissioner Johnson**. "I was delighted to join in recognizing the graduates of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey's Food Service Training Academy, who worked hard and learned important skills that will serve them well in our state's growing economy."

"The Food Service Training Academy is part of the FoodBank's commitment to go beyond feeding the pantry lines by working to shorten them through workforce development initiatives," **said FoodBank President & CEO Carlos Rodriguez**. "Together with Commissioner Johnson and the Department of Human Services, we're empowering more of our neighbors in need with stable, fulfilling careers."

Medicaid Removes Prior Authorization for Opioid Addiction Treatment Medication

As of April 1, NJ Medicaid no longer requires prior authorization before patients can access medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction -- removing a barrier to care and allowing Medicaid recipients to get quicker access to proven treatment.

The move means those needing opioid addiction treatment will no longer have to wait for approval for medication-assisted treatment (MAT) before they begin treatment. MAT is the clinical standard and evidence-based strategy for treating opioid addiction and advancing recovery.

"Medicaid recipients can now receive proven treatment for opioid addiction as soon as their health care provider prescribes it," **Commissioner Johnson said**. "When someone with an opioid addiction is ready for treatment, we shouldn't be losing them to care while they wait for approval. Our Medicaid plans have worked with us to get this change implemented quickly, and we hope it will make a meaningful difference in terms of timely access to care. We also hope it will encourage more health care providers to offer medication-assisted treatment because it will reduce the time and paperwork associated with delivering this care."

"New Jersey's Medicaid program is a valuable tool in the fight against the opioid epidemic," **said Human Services Deputy Commissioner Sarah Adelman**. "With this change, we are easing burdens and removing barriers to care to help increase treatment and prevent overdose. Our goal is to save lives."



Watch Commissioner Johnson on NJTV's On the Record with Michael Aron discussing health care coverage, how Governor Murphy's budget improves care for individuals with disabilities and efforts to prevent homelessness and provide food assistance.

[Click Here](#) to watch.

NJ Human Services Makes It Easier for Residents At Risk of Homelessness to Get the Help They Need

The Department of Human Services is taking action to make it easier for individuals and families who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to receive critical services and assistance in a timely way.

Commissioner Johnson announced in April that the changes include updating guidance and proposing rule changes to make timely access to Emergency Assistance services easier for eligible individuals struggling to make rent, pay utilities or secure emergency shelter; making it easier for families experiencing homelessness to get child care; and easing barriers to enrollment for these critical programs.

“Too many individuals and families across New Jersey struggle to get on the strongest possible financial footing,” **said Commissioner Johnson**. “As we implement important changes like increasing the minimum wage to help our families improve their economic outlook, we also need to ensure that our safety net is strong to protect those who continue to struggle. The steps we are taking today will strengthen our ability to prevent and respond to the threat of homelessness. Most importantly, these changes will bring critical help to individuals and families at their time of greatest need.”

“Building a stronger and fairer New Jersey means helping those facing a housing crisis find safe shelter while we help them on a path to stable housing, and the Department of Human Services is committed to helping families get the support they need,” **said Human Services Deputy Commissioner Elisa Neira**. “That’s why we’re taking steps to remove barriers and get timely help to those at risk of homelessness.”

“We are very excited by these long-awaited changes that represent big steps forward in our fight against homelessness in New Jersey,” **said Staci Berger, president and CEO of the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey**.

“Securing housing for a family is the first step in helping that family get back on their feet,” **said Human Services’ Division of Family Development Director Natasha Johnson**. “We will continue to look for opportunities to advance policies to prevent homelessness and protect our most vulnerable residents.”

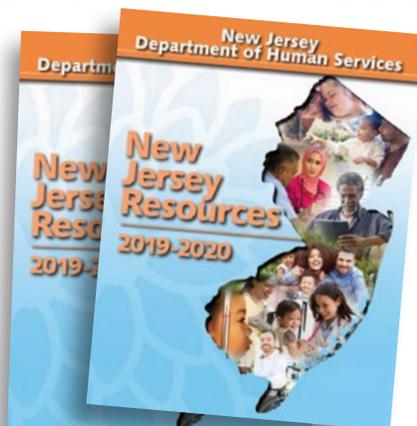
New Resource Guide Now Available

New Jersey Human Services and its Division of Disability Services is excited to release the newly designed New Jersey Resources Guide, a comprehensive resource identifying the various programs and services the Department and our partners offer to New Jersey residents, caregivers and advocates.

The guide received a new and improved look this year, better organizing the content for easier access.

It can found **here** online.

“This newly designed guide is meant to be a handy resource for families to find information on the range of assistance available to address critical needs like food, income and employment assistance, as well as health care and much more,” **said Commissioner Johnson**. “A caregiver can get information on support programs and services to assist them in caring for their loved ones. And individuals with disabilities and their families can get information on services such as in-home supports, vocational rehabilitation, and education.”



DMHAS Assistant Commissioner Mielke Heads National Mental Health Directors Group

NJ Human Services’ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) Assistant Commissioner Mielke was recently selected to serve as president of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD).

Last year, Assistant Commissioner Mielke served as NASMHPD’s vice president and previously served as co-lead of the organization’s housing task force. She also serves on the board of directors of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors.

Before becoming DMHAS Assistant Commissioner, Mielke served for eight years as Assistant Director for the Office of Treatment and Recovery Support within DMHAS. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fairfield University and a Master of Social Work degree from Rutgers University.

She recently received the State Leadership in Mental Health and Addiction Services Award from the New Jersey Association of Mental Health & Addiction Agencies.

The Division of Aging Services Honored for its NJSave Online Saving Application



The Division of Aging Services' NJSave online savings application won the first place "Innovations in Benefits Outreach: National Contest to Identify Promising Practices in Benefits Outreach to Persons with Disabilities and Older Adults" award from the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) and the National Council on Aging (NCOA).

"Reaching potentially eligible individuals is a vital factor in increasing enrollment rates in benefit programs," the organizations said in announcing the award. "This contest was designed to identify promising practices that strengthen our understanding of successful outreach strategies."

NJSave launched last year. The online application helps older adults and individuals with disabilities save on medical care, prescriptions and other living expenses. New Jersey's online portal and outreach strategy provides an opportunity to educate and reach more eligible individuals and increase enrollment in benefit programs.

The NASUAD and NCOA said they look forward to highlighting and sharing NJSave with aging and disability networks nationwide.

"The Murphy Administration is committed to making it easier for New Jersey's aging and disabled residents to get the services they need," **Commissioner Johnson said**. "This national recognition of the work of Human Services' Aging team and Aging Division Director Louise Rush is a testament to that commitment."

"I am proud of our staff and all of the innovative and creative thinking that went into this award-winning initiative," **said DoAS Director Louise Rush**. "Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for people to get the benefits they need."

Governor Murphy Signs Legislative Package to Combat New Jersey's Maternal and Infant Health Crisis

Governor Phil Murphy signed a legislative package into law to combat New Jersey's maternal and infant health crisis.

The series of bills, which will support the Administration's Nurture NJ campaign, seek to improve health outcomes for New Jersey's mothers and babies, as well as address racial disparities in maternal and infant care.

"By enacting these measures today, New Jersey is making a strong statement that every mother, every birth, and every child matters," **said Governor Murphy**. "I am proud to sign these bills into law and commend my partners in the Legislature for their commitment to improve the health and safety of New Jersey's women, children, and families."

"Empowering mothers and ensuring their voices reverberate through the health care system is a vital piece of improving maternal and infant health outcomes in New Jersey," **said First Lady Tammy Murphy**. "Through Nurture NJ, and now through this legislation, we are continuing forward on a path to make New Jersey the safest place in the country to give birth."

"Under the leadership of Governor Murphy, First Lady Murphy and the Legislature, New Jersey has made improving maternal and



Commissioner Johnson speaks at Governor Murphy's Maternal and Infant Health bill signings.

infant health a top priority," **said Commissioner Johnson**. "The legislation signed into law today represents critical steps in advancing our goal of eliminating the unacceptable disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes in our State. At the Department of Human Services, we look forward to implementing these new laws including adding doula services to our Medicaid program as proposed in the Governor's budget."

Murphy Administration Boosts Health Information Technology to Address the Opioid Epidemic

The Murphy Administration announced it's moving to improve the use of electronic health records to combat the opioid epidemic and benefit consumers throughout New Jersey.

NJ Human Services is joining with the Department of Health to help behavioral health providers implement electronic health records in their facilities and connect to other health care providers through the New Jersey Health Information Network.

The goal is to enhance coordination among substance use disorder providers and the rest of the health care system by providing increased access to electronic health records and promoting interoperability among them, which are critical elements in New Jersey's strategy to address the opioid crisis.



“Prompt and secure exchange of health information among health care providers is key to delivering quality health care. For too long, there hasn't been the same focus and investment in the

technology capacity of substance use disorder treatment providers as there has been for other providers,” **said Commissioner Johnson.** “As part of our comprehensive strategy to combat the opioid epidemic, the Murphy Administration is changing that by investing in electronic health records for behavioral health care providers.”

Implementing electronic records technology allows providers to efficiently capture and store data in a structured format that, with the proper privacy and security processes in place, can be used to assist in patient care and recovery.

NJ Human Services Helps Doctors Learn About Medicaid Policies to Support Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder

In a continuing effort to turn the tide of the opioid epidemic in New Jersey, Commissioner Johnson and other Human Services officials participated in a panel discussion at the Medical Society of New Jersey's annual meeting.

“Governor Murphy has called for all-hands-on-deck approach to this fight,” **Commissioner Johnson told the doctors gathered for the discussion.**

The Human Services panel discussed the efficacy of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and its successes in helping people with opioid use disorder get and stay on the road to recovery. The discussion focused on changes to Medicaid that Human Services has made to encourage more health care providers to offer MAT.

Expanding the utilization of MAT is part of Governor Murphy's approach to combat the epidemic by making outpatient treatment more accessible, enhancing real-time data collection to focus on risk factors, and expanding access to social services.



In one important step to increase access to MAT, Medicaid, as of April 1, removed the requirement for prior authorization for MAT, reducing the time it takes for people to enter treatment.

The Commissioner encouraged health care providers to take advantage of available MAT training as well as the resources available at the newly formed Centers of Excellence for opioid treatment at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and Cooper Medical School of Rowan University.

Commissioner Johnson was joined on the panel by Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services Medical Director Robert Eilers, M.D., NJ Family Care Behavioral Health Chief Steve Tunney, and Dr. Rachel Haroz, M.D., of the Rowan Medicaid Center of Excellence.



Program Spotlight

Our newsletter will regularly shine a spotlight on NJ Human Services programs and the employees behind these initiatives. This edition highlights FamilyCare Outreach and the Disaster and Terrorism Branch.

FamilyCare Outreach Office Aims to Get More People Insured



L-R seated: Charlene South, Richard Johnson, Joetta Belardo, Karen Pittman. Standing L-R Jennifer Commiso, Lauren Koenig, Brittany Brandecker, Cynthia Lakie and Stephanie Bergner.

[Click here for more information.](#)

The Office of NJ FamilyCare Family Outreach within the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services aims to increase the number of New Jersey families with affordable health insurance.

The unit's major focus is outreach to uninsured state residents who are eligible for NJ FamilyCare. This outreach is achieved through partnerships with other state departments to enroll families already accessing government programs, partnerships with community-based organizations, corporate partnerships, and community education programs.

NJ FamilyCare also offers training to the public and local application assistance sites.

NJ FamilyCare's Presumptive Eligibility Unit (PE) is charged with processing temporary NJ FamilyCare eligibility for pregnant woman, children, and adults who qualify. It also processes temporary Medicaid eligibility for women screened through the New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection Program who have been found to have breast and/or cervical cancer and need treatment.

DMHAS Provides Mental Health First Aid Training to Community Groups



Kathy Pignatelli, Michael Parmenter, Megan Sullivan, Neal Stephens, Wendy Chin, Maurice Sheppard Adrienne Fessler-Belli - missing is Paul Miller.

[Click here for more information.](#)

The Disaster and Terrorism Branch of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services provides free mental health first aid and suicide prevention training to community groups and anyone working with the general public, veterans or first responders.

The goal of this initiative is to increase mental health awareness, ensure resources are available to those in crisis and link them to the services they need.

Under the leadership of Director Adrienne Fessler-Belli, the Branch presents Mental Health First Aid trainings to teach New Jerseyans how to identify, understand and respond to the signs of mental illness and substance use disorders. Through role-playing and simulations, it demonstrates how to assess a mental health crisis, select interventions and provide initial help. They are trained to connect people to professional, peer and social supports as well as self-help resources.

The Branch also provides training in the suicide prevention program QPR, which stands for Question, Persuade and Refer -

the three simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide.

Both Mental Health First Aid and QPR trainings and materials are provided at no cost to hosting agencies.

NJ Human Services Commemorates World Refugee Day

NJ Human Services joined with the New Jersey Office of the International Rescue Committee on June 20 to commemorate World Refugee Day by highlighting the strengths and contributions refugees bring to New Jersey.

Representatives from refugee-serving agencies and refugee communities throughout New Jersey attended the event, and three refugees who are leaders in their community spoke about starting new lives in New Jersey and their contributions to their new communities.

“In New Jersey, we offer a welcoming message to refugees who have been forced to flee their homes in the name of safety for themselves and their families,” **Commissioner Johnson said.** “Welcoming and integrating refugees in our state makes New Jersey a more vibrant and prosperous place where communities can thrive together. Refugees are new New Jerseyans - they are our neighbors, our co-workers, our friends – and the Murphy Administration will continue to stand with our new friends despite the damaging rhetoric and action coming from Washington.”

Governor Phil Murphy last year signed a law designating June 20th as World Refugee Day in New Jersey.



NJ Human Services Honors its Police Officers During Police Week



The New Jersey Department of Human Services marked National Police Week on May 15 by honoring 20 of its police officers for their efforts to protect some of New Jersey’s most vulnerable residents.

Police Week is celebrated annually to recognize police officers around the country who lost their lives in the line of duty and to recognize officer achievements. During the ceremony, portraits were presented to the families of two Human Services Police Officers who lost their lives in the line of duty – Officer Wilson McLaurin, who died in the line of duty in 1975, and Sgt. Lawrence Bannick, who died in the line of duty in 1977.

“New Jersey’s Human Services Police often handle situations and duties that are the true essence of community policing by engaging with individuals and families at times of great vulnerability and providing steady and supportive leadership,” **Commissioner Johnson said.** “Their work requires specialized skills and talents and training. I thank them, particularly their leader Director Tim Gallagher, for their dedication and commitment.”



Governor Murphy Signs Mental Health Parity Legislation

Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation that will enhance enforcement of mental health parity laws by improving transparency and accountability related to the insurance coverage of mental health and substance use disorder treatment services for New Jersey residents.

“No one should have to forego treatment or take on a monumental expense to receive care because of inequities in coverage. We must do everything we can to ensure that individuals who need treatment are able to get it. This new law enhances enforcement and oversight of mental health parity laws to ensure that mental health and substance use disorders are treated on par with physical health conditions,” **said Governor Murphy.** “Providing access to health care remains a priority for my administration and we will continue to work to remove obstacles that hinder people’s abilities to receive the care they need.”

“Mental health care is health care. Substance use disorder treatment is health care. Our laws should be clear that these conditions must be covered on par with the way we cover other health care services. New Jersey is taking action to ensure that our laws match our goals,” **said Commissioner Johnson.** “I am pleased to join with the Governor, legislative leaders, and the advocates who have led this fight and to continue to work each day to help New Jerseyans with mental health and substance use disorders get the care they need.”

Syringe Access Programs in Asbury Park and Atlantic City to Offer Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction

Starting this summer, syringe access programs in Atlantic City and Asbury Park will provide access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction under a new initiative announced in April by Commissioner Johnson.

The Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey is running the program to prescribe buprenorphine, which is a medication-assisted treatment to treat opioid addiction, at the syringe access sites. The access will be available at the South Jersey AIDS Alliance in Atlantic City and the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey's location in Asbury Park.

"This program will offer life-changing help in a safe environment for individuals struggling with opioid addiction," **said Commissioner Johnson.** "We continue to focus on reducing barriers to treatment, addressing unmet treatment needs and maintaining recovery. Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for people facing opioid addiction to find effective help in many different ways. This plan will provide on-demand access to treatment for individuals who otherwise may find it challenging to access substance use disorder help."

Commissioner Johnson hits the airwaves to get the word out about New Jersey's Free Naloxone Distribution Day



- FIOS 1 News
Click [HERE](#) to watch



- NBC 10
Click [HERE](#) to watch



- News 12 NJ
Click [HERE](#) to watch



- FOX 29
Click [HERE](#) to watch

Addiction Help.

Always Here. Always Live.



ReachNJ.gov

844-ReachNJ





NJ Human Services **SNAPSHOTS**



Human Services' Division of Disability Services and Office of Emergency Management met with residents at the Abilities Expo in Edison, highlighting the many services offered to individuals with disabilities.



Deputy Commissioner Adelman (far right) met with the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, parents and advocates to discuss Governor Murphy's proposed new investments to care for individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with co-occurring behavioral health needs.



Commissioner Johnson joined children at the Trenton War Memorial to mark Autism Awareness Month with Bubbles 4 Autism.



Commissioner Johnson joined Joanne Kenen of Politico for a terrific conversation about federal and state health care policies and met the next generation of women leaders at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



Commissioner Johnson and Deputy Commissioners Adelman and Neira met with the New Jersey State Association of Jewish Federations to discuss services and programming for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

NJ Human Services **SNAPSHOTS** *Continued*



L-R, Chief Financial Officer Brian Francz, Commissioner Johnson, Deputy Commissioner Adelman and Deputy Commissioner Neira testify at the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee hearing on the Governor's proposed budget for next fiscal year.



Deputy Commissioner Adelman and Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Sefried joined the New Jersey Association of Community Providers and its membership to discuss issues impacting people with developmental disabilities.



Division of Aging Services Director Louise Rush (second from left) celebrated the 10-year anniversary of LIFE Living Independently for Elders St. Francis.



Commissioner Johnson joined former Governor Jim McGreevey and other top state officials to discuss Human Services' work on medication-assisted treatment and the reentry population with opioid use disorder.



Human Services had an important discussion with the Medical Society of New Jersey about Murphy Administration's efforts to support physicians providing medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction.



Commissioner Johnson speaks to the New Jersey Primary Care Association about the Murphy Administration's commitment to women's health.





NJ Human Services **SNAPSHOTS** *Continued*



Division of Aging Services Director Louise Rush, Deputy Commissioner Adelman, and Commissioner Johnson and took a tour of the Inspira-Health Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly, which enables seniors to live safely in the community.



Commissioner Johnson and Assembly members Nicholas Chiaravallotti and Joann Downey tour Trinitas Regional Medical Center.

Governor Murphy's Visit to DHS



Human Services honored 16 New Jersey high school and middle school students for their winning entries in the 2019 New Jersey Child Support Teen Media Contest, which celebrated the artistic and written portrayal of situations when the students felt most supported by a parent or loved one.



Commissioner Johnson joined Dr. Leana Wen, National President/CEO of Planned Parenthood, and leaders and advocates from throughout the state for a conversation about New Jersey's work to improve women's health and end disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes.

NJ Human Services **SNAPSHOTS** *Continued*



Human Services is recognized for its charitable efforts through the New Jersey Employees Charitable Campaign after employees more than doubled their charitable donations in 2018. Chief of Staff Andrea Katz and Commissioner Carole Johnson (third and fourth from right) were on hand for the honors.

DHS Employee Recognition



Human Services honored staff during Public Service Recognition Week. L-R Anthony Jannetto, Richard Sensi, John Castle, Commissioner Johnson, Lisa Ciaston, Edward Conover.



Russ Hendrickson (center) and Jamie Bodrog-Powell (right) of the Office of Emergency Management were honored for their deployment to California to help with disaster operations during the wildfires.



Division of Aging Services Director Rush was a guest speaker at the Top Ladies of Distinction conference. L-R, Lady Simone Howard, Senior Citizen Co-Chair; Lady Drema Lee Woldman, National President; Director Rush; Lady Ozell Dean, one of the organization's founders; and Lady Sandra Clark, National Area II Director.



Human Services staff donated Socks 4 Vets. L-R Dorothy Wilkes, Eagleton Fellow; Commissioner Johnson; General Jemal J. Beale, New Jersey Adjutant General; Director of Veterans Service Colonel (Retired) Walter Nall, Brigadier; Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Lisa Hou; Adam Neary, DHS Director of Legislative Affairs and Community Outreach.



NJ Human Services **SNAPSHOTS** *Continued*

Take Your Child to Work Day



Red Nose Day 2019



SPAN Event



Human Services at the SPAN Parent Advocacy Network Deaf Mentor Program kick-off. Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Director Elizabeth Hill, Mary Jane DiPaolo, Assistant Director of Program Operations and Community Outreach for Community Child Care Solutions, and Deputy Commissioner Neira spoke to families about the Leveling the Playing Field initiative that provides ASL instruction to children up to 5 years old.



Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried (first from left) was among those helping Community Options cut the ribbon for Vaseful Flower & Gift's new Princeton location, where individuals with disabilities will receive job training and employment





NJ Human Services **SNAPSHOTS** *Continued*

First Lady Tammy Murphy's Family Festival



Multiple divisions at NJ Human Services were out-in-force at First Lady Tammy Murphy's Family Festival in Newark.



Community Voices



Free Naloxone Distribution June 18

Hey NJ, make sure to get your FREE #naloxone! You could save a life! New Jersey to offer free naloxone at pharmacies on June 18!

- US Surgeon General

"Sharing with @Surgeon_General - Imagine if this was a nationwide opportunity. Proud of my state! I teach at @RUCamdenNursing in the school nurse certificate program. Our students are participating as part of our program.

#NaloxoneDay #SaveLives

- Robin Cogan

"Pharmacies throughout New Jersey are providing free Narcan TODAY, June 18th. If you believe you may someday need it to save a life, please stop by at a participating location and pick up this lifesaving overdose reversal medication.

#NarcanSavesLives

- Senator Tom Kean@tomkean

"I just went to @Walgreens in New Brunswick to get Narcan, which the NJ Dept of Human Services is offering FOR FREE today only at 175 pharmacies in NJ. It wasn't scary (it was just like picking up any other prescription, but anon/\$0), and the other 3 ppl in line got it, too.

- Gabrielle Saulsbery@GSaulsbery

"Today, one day only, free naloxone is available to anyone in New Jersey. Visit <http://nj.gov/humanservices/stopoverdoses> to find participating pharmacies in your community,"

- Speaker Craig Coughlin @SpeakerCoughlin

"Dear #NewJerseyans, today the @NJHHS is giving out an overdose reversal drug called #naloxone for FREE at participating pharmacies. See below to find a location near you and get your kit today!"

- HHSRegion2@HHSRegion2

"I stopped by my local pharmacy today to pick up a kit - super easy. Shop-Rite in Ewing is a site!"

- sarahsteward@sarahsteward

"We had a high demand, about one person every five minutes."

- Pharmacist Chris Yanoschak of Boyt Drugs in Metuchen

"I'm proud I was able to help families and caregivers and potentially save someone's life."
- Pharmacist Chirag Patel of the Walgreens on Route 33 in Hamilton

Community Voices *Continued*

"Thank you @NJ DHS
for taking these steps to ensure people
facing housing insecurity get the help
they need."

- *Anti-Poverty Network @anti_poverty*

"It's great to see the
NJ DHS taking action
to help homeless and at-risk residents
get the services and support they need.
Many thanks to Commissioner Johnson for
leading the way to assist NJ's
most vulnerable citizens."

- *Senator Vin Gopal*

"Thanks Commissioner Johnson @NJ DHS
for ending pre-auth for MATs in NJ Medicaid.
In addition, more \$ for training primary care folks to
provide MATs; improved payment to primary care;
funding new centers of excellence; and requiring
MATs in residential facilities.

Good news!"

- *John V. Jacobi, Health law professor at
Seton Hall Law School*

"This is the type of leadership
we need in more states:
eliminating prior-with for MAT.
Great work @GovMurphy & Meghan Davey @
statemedicaid @NatlGovsAssoc

- *Andrey Ostrovsky, MD
@AndreyOstrovsky*

"Ensuring services for those
in immediate need, especially
repealing the unclear and hurtful
causing your
own homelessness' standard and
supporting young adults at-risk
of homelessness will bring
much-needed help to
individuals and families when they
need it the most. New Jersey is
removing barriers and opening
the doors to assistance."

- *Staci Berger, president and CEO
of the Housing and
Community
Development Network
of New Jersey*

"These are hallmarks of the type of leadership
necessary to end the opioid epidemic."

- *Dr. Patrice Harris, president-elect of the
American Medical Association,
chair of the AMA Opioid Task Force*

Community Voices *Continued*

"We thank @GovMurphy, Comm. Johnson, & @NJ DHS for their leadership in tackling the opioid crisis by eliminating prior authorization for #MAT for #Medicaid beneficiaries." With @CooperHospital and @projHOPECamden, we piloted innovations to improve MAT access: Camden Coalition @camdenhealth

"Shoutout to @NJ DHS for providing low-threshold access to medication-assisted treatment in two of New Jersey's syringe access programs! This program will provide life-saving help by removing barriers to evidence-based treatment"
- Drug Policy Alliance NJ @DrugPolicy_NJ #harmreduction #MAT

"Urban League of Hudson County Senior Services program salutes @GovMurphy and @NJ DHS for supporting the quality of life of seniors in our community this May #OlderAmericansMonth and all year long,"
- UrbanLeague/Hudson@ulohc

"Hi everyone, the Department of Human Services released their annual Resource Guide. It has EVERYTHING you could ever need! Not just disability."
- Kevin G. Nunez@AdvocateKNunez FollowFollow @AdvocateKNunez @NJ DHS @njsap @@NJ CDD #harmreduction #MAT

"New Jersey continues to be a leader in innovative practices to stem the tragedy of opioid abuse,"
- Cathleen Bennett, New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA) President and CEO.

"A great day for maternal health in NJ - @GovMurphy @FirstLadyNJ signing four maternal health bills S1784, S3365, S3378, S3406"
- BurkeFoundation @BurkeFoundation

"Thank you @NJ DHS Commissioner Carole Johnson for taking a few minutes to explain the critical work and services of your department to Hightstown High School Sophomore Laasya before the Assembly Budget Committee today!
- Libby Swanke Vinson@libbyvinson @HHS_vinson

"Thank you to @NJ DHS Commissioner Carole Johnson for celebrating Older Americans Month with @Inspira_Health LIFE today."
- NJhospitals #OAM19

@NJ DHS Dep Commish Sarah @sarahmadelman and Asst Commish Jon Sefried joined NJACP and its membership at our Monthly Membership mtg to discuss issues impacting people with IDD - thanks for all the hard work you do and for taking the time to speak with NJACP providers!
- Maureen Shea @NJACP_Maureen



Human Services In The News

Naloxone Distribution Day - June 18, 2019

NJ TO DISTRIBUTE FREE NARCAN NEXT WEEK AT THESE PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES

KYW NEWSRADIO 1060 – JUNE 13, 2019

NEW JERSEY TO GIVE AWAY DOSES OF NALOXONE JUNE 18

FOX 29 – JUNE 16, 2019

Commissioner Johnson: Free Narcan Available to Anyone, One Day Only. It's One Way the State is Fighting the Opioid Crisis

NJ.COM- JUNE 17, 2019

New Jersey To Launch One-Day Program To Distribute Free Naloxone At Pharmacies

NBC10 – JUNE 17, 2019

New Jersey Pharmacies Distribute Free Narcan Tuesday

CBS 880 – JUNE 18, 2019

New Jersey Gives Away More Than 32,000 Doses of Naloxone

Associated Press – JUNE 21, 2019

NJ HUMAN SERVICES DISTRIBUTED MORE THAN 16,000 NALOXONE PACKS TO REVERSE OPIOID OVERDOSES

Cape May County Herald, June 24, 2019

N.J. Gave Away 32K Doses Of Naloxone In 1 Day This Week. The Nasal Spray Is An Overdose Antidote.

NJ.COM- JUNE 21, 2019

NEW JERSEY'S NALOXONE GIVEAWAY DISTRIBUTES 32,000 DOSES OF OPIOID-REVERSING DRUG

WHYY - June 21, 2019



Human Services In The News *Continued*

NJ to Fund Better Electronic Health Records for Addiction Services

NJ Spotlight – April 23, 2019

NJSAVE Wins National Innovation Award

TapInto - May 13, 2019

NJDHS Commissioner to Speak at the Community Food Bank in Hillside

TapInto - May 11, 2019

NJ Invests \$6M to Shift Addiction Providers from Snail Mail to Fax

101.5 - April 30, 2019

Department of Human Services Commissioner testifies before Assembly Budget Committee

NJTV April 30, 2019

New Jersey Human Services Honors the Department's Police Officers as Part of National Police Week

TapInto.Net - May 15, 2019

Piscataway High School Student Honored for Winning Entry In 2019 Teen Media Contest

TapInto Piscataway - May 20, 2019

Students' Entries from Ocean City High School Win State Teen Media Contest

Cape May County Herald - May 21, 2019



Human Services **In The News** *Continued*

Two OC Teens Receive State Awards for Creativity

OCNJ Daily- May 23, 2019

Murphy takes action to reduce the shocking number of N.J. mothers who die during or soon after childbirth

NJ.com - May 28, 2019

At Trenton Nurture NJ roundtable, First Lady touts investments in Governor's proposed budget to combat maternal and infant health crisis

Lakewood Scoop - March 13, 2019

State removes barrier to medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction

NJTV - April 1, 2019

As overdoses rise, New Jersey removes a barrier to treatment for opioid addiction

Philadelphia Inquirer - April 2, 2019

NJ changes Medicaid rules treating opioid addiction

KYWNNewsRadio.com - April 3, 2019

Medication-assisted treatment for addiction now easier to get in NJ

NJ101.5 - April 8, 2019

Murphy Administration Expands Effort to Reduce Opioid Prescribing

Cape May County Herald - April 10, 2019

Human Services **In The News** *Continued*

Asbury Park Needle Exchange Program to Offer Opioid Treatment

Asbury Park Press - April 25, 2019

Syringe Program to Offer Treatment for Opioid Addiction in Atlantic City

Press of Atlantic City - April 25, 2019

NJ Department of Human Services Makes Helping Homeless Priority No. 1

NJ Spotlight - April 29, 2019

Murphy Administration Cutting the Red Tape to Help Homeless Families

NJ101.5 - May 6, 2019

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