



NJ HUMAN SERVICES | June 29, 2022

## Murphy Administration Announces Pilot Program to Assist Children and Families Affected by Addiction



The Murphy Administration has launched a new pilot program to train law enforcement officers and community stakeholders on how to recognize and interact with children and families affected by addiction and connect them with systems of care.

The program, known as the Child Trauma Response Initiative, will launch in three pilot municipalities across the state, which were identified based on an assessment of their need and existing resources:

Asbury Park (Monmouth County)  
Millville (Cumberland County)  
Plainfield (Union County)

The Child Trauma Response Initiative, which is being paid for with \$2 million in opioid settlement funds, will be administered by the Department of Law and Public Safety, in coordination with the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Human Services. The goal of the program is to give law enforcement and community stakeholders the necessary tools to identify families – and particularly children – impacted by addiction during opioid related incidents and then link children and caregivers to the services they need in an effort to engage them in successful treatment and sustained recovery.

“Tragically, our youth are not immune to the effects of the ongoing opioid crisis. Too many children in our state have been impacted in some way by the struggles of their loved ones facing addiction,” Governor Phil Murphy said. “Connecting New Jersey children with the support they need to process these difficult experiences is a critical component of our ongoing efforts to address and mitigate the harms of this nationwide epidemic.”

“The children and families of those impacted by substance misuse often face their own unique struggles, which are often overlooked even though the impact can last a lifetime,” Commissioner Sarah Adelman said. “This pilot program is an important step to assist and support children and families so they can find healing and move forward successfully. I look forward to working with our partners to connect affected children and families with the vital services they need.”

[Read more](#)

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# Human Services Awards Contracts to Opioid Treatment Providers to Expand Access to Mobile Treatment Programs



*In this 2021 photo, Commissioner Adelman, fourth from right, and Assistant Commissioner Mielke, third from right, visit a mobile addiction treatment van operated by the John Brooks Recovery Center in Atlantic County.*

Human Services has awarded contracts to opioid treatment providers to increase mobile access to medication that supports recovery from substance use disorder and co-occurring substance use disorder.

“These contracts will help bridge the gap for New Jerseyans with substance use disorder who have limited treatment options due to barriers such as lack of transportation, unstable housing, and stigma,” Commissioner Adelman said. “At the Department, we understand that medication that supports addiction recovery is most effective when it is brought directly to those that need it the most, and these funds will target remote and traditionally underserved areas. We must ensure that all New Jerseyans in need have access to life-saving supports no matter where they live.”

The program will be funded through a blend of federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response grant money and SAMHSA’s Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant. The contracts were awarded to Integrity, Inc., which received \$987,499, and John Brooks Recovery Center, which received \$675,550.

Services are expected to begin this July and will continue through June 2023, which permits providers nearly a year to target those in need of medication that can support addiction recovery through mobile medication-assisted treatment vans.

“We must do all we can to help individuals with substance use disorder by providing access to life-saving treatment. It is important to remove barriers to traditional treatment for individuals with substance use disorder and this is being made possible through these contracts,” said Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, who directs the [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) that will oversee the initiative. “We look forward to seeing mobile treatment programs increase opportunities for individuals to access treatment, particularly individuals who reside in underserved areas.”

[Read more](#)

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## Commissioner Adelman on Supreme Court Ruling

In light of the Supreme Court decision that stripped away the constitutional right to reproductive freedom, I wanted to note that the Murphy Administration has already taken steps to protect New Jersey women and their right to make their own medical decisions, and is committed to taking further steps to protect that right.

As Governor Murphy said, "New Jersey will always stand on the side of our women. We will never stand between them and their doctors."

This decision is disappointing to me personally. As the final paragraph of today's dissent notes, "With sorrow—for this Court, but more, for the many millions of American women who have today lost a fundamental constitutional protection—we dissent." I could not agree more with that sentiment.

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## Deafblind Awareness Week 2022: Human Services Announces College Scholarships for Four Blind, DeafBlind & Visually Impaired Students

**Cathy and Herbert Bodensiek Scholarship**



**Gavin Morrobel**  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Science  
Business Administration

**Caroline Rose Foster Scholarship**



**Angelina Solomon**  
Montclair State University  
Bachelor of Science  
Psychology

**Mary Louise Buckley Scholarship**



**Omar Tzic**  
New Jersey City University  
Bachelor of Science  
Exercise Science

**Sally and Nathan Rogoff Scholarship**



**Mark Szafran**  
Rowan College  
Master of Arts  
Education

Spotlighting the achievements of individuals who are blind, deafblind and visually impaired, the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI) announced college scholarships to four blind, deafblind and visually impaired students during a virtual event commemorating Helen Keller DeafBlind Awareness Week in New Jersey.

The event, hosted in partnership with the DeafBlind Community Access Network of New Jersey, also featured a presentation of Governor Murphy's proclamation declaring June 26 through July 2 as Helen Keller DeafBlind Awareness Week, and a streaming of the *American Masters* documentary, "Becoming Helen Keller", in celebration of Helen Keller's birthday.

"It is an honor to celebrate the work of these students and provide financial support as they pursue higher education, especially as we celebrate the 142<sup>nd</sup> birthday of the social activist, Helen Keller, whose work continues to positively impact the lives of our blind, deafblind and visually impaired residents," Commissioner Adelman said. "We look forward to the continued success of these students and are excited to see the positive strides they will make in our state."

"Higher education is a major step toward advancing academic goals and personal success, and we are proud to recognize these students for their achievements thus far and award these scholarships," Deputy Commissioner Elisa

Neira said. “We look forward to seeing them reach their dreams and explore the endless possibilities of what they are capable of as they continue their studies in higher education.”

“We have a long history of helping advance higher education for students who are blind, deafblind or visually impaired, and we are proud to do it once again on the week Governor Murphy proclaimed it be Helen Keller Deaf Blindness Awareness Week in New Jersey,” CBVI Executive Director Dr. Bernice Davis said. “It is important to promote the potential of people who are blind, deafblind and visually impaired and to recognize their achievements.”

This year’s awardees are:

- **Angelina Solomon of Bayonne**, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology at Montclair State University.
- **Mark Szafran of Blackwood**, who is pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Education at Rowan College.
- **Omar Tzic of Weehawken**, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science at New Jersey City University.
- **Gavin Morrobel of Scotch Plains**, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

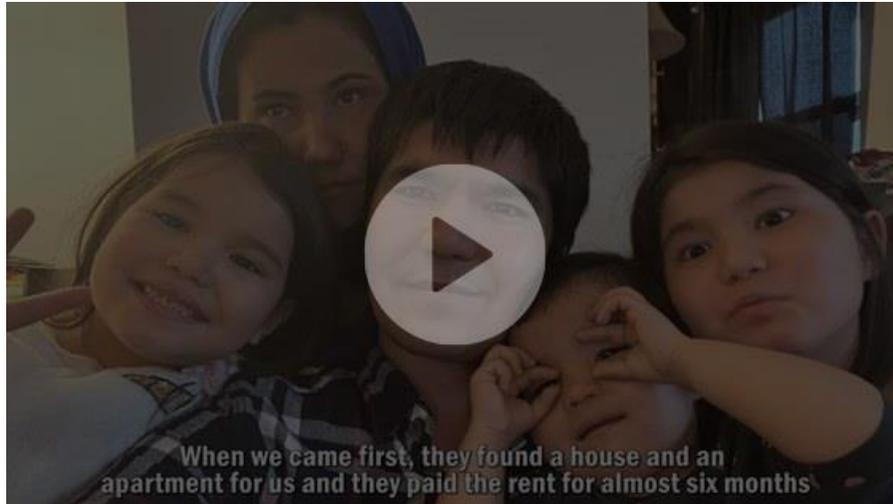
[Read more](#)



***CBVI hosted a streaming of the American Masters documentary “Becoming Helen Keller” in celebration of Helen Keller’s birthday.***

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## 2022 World Refugee Day Video



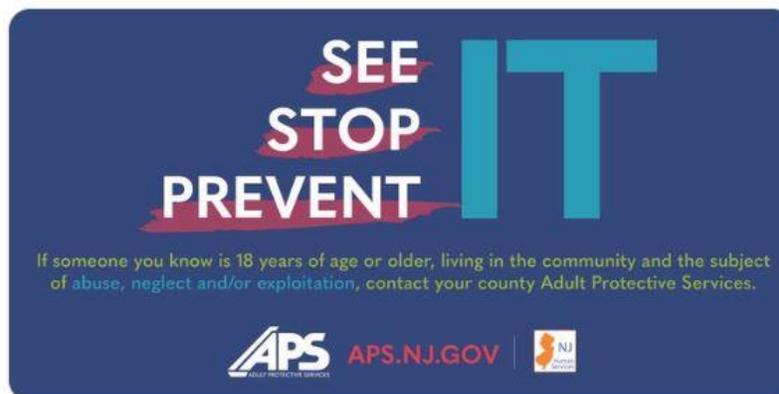
## World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2022



Sarah Adelman  
@sarahmadelman



Today is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day [#WEAAD](#) to promote awareness about elder neglect and exploitation. Together we can combat elder abuse and spread word about supports. NJ has Adult Protective Services in each county: [state.nj.us/humanservices/...](https://state.nj.us/humanservices/) See it. Stop it. Prevent it.



8:15 AM · Jun 15, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

# Juneteenth 2022



Sarah Adelman  
@sarahmadelman



Each #Juneteenth 🗣️ is a time to reflect on the experience of Black Americans; our commitment to equity, equality & justice; and our resolve to keep working toward progress & possibility. Our work at @NJ DHS is guided by these ideals. Together, we can build a better future.



11:57 AM · Jun 19, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

## Hurricane Season Is Here



Hurricane Season 2022 is here as of June 1 and it's time to prepare. Have a plan and supply kit ready to go. Three Steps To Safety:

- ✓ Get a Kit
- ✓ Make a Plan
- ✓ Stay Informed

Find out more [here](#).

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## Congratulations to Deputy Commissioner Neira



Congratulations to Deputy Commissioner Neira, who was honored with a leadership award by Latinas in Business during its annual Women Entrepreneurs Empowerment Summit in New York City.

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## Congratulations to Assistant Commissioner Seifried



Division of Developmental Disabilities Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried was [honored](#) with The Spirit of The Arc Award by The Arc of New Jersey.

## Inclusive Healthy Communities



Division of Disability Services Executive Director Peri Nearon recently visited inclusive community vegetable gardens at Toms River Field of Dreams created by an Inclusive Healthy Community awarded to the Ocean County Health Department.

"I cannot impress upon you how inspiring this place was, with such careful design for every detail that meets the needs of those with disabilities," Executive Director Nearon said.

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## Teaching American Sign Language to Law Enforcement and First Responders



*Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Executive Director Elizabeth Hill was honored and thrilled to join the [Deaf Advocacy Group](#) to help teach American Sign Language to law enforcement and first responders.*

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## Welcome New Human Services Police Officers

The New Jersey State Human Services Police congratulated Police Officer Michael Norelli and Police Officer Melissa Jurkiewicz on graduating the police academy. Officer Norelli graduated from the Morris County Police Academy on June 9. Officer Jurkiewicz graduated from the Bergen County Police Academy on June 22.



**Left to right: Lieutenant Jeffrey Lannon, Captain Justin Kurczeski, Chief Edward Fuller, Police Officer Michael Norelli, Lieutenant D. Brown, Detective Sergeant Roberto Negrón.**



**Left to Right: Lieutenant Duane Brown, Chief Edward Fuller, Police Officer Melissa Jurkiewicz, Captain Brian Lee, Captain Justin Kurczeski.**

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## Chamber of Commerce of Southern New Jersey Healthcare Forum



*Commissioner Adelman joined Department of Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli on June 3 at the Chamber of Commerce of Southern New Jersey's Healthcare Forum for a discussion on policy goals and initiatives.*

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## Women's Health Fair



*Human Services' Community Outreach Team was at the New Jersey Reentry Corporation's annual Women's Health Fair on June 10 in Newark. The fair focuses on bringing needed resources to women who are part of the reentry community.*

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# DDD Prevention Bulletin



**DIVISION OF  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES**

Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities helps New Jersey adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities live more independently.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities is reminding caregivers of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) that there are certain medical conditions that can quickly lead to deterioration in health, or even death, in persons with I/DD if left untreated. Ensuring that caregivers are aware of them, know the signs that they are occurring, and what to do is paramount in ensuring quality care for persons with I/DD.

The Division, for several years, has had a *DDD Prevention Bulletin Series* available to educate caregivers on these conditions. All caregivers, especially service providers, are directed to these bulletins so that their staff are educated in these important areas. Below are direct links to each bulletin:

- [Aspiration](#)
- [Choking](#)
- [Constipation](#)
- [Dehydration](#)
- [Pressure Ulcers](#)
- [Seizures](#)

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## Teen Media Contest 2022



Human Services [honored](#) 12 New Jersey high school and middle school students for their winning entries in the 2022 New Jersey Child Support Teen Media Contest, which, this year celebrates the dreams and future achievements of Garden State youth through the support of family, friends and loved ones.

Students across New Jersey were asked to submit artistic, hand-drawn and written portrayals celebrating dreams the teens have, and how their family and loved ones are helping them to achieve and meet these goals.

“On behalf of the Department, I want to congratulate this year’s winners,” Commissioner Adelman said. “Every year we are blown away by the talent of our young people and their ability to so artfully convey these important themes. Young people benefit from having a strong support system, and we are just so proud of all the students who shared their dreams and their familial stories with us. I encourage everyone to visit the contest website at [www.NJTeenMedia.org](http://www.NJTeenMedia.org) to see the winning entries.”

“We are continually impressed by the quality of the works submitted and the thoughtfulness that goes into creating them,” Deputy Commissioner Neira said. “I want to congratulate the winners and their families for sharing their talent with us and helping us spread the message that children — regardless of what their family structure may look like — deserve to be loved and supported by the adults in their lives.”

“This contest is one of the ways that we regularly bring attention to New Jersey’s Child Support program,” said Assistant Commissioner Natasha Johnson, who oversees the Division of Family Development. “The enduring slogan for New Jersey’s Child Support program is ‘Child Support. It’s more than just money,’ and we encourage our young contest participants to think about their support system and the important role their parents and loved ones play in their everyday lives.”

[Read more](#)

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## SPOTLIGHTS ON NJ HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

### The Legal Representation for Children & Youth Program

Providing free legal services to children  
and youth in immigration proceedings.

Call or text: 201-305-9217 | Email: [uacscreening@NJCIC.org](mailto:uacscreening@NJCIC.org)





**PLANFIRST**

The Plan First Program administered by NJ FamilyCare provides a full range of family planning services to men and women who do not have access through insurance. Learn more at [njfamilycare.org](http://njfamilycare.org)

**NJFAMILYCARE** 

**NJ SNAP - [ENGLISH](#) / [SPANISH](#)**

**NJ FAMILYCARE - [ENGLISH](#) / [SPANISH](#)**

**NJHELPS - [ENGLISH](#) / [SPANISH](#)**

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