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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
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Visit us on the web at :
www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd

Jennifer Velez
COMMISSIONER

Dawn Apgar
Deputy Commissioner

TEL. (609) 631-2200

April 23, 2012

Dear Provider,

As you are likely aware, there are changes underway at the Department of Human Services that are relevant to the individuals you serve. To enhance service opportunities for children with developmental disabilities, Governor Chris Christie announced a common sense restructuring of certain state programs during his Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Address.

As a result, beginning this July, services for children with developmental disabilities will move from the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). This is a move that stakeholders have supported and one that, we agree, will benefit these children.

With its wide-ranging network of community services, DCF is positioned to provide a holistic approach to serving children with developmental disabilities. DHS will continue to serve adults with developmental disabilities, and will have an active role in the transition of adolescents into its adult programs.

Right now, DHS and DCF are evaluating every child we serve, particularly children served in an out-of-home placement or receiving intensive in-home behavioral supports, to determine which will transition in July. The full transition of children's services to DCF will be conducted in phases. Continuity of care is our highest priority. The families/guardians of all children who will be served by DCF, as well as the provider agency currently serving the child, will be notified as the child is identified to be transitioned.

Communication with the provider community is vital to our success in this process; therefore you should expect a correspondence from DCF inviting you to a meeting to discuss the overall transition and its impact on the provider agencies serving children in out of home placements or

in intensive in-home behavioral services. In the very near future there will also be meetings with those agencies who provide services through the Family Support Program.

Attached are two documents (*Fact Sheet* and *Frequently Asked Questions*) that will provide additional information about the transition of child services to DCF. These documents should answer many of your initial questions. As additional information becomes available, it will be posted to our website at www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd.

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide input and advocacy throughout this process. We need your help to ensure that the new system is designed to meet the needs of children with developmental disabilities and their families! Please feel free to offer your input or send questions to DDD.TransitionComments@dhs.state.nj.us.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and cooperation during this important transition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Apgar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Dawn Apgar, PhD, LSW, ACSW
Deputy Commissioner