

DDD Today

A Publication of the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Volume V, Issue V August 2011
dddnewsletter@dhs.state.nj.us

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner
Dawn Apgar, Deputy Commissioner

Today's Quote: *"I believe that the real disabilities in life are not what we perceive them to be, like having cerebral palsy or being blind or being deaf or whatever it is. I believe that the real disabilities are the broken spirits and the hatred and prejudice and hypocrisy and deception—and these disabilities can happen to any of us if we allow them to."* - Geri Jewell, actress and comedian who has cerebral palsy

DDD SERVICES APPLICATION PROCESS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities is excited to announce that our application to determine eligibility for services can now be downloaded online at:

<http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/services/apply/>

We ask that you begin the process by completing these forms:

- [DDD Application for Eligibility](#)
- [Applicant Information Form](#)
- [DHS Notice of Privacy Practice](#)
- [Acknowledgement Form](#)
- [Adaptive Behavior Summary](#)

(For more details, see page 2)

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH INSTITUTIONAL CLOSURE

On July 18, key program staff from the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) attended a special presentation called *Transforming the Lives of People through Institutional Closure*. The event was hosted by Values Into Action, Neighbour's Inc., and Caregivers of New Jersey, all of which provide Support Coordination services to individuals and believe in full community integration of people.

Patrick Geoghegan was solicited to speak at the event. Geoghegan is CEO of the South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, one of the most successful and highly rated mental health and learning disability organizations in the United Kingdom. He is a proponent of enabling people with disabilities to live outside of institutions, where he feels they are safer and have more freedoms. In fact, all

institutions in the UK have closed and the nation follows a healthcare system that is about self-empowerment. In line with that, DDD is in the planning stages of closing its Vineland Developmental Center and hopes to do so by June 30, 2013. Geoghegan has reviewed the proposed closure plan for the Vineland Developmental Center and said it was "music to his ears."

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DDD SERVICES APPLICATION PROCESS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

(Continued from page 1)

Once you complete these forms, it is important that you mail them to the [Community Services Office](#) that serves the county in which you live. Address the envelope to the “Division of Developmental Disabilities Intake.” After DDD receives your *Application for Eligibility* and *Applicant Information Form*, a staff person will call you. The rest of the application materials will then be mailed to you so a determination can be made. Some examples are:

- medical documentation of the disability
- the most recent psychological evaluation, including the IQ score
- all available psychological reports
- Child Study Team or school reports
- neurological evaluations
- psychiatric evaluations
- speech/therapy evaluations
- copies of birth certificate, Social Security and/or Green Card or proof of US citizenship

Family members or other interested persons can assist an individual in completing an application for DDD eligibility, although they cannot apply on the individual’s behalf. **Please note:** A parent or legal guardian of a minor or the legal guardian of an adjudicated incapacitated adult may apply for services on the individual’s behalf. Please see [Division Circular #3](#) for more details.

Anniversary of the ADA

July 26 marked the 21st anniversary of when the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law in order to promote equality and accessibility for people with all types of disabilities. The law also recognizes that those living with a disability are entitled to the same privileges and opportunities as everyone else.

“The Americans with Disabilities Act has delivered a public statement that people

with disabilities are entitled to basic civil rights that prohibit discrimination,” said Dr. Salvatore Pizzuro, disability policy specialist. “In the 21 years since the initial passage of the ADA, there has been progress in the establishment of those rights.” However, Pizzuro feels that progress still needs to be made in terms of achieving greater acceptance of people with disabilities in the workplace, in the community, and within educational settings.

Recently, the Federal Government announced new measures to both increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and to make electronic and information technology within federal agencies accessible (as mandated by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act). A draft of the government’s comprehensive strategic plan to improve compliance with Section 508 will be released in the near future.

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH INSTITUTIONAL CLOSURE

(Continued from page 1)

Since Fiscal Year 2007, DDD has moved 396 individuals out of its developmental centers and into the community with the proper supports. The Olmstead ruling states that the unjustified institutional isolation of people with disabilities is a form of unlawful discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act. To that end, much progress has been made in New Jersey and DDD continues to work toward complying with its provisions.

Geoghegan offered valuable advice on how to best go about closing facilities. His tips ranged from creating an Oversight Committee and a Transition Team to having an Organizational Development Plan in place. He also stressed the need to have good communication and plans in place with service providers from the beginning of the process in order to ensure a smooth transition for individuals receiving services.

INTEGRATING CULTURAL STRATEGIES FOR HEALTH EDUCATORS: STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATION

Wednesday, September 28

Host: NJSOPHE / Co-sponsored by the UMDNJ-SPH/NJ Public Health Training Center

Where: Continuing Studies Conference Center
178 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8556

Training program goal: Participants will gain a basic understanding of the strategies, positive attitudes/beliefs, resources, and skills needed to provide effective health education that is culturally and linguistically appropriate. The goal is to enhance the skills and knowledge of health educators in delivering comprehensive health education to multicultural populations.

Training program objectives: Upon completion of the training, participants will be able to effectively discuss, describe, and apply the following in their daily work:

- Understand the philology, values, and conceptual frameworks of cultural competence
- Understand and respond effectively to diverse belief systems related to health and well being
- Use best practices for including cultural and linguistic competence in health education
- Apply skills to conduct assessments of cultural and linguistic needs of a culturally diverse population
- Gain knowledge about strategies to maximize health education delivery

Contact: Iesha M. Suber, MPH, CHES, Program Chair, NJSOPHE
P.O. Box 2061, Edison, NJ 08818
www.njsophe.org

Justice Department Issues Technical Assistance Document on Enforcement of the Supreme Court Decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*

The Department of Justice released a new technical assistance document describing public entities' obligations and individuals' rights under the integration mandate of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the 1999 landmark Supreme Court decision, *Olmstead v. L.C.* The *Olmstead* decision held that the ADA requires public entities to provide community-based services to persons with disabilities when such services are appropriate; the affected persons do not oppose community-based treatment; and community-based services can be reasonably accommodated. The document also provides questions and answers on a variety of ADA enforcement issues related to *Olmstead*.

Additionally, in commemorating the 12th anniversary of the *Olmstead* decision recently, the Department of Justice launched a new section of its ADA website, www.ada.gov/olmstead, which provides information and resources about the decision and its enforcement.



Users also can visit the site to find briefs filed by the DOJ, as well as other materials relevant to this important area of law. The ADA website provides easy access to an extensive collection of ADA technical assistance materials and settlement agreements, as well as information about enforcement, mediation, technical assistance, certification activities, and links to other sites with ADA information. The addition of the new *Olmstead* section to the site will provide critical information to individuals with disabilities, advocates, and state and local officials responsible for complying with the ADA's integration mandate.

"The *Olmstead* decision recognized the rights of individuals with disabilities to live the lives they choose, but its promise has not yet been fully realized. Far too many people remain segregated in institutions when they would rather be thriving in their communities," said Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. "The Justice Department is committed to making the promise a reality, and will continue to aggressively enforce *Olmstead*."

In 2009, the federal government launched "The Year of Community Living," directing agencies to vigorously enforce *Olmstead* and the rights of individuals with disabilities. Since that time, the DOJ Civil Rights Division has

made *Olmstead* enforcement a top priority, joining or initiating *Olmstead* litigation in more than 25 cases in 17 states. In 2010, a landmark settlement agreement was reached between DOJ and the state of Georgia that will allow thousands of individuals with disabilities to receive services in community settings and serve as a model for comprehensive agreements going forward.

For more information about the ADA, including how to file complaints related to *Olmstead* enforcement, call the Justice Department's toll-free ADA Information Line at (800) 514-0301 or (800) 514-0383 (TTY), or access the department's ADA website at www.ada.gov/olmstead. For the full technical assistance document, please visit www.ada.gov/olmstead/q&a_olmstead.htm.

11-827
Civil Rights Division

Story Ideas?

E-mail us at:

DDDnewsletter@dhs.state.nj.us

We will happily consider your request.

Internet Radio Show to Address Casting Children with Developmental Disabilities in Productions

411 VOICES Radio will be interviewing talent agents and/or casting directors who work with children who have disabilities, such as Autism, learning disorders, deafness, and blindness.



The show will air **LIVE on August 30th at 11 am on this network:**

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/411Voices>

(It will also be made available later in the day via rebroadcasts or iTunes.)



ABOUT 411 VOICES:



411 VOICES (<http://411VOICES.com>) is a collective of experts dedicated to helping individuals, families, and communities with matters pertaining to education, parenting, and business. As the parent of an actor with learning disabilities, host **Natasha Sattler** focuses her show on educating parents by obtaining interviews with well-known experts. Recently, she interviewed the CEO of Wilhelmina Modeling Agency's Children's Division, Marlene Wallach; Bohemia Talent Management Owner Susan Ferris; and Dannette Linicomn of the Linicomn Talent Agency. This month, the show will focus on casting directors and talent agents who work specifically with children with disabilities or learning challenges.

Louise Sattler, psychologist and owner of **SIGNING FAMILIES**, also hosts a monthly show on the **411 VOICES radio network** that is considered educational and entertaining. Called **ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE BUSINESS OF IT ALL – THE PARENTING THE TALENT SERIES**, the show focuses on helping parents who have children who are professional actors, models, musicians, and athletes.

To share your experiences, questions, comments, or story ideas, e-mail INFO@411Voices.com or contact Louise Sattler at INFO@SigningFamilies.com.

New Disability Employment Report Released

Dan Baker, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Director of Community Positive Behavior Support, Transition, and Supported Employment Projects at The Boggs Center, recently co-authored the *National Technical Assistance and Research Center – Leadership Center* disability employment report with Robert Nicholas, PhD, Ronnie Kauder, and Kathy Krepcio. The report, *Ready and Able: Addressing Labor Market Needs and Building Productive Careers for People with Disabilities through Collaborative Approaches*, describes market-driven practices that increase hiring, retention, promotion and accommodation of people with disabilities through partnerships with employers.

Approaches profiled in the research include: collaborations among major national employers and public sector agencies; models that focus on an industry or occupational sector; private and “alternative” staffing services that place people with disabilities; partnerships that expand opportunities for college students and graduates with disabilities; and local and regional hubs that connect people with disabilities and employers. The research also profiles two organizations where lead disability and employment partnerships act as catalysts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CURRENT ISSUES: Infant Mental Health & FASD

~Infant Mental Health, Neurobiology & Relationships

~Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders – Across the Lifespan & Family Perspectives

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

8:30 AM to 3:45 PM

Provided by

Gateway Northwest Maternal and Child Health Network

At Saint Clare's Hospital in the Urban Auditorium

25 Pocono Road, Denville, NJ 07834

Conference Overview

This one day conference will present current research addressing the implications of the prenatal environment and early relationships in the areas of:

- ~Infant mental health and the neurobiology of the brain
- ~The nature of the earliest relationships and their impact on the developing brain
- ~Parental Reflective Function and the attachment relationship between parents and their babies.

This conference will provide an update on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and issues across the lifespan, including a family perspective.

Agenda

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 8:30 AM | Registration & Continental Breakfast |
| 9:00 AM | Welcome
<i>Marijane Lundt, MPA</i>
<i>Executive Director, Gateway Northwest Maternal & Child Health Network</i> |
| 9:15 AM | Infant Mental Health & the Neurobiology of Early Relationships
<i>Gerard Costa, Ph.D.</i>
<i>Director, Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health at Montclair State University in Montclair, NJ</i> |
| 10:45 AM | Break |
| 11:00 AM | "Holding Mothers & Babies in Mind" – Parental Reflective Function
<i>Jasmine Ueng-McHale, Ph.D.</i>
<i>Coordinator of Parent-Infant and Parent-Toddler Services at YCS in East Orange, NJ</i> |
| 12 Noon | Lunch |

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AUTISM NEW JERSEY'S 29TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE: REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Join us for one of the nation's largest autism conferences, drawing record crowds of parents and professionals, on Thursday, October 13 and Friday, October 14, 2011, at the Atlantic City Convention Center.

Want to receive the Annual Registration Brochure?

Call 609-588-8200 x50 or download a copy at:

www.autismnj.org

WHY ATTEND?

- **Two Keynote Presentations:** Bridget Taylor, Psy.D., BCBA-D, Alpine Learning Group on *What Do You Do For Fun? Improving Play and Leisure Skills of Individuals with Autism* and

Matthew S. Goodwin, Ph.D., MIT, Groden Center on *Developing Innovative Technologies to Enhance and Accelerate Research and Practice with Individuals on the Autism Spectrum*

- **Specialized Tracks:** Topics such as Early Intervention, School-Aged, Adult, Advocacy, Research, Medical and Professional Issues

- **More than 85 workshops** presented by experts in the field, including DDD staff. Topics range from *Successful Services for Adults: Lessons We Learned and Mistakes You Can Avoid* to *Self-Directed Funding: What Does That Mean?*

- **Poster Presentation:** Posters are a great way to tell others about what worked for your learner or child. Parents and teachers are encouraged to submit poster proposals that showcase an individual's perseverance and success and should demonstrate a clear relationship between a behavior change and an intervention.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2011?

- **Meet the Presenters:** On Thursday from 5 pm – 7 pm, conference attendees will have the opportunity to socialize with poster and workshop presenters, exhibitors, and other professionals. Raffle prizes, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar will be available.

- **Ask the Experts:** Conference attendees will be provided an opportunity to meet with an expert on an individual basis for 15 minutes throughout the conference.

- **First Responders Training:** Presented Thursday from 7 pm – 9 pm at the Atlantic City Convention Center by John A. Richardson, Jr., B.A., Certified Instructor, Level 2. This workshop will provide specific strategies that could be helpful when you are first introduced to someone with autism during stressful situations.

For details, contact Barbara Wells at 609-588-8200, ext. 45 or at conference@autismnj.org or visit:

<http://www.autismnj.org/29thAnnualConference.aspx>

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UBH/OptumHealth Looking to Expand Network of Providers



United Behavioral Health/OptumHealth Behavioral Solutions (UBH/OptumHealth) is currently expanding our New Jersey network for providers who work with those with developmental disabilities. We are seeking psychiatrists and therapists of all licensure levels that have expertise in treating this population.

Developmental disabilities consist of a group of severe, chronic conditions that result in medical and/or physical impairments. Individuals with developmental disabilities may have mild to severe impairments in cognition, language, mobility, and activities of daily living. These impairments can have a significant effect on the individual's social, emotional, and physical well being. UBH/OptumHealth is seeking clinicians who are committed to helping individuals with developmental disabilities reach their fullest potential and achieve improved quality of life through behavioral health treatment modalities.

If you have expertise in this specialty area and are interested in joining our network of providers, please contact Jennifer Imperial at 908-696-2534 or via email at Jennifer.Imperial@optum.com.

Developmental Centers Host Summer Picnics

Many of our Developmental Centers have hosted picnics for the individuals they serve, this summer. Here are a few pictures from New Lisbon Developmental Center's Annual Summer Picnic.



Stanley Klysz, of Knoll Manor, enjoyed playing the duck fishing game.



Scott Granger, of Knoll Manor, with his family.

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FALL 2011 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES LECTURE SERIES

The Fall 2011 Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series is a community and continuing education activity of **The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Pediatrics**. There is no registration fee, but advanced registration is required. Sessions are held from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. For more details and to register, visit The Boggs Center website at: <http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter>

Friday, September 16, 2011

Commitment, Capacity, and Culture: Solutions for the Direct Support Workforce Crisis

Joseph Macbeth, BS
Hilton-Woodbridge

Friday, September 23, 2011

Employment First: From Idea to Reality

David Hoff, MSW
Hilton-Woodbridge

Friday, October 14, 2011

**Health Matters for People with Developmental Disabilities:
Promoting Health Advocacy and Transition Planning**

Beth Marks, RN, Ph.D.
Doubletree Guest Suites, Mt. Laurel

Friday, October 21, 2011

“It’s OK, Calm Down”: How to Teach Relaxation and Coping Skills

Theodosia Paclawskyj, Ph.D., BCBA
Doubletree Guest Suites, Mt. Laurel

RESPIRE WORKBOOKS NOW IN STOCK FOR FAMILIES & CARE PROVIDERS!

The Family Support Center is distributing comprehensive patient information tools that can be entrusted to a temporary care or respite provider.

“About Our Family - A Respite Workbook for Families & Care Providers” is a product of the Child Neurology Foundation and is distributed free of charge by the Family Support Center.

Call (732) 528-8080 or (800) FSC-NJ10 and a friendly staff member will mail you a free copy today!

PROMOTING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management recently partnered with the NJ Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) to promote and improve emergency preparedness for people with disabilities. Planning strategies include increasing the availability of specialized equipment for use during emergencies, strengthening the disaster resilience of social service agencies, and encouraging individuals with disabilities to plan for their own safety.

“Our goal is inclusion of people with disabilities in emergency preparedness, and insuring access and integration of people with functional needs into all our emergency management activities,” said State Police Superintendent Colonel Rick Fuentes, Director of the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management. “Every life matters. We need to reverse the trend of people with disabilities being disproportionately impacted by disasters. We have a legal - but more importantly - an ethical obligation to do so.”

“This partnership is vital if people with disabilities are to increase their chances of being disaster survivors instead of disaster victims,” said Norman A. Smith, Chair of the NJ SILC. “The New Jersey disability community is showing leadership in emergency preparedness and will continue to be a resource for New Jersey’s emergency management personnel. And if you are a person with a disability who believes in the philosophy of independent living, then act on the need to prepare for adverse conditions to the best extent possible.”

New Jersey’s disability preparedness effort is part of the national “whole community” planning strategy, in which individuals with access and functional needs are accounted for in emergency plans. People with access and functional needs typically have issues related to transportation, communication, maintaining independence, supervision, or medical needs, which present additional challenges during a disaster response.

The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management in partnership with the NJ SILC and other advocacy groups and service providers has taken a multi-tiered approach to whole community planning, which entails:

Consumer-Based Strategies – Persons with disabilities may need to adapt family preparedness measures to meet their unique situation. This means showing others how to operate a wheelchair or other assistive devices; back-up planning for interruptions in support services; adapting go-kit items for specific needs; supplies for service animals; or making arrangements with friends and family who can help when a crisis hits.

State and Local Emergency Planning – New Jersey’s County Offices of Emergency Management are currently upgrading county disaster plans to include people with access and functional needs. Through a competitive grant, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management has made \$21,400 in funding available to each of the following counties: Atlantic, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Salem, Somerset, and Warren. Funds are for the purchase of specialized shelter supplies, training, and planning efforts aimed at improving disability response. Bergen, Mercer, and Cape May Counties have conducted Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program training, which is inclusive of persons with disabilities.

(Continued on next page)

PROMOTING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (Continued from page 10)

Register Ready - New Jersey's Special Needs Registry for Disasters is a free, voluntary, and confidential program designed to assist people with special needs who may find it difficult to get to safety in the event of an emergency. People with special needs (or caregivers on their behalf) are encouraged to register through www.registerready.nj.gov. Alternatively, they can call New Jersey's toll-free 2-1-1 telephone service. This service will register people, offer free translation, and provide TTY services for the hearing-impaired.

Working with Service Providers - New Jersey social service agencies and advocacy groups are key stakeholders in the state's disaster resilience strategy, and they continue to demonstrate leadership in emergency preparedness in a variety of settings. The Progressive Center for Independent Living (PCIL), which serves Mercer and Hunterdon Counties, has worked with the American Red Cross to get persons with disabilities certified as Community Disaster Educators. The PCIL also offers training to emergency personnel who respond to accidents involving drivers with disabilities who use adapted vehicles. The NJ Institute for Disabilities, Disability Rights NJ, and Quality Insights Renal Network counsel their consumers on personal disaster planning. "Senior CERT" is offered through Leading Age New Jersey; Easter Seals NJ has worked on the issue of disaster business continuity initiatives for social service providers; and the Salvation Army is working on specialized menus for medical needs shelters.

"It's no coincidence that all of these organizations are members of the New Jersey Special Needs Advisory Panel," Smith said. The NJ Special Needs Advisory Panel is an advisory board to the NJOEM and NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness regarding issues affecting access and functional needs populations. "Information-sharing, planning, and education are the foundations to emergency plans, which are inclusive, realistic, and accessible to all community members."

For more information:

Individual and Family Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities and Seniors:

<http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/disabled.html>

<http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/seniors.html>

NJOEM Access and Functional Needs Page:

<http://www.ready.nj.gov/plan/special-needs.html>

Register Ready – New Jersey's Special Needs Registry for Disasters:

www.registerready.nj.gov

DDD DONATES TO RESCUE MISSION

In July, staff from DDD participated in a clothing drive to benefit the Rescue Mission of Trenton. The clothing drive was quite a success and will help alleviate the Rescue Mission's dire need for all types of clothing for those they serve. We thank all those who participated for their generosity!



FROM DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER TO GROUP HOME - ONE MAN'S TRANSITION



Through the eyes of their 27 year old son Billy, Martha and Stuart Cray have witnessed how difficult life can be for those who struggle with Autism.

In spite of the challenges, “it is so important to understand what it is that our loved ones with special needs ask from us—and that is patience, love, understanding, acceptance, and respect,” Martha Cray said.

Although Billy had issues with community living arrangements in the past and ultimately moved to the Woodbine Developmental Center (WDC), Martha credits a wonderful team of advocates

from the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities, Values Into Action, Devereux New Jersey, WDC, and the UMDNJ Community Education Project for going the extra mile to help him finally transition from living at WDC to one of Devereux’s group homes in Galloway Township.

“After several of our team meetings, discussions, observations, and ‘Meet and Greets’ with Devereux and the entire transitional team during the course of a year and a half, Billy moved out of WDC to his group home on June 23 under the Olmstead Initiative,” Martha said.

At the group home, Billy likes having his own room, a big yard, and spending time with his housemates. “He is very independent when it comes to daily living activities,” Martha said, adding, “He loves to do domestic work in the house, like dishes and laundry.”

During his first few days at the group home, issues arose that received immediate attention. “With the great communication Stu and I carried with the team and administrators, any issues were resolved just in one day. Stu and I found the Devereux administrators to be quite supportive. Also, Stu and I feel optimistic and have great faith that Devereux will be able to manage our son’s challenging behaviors and provide a great life for him. I have been pleased with the direct care staff’s professionalism, patience, and understanding,” Martha said, adding, “I think it’s going to work very nice here.”

Over the years, “Billy has been in and out of most of the community-based residential facilities in New Jersey and has had difficult times in most of these facilities due to the fact that they were not equipped to handle challenging behaviors,” Martha said. “As a result, they place the clients out. I feel, thus far, that my son has found his home at Devereux. The direct care staff who work with Billy in the residential setting and also in his occupational center give him the patience and understanding and the redirection my son needs. This seems to be a very transparent and well supervised program.”

When not at home, Billy works at P.R.I.D.E., an occupational center in Mays Landing. “He loves the work program, and he likes the staff,” Martha said. Billy also enjoys the recreational opportunities Devereux provides, from horseback riding to animal therapy to dances on Friday night.

And while he does have some strong behavioral issues to work through, Martha truly feels that with the type of environment and structure Devereux offers, Billy will continue to be just fine.

“Those with autism face every moment and every day of their lives as a challenge,” Martha said. “They strive every day to meet goals and to become more and more independent each day. (Moreover), they love their accomplishments after their hard work.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SixFlags
GREAT AMERICA

The NJCDD invites you to say no to the R-Word
**1st Annual
Developmental Disabilities
Awareness Day**



COME AND JOIN US!

Saturday, September 3, 2011

Six Flags Great Adventure

The NJCDD invites you to say no to the R-Word at

1ST Annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day

Discounts Admission | \$24.99 / ^{per} person
Children under 2 years Free | (Savings of \$35.pp)

Purchase discount tickets at:
http://www.sixflags.com/greatadventure/tickets/index.aspx?promo_code=NJCDD

Or by calling | **732-928-2000** ext. **2850** | Special Events



World Congress on Disabilities September 23 - 24, 2011 Atlantic City Convention Center

The WCD is the only forum in existence today whose expressed mission is to bring together people with disabilities and special health care needs, families, caregivers, physicians, nurses, allied health care professionals, teachers, and education administrators in a single event to share ideas and experiences and to collaborate on improving the quality of life for people of all ages with disabilities and special needs. Presentations include, but are not limited to:

Meeting the Support Needs of Individuals Living with Disabilities in Fiscally Challenging Times: Some Successful Programmatic Responses to Addressing the Complex Needs of Individuals Living with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

Speaker: **Nina Wall-Cote**, Director of the Bureau of Autism Services; Laura Fiddle

Description: Individuals across the spectrum of disability are able to live full, active, productive, and independent lives when they have access to individualized support services, affordable housing, and meaningful employment opportunities. This session will provide an overview of the myriad of challenges facing the disability community in accessing services, particularly in light of the current fiscal environment, which has led many states to place tighter restrictions on the services needed by individuals living with disabilities. The session will highlight several successful private and public sector programmatic responses that have been developed to address the complex service and support needs of individuals living with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Basic Rights in Special Education

Speaker: **Nicole Pratt**

Description: This workshop provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities as parents of children with special needs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the NJ Code, and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act. Parents learn to identify their dreams and goals for their children and learn laws and advocacy strategies that will help them help their children reach those goals. Parents of classified children and children who are having difficulty in school but may not be classified benefit from this training. As a result of this workshop, you will: have increased knowledge of the special education process; be aware of the critical importance of successful partnerships between parents and educators; and be better prepared to effectively participate in the development and monitoring of a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

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World Congress on Disabilities (Continued from page 14)

Work Incentives Seminar Event (WISE) Ticket to Work and Work Incentives: Free Support Services for People with Disabilities Who Want to Work

Speaker: Social Security's Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Projects

It is possible for you to work and continue receiving your disability benefits! Social Security's Ticket to Work and other Work Incentives can provide the employment supports you need to succeed on the job. Attend a Ticket to Work WISE breakout session and learn about special Social Security programs and rules that may apply to you because of your disability. You will learn from Work Incentives Planning & Assistance Projects and Employment Network representatives about the Ticket to Work program and Work Incentives, including:

- Information on Ticket to Work and Work Incentives
- Answers to frequently asked questions and concerns
- Where to find more information
- Success stories from people who used their Ticket to Work

Autism and Umbilical Cord Blood Stem Cell Therapy

Speaker: R. Sandlin Lowe, III, MD, Bellevue Hospital and New York University Langone Medical Center/Woodhull Hospital

Description: The immune dysregulation that occurs in autism and its possible role in causing the abnormal brain functions that occur in autism will be explained. The theoretical basis of why banked umbilical cord blood stem cells may be of benefit in autism will be discussed. Evidence of improvement from stem cell treatment will be presented.

For details or to register now, visit: <http://www.thewcd.org>

DDD Today

A Publication of the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Contact us at:

Division of
Developmental Disabilities
P.O. Box 727
Trenton, NJ 08625-0726

**DDD Information and DHS
Central Registry Hotline:
1-800-832-9173**

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) was created in response to the need for better and more effective services for state residents with developmental disabilities. Advocates for those services included many parents and other family members who wanted community-based alternatives to the institutional care that had been their only option for many decades.

Today, more than 43,000 individuals are eligible to receive services funded by the division, including a growing number who are under the age of 22. Most DDD-eligible individuals live in the community, either with family or in a community residence such as a group home or supervised apartment or in a Community Care Residence with a family caregiver. Almost 2,600 individuals reside in one of the seven developmental centers now administered by DDD.

Visit us on the Web at: www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd