

Today's Quote: *"Your mind is like a parachute, it works better when it's open!"* Attributed to many sources

The DDD Lower Central Community Services office, no longer in Trenton, is now located in Hamilton. The new address is:
11 A Quakerbridge Plaza, Hamilton, NJ 08619
The main phone number is (609) 588-2727.

Governor Signs Executive Order Declaring "State of Fiscal Emergency" All of state government will be affected

The broad steps taken by Governor Chris Christie to address a \$2.3 billion shortfall in the state's FY 2010 budget will affect virtually all agencies in state government, including the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). The specific budget actions to be taken are described more fully in Executive Order 14,

<http://nj.gov/infobank/circular/eoindex.htm>, the Governor signed on February 11.

The Executive Order, including a freeze on state spending, is accompanied by a list of 375 line items of cuts, efficiencies and program eliminations, termed "budget solutions." The Governor said these are needed to balance the state budget.

"I take no joy in having to make these decisions," said Governor Christie in a speech delivered to the state legislature on the day he issued the Executive Order. "I know these judgments will affect fellow New Jerseyans and will hurt. This is not a happy moment."

Assistant Commissioner Kenneth W. Ritchey said that the

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Getting From Here To There

DDS I&R Specialists help DDD-eligible individuals gain access to services

The Division of Disability Services (DDS) Information and Referral (I&R) specialists are assisting individuals who have been transferred to DDS from DDD case managers gain access to a wide range of generic services. The goal is to provide better access to services of all kinds. The individuals who are being transferred are not considered to have the type of intensive needs that require case management services.

To date, DDD has transferred

more than 4,000 eligible individuals to DDS. It is anticipated that DDD will transfer 16,000 additional individuals over the next 18 months. The I&R specialists are helping DDD-eligible individuals in many ways, but frequently in regards to inquiries about Family Support services.

While these DDD-funded services are intended for families that are caring for individuals, families must first exhaust all other services to which they are entitled.

In addition, generic services that are available from other agencies do a better job of

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DDD: Celebrating 50 years of Service

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budget solutions found in DDD's budget will affect a wide range of division activities including: the developmental centers, contracted services and capital improvements, and could also affect services some individuals currently are receiving. "We understand that the state's situation is serious, and we are continuing to take efficiencies wherever possible," Ritchey said. "During this economic downturn, DDD is

working with the service providers to preserve the system of services for people with developmental disabilities; our priorities are residential, day and family support services. We also will continue to live up to our core principles, one of which is "Share Information; Communicate Regularly." It is important for our community to understand what is happening and to have as much in-

formation as we are able to share with them."

The actions that will affect DDD's budget are included under the heading "Department of Human Services" in the document FY2010 Budget Solutions as a Foundation for Reform. This document is available for review on the Governor's website at <http://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/552010/approved/20100211b.html>

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solving the family's problem than something that might be available through Family Support. Many times, however, families are not aware of these services.

The I&R specialists have provided DDD-eligible individuals and their families with many types of assistance including:

- The family of a 16-year-old girl with autism contacted I&R specialist because they wanted to apply for Family Support funds to cover the cost of counseling services. The I&R specialist learned the girl was enrolled in New Jersey Medicaid and was able to tell the family that Medicaid covers mental health services. Then, the I&R Specialist was able to help the family get the counseling they were

seeking. The family said they were not aware their daughter had this benefit through Medicaid.

- The parents of a two-year-old boy with a genetic disorder wanted to apply for Family Support funding to pay for some old and ongoing medical expenses that had become a hardship. The I&R specialist was able to explain to the father that all the expenses were tax deductible and coached him on completing the paperwork. The I&R specialist then referred the family to the Catastrophic Illness in Children's Relief Fund, which assists families of children with significant health problems and high medical bills that aren't covered by insurance, to complete an application.

- A single mother of a boy with cerebral palsy was having difficulty interacting at her son's IEP meetings because of her own profound hearing loss. She called I&R specialist seeking Family Support funding to pay for an advocate to help her overcome her communication barriers. The I&R specialist explained to the mother that this was not an appropriate use of Family Support funding, and suggested that she ask the school to provide a reasonable accommodation for her disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The I&R specialist then helped the mother make the request, which was granted in two weeks. The specialist also referred the mom to the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, where she is asking for a TTY to help with any phone calls she might want to make.

DDD Reorganization

DDD has recently realigned many administrative responsibilities as part of its ongoing effort to be more effective and accountable. One result is that many programs previously coordinated through the division's four administrative regions now report back to Central Office in Hamilton.

"We believe these changes will be very good for the individuals served by DDD," said Assistant Commissioner Kenneth Ritchey. "Most individuals won't even be aware of these administrative changes. They should help us become more effective and assure that we are providing everyone with fair and equitable access to services."

Some of the most significant changes, reflected in DDD's new Table of Organization, include the following:

- The division's four regions are now grouped together in the Office of County and Case Management Services. Heading that office is DDD Assistant Director Shawn McInerney, who previously served as Regional Administrative Director over the Northern and Upper Central Regions.
- Programs and services for individuals now fall under the umbrella of the Office of Individualized Services. This office is headed by DDD Assistant Director Frank Kirkland, who previously served as Regional Administrative Director over the Lower Central and Southern Regions. In this new position, Kirkland oversees the Waiting List, the Olmstead Initiative, Self-Directed Services, the Children's Placement Enhancement Project (CPEP), Return Home New Jersey and Employment and Day Services.
- The Family Support Program is now part of the Office of Family Services, which also includes Constituent Relations, and is headed by Director Jennifer Bulvanoski. Bulvanoski recently oversaw the implementation of DDD's new intradepartmental agreement to transfer approximately 20,000 DDD-eligible individual to the Division of Disability Services for information and referral services. More than 4,000 individuals have been transferred since that process began in July. DDD expects to transfer another 16,000 individuals over the next 18 months.
- The Medicaid Community Care Waiver (CCW) is now part of the Office of Benefits/Special Projects. This office, which is headed by Director Linda Lewis-Day, also has responsibility for Medicaid, Medical Services, Money Follows the Person and Special Projects, including conversion to Fee for Service.
- Contracts, Fiscal and Budgeting, Information Technology and Human Resources are now all grouped together in the Office of Internal Supports. Director Ellen Casey heads this office.
- Legal and legislative services, communications and intake are now in the Office of Legal and Legislative Services. Chief, Legal and Legislative Services Mary Monteschio is head of this office.
- The Developmental Centers are overseen by Interim Assistant Director Patricia Howell, who heads the Office of Program Supports for the Developmental Centers.
- Director Virginia Carlson heads the Office of Quality and Planning, which oversees all activities related to data, planning, quality and health and safety, as well as the National Core Indicators.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DDD Presents County-Based Forums

DDD invites individuals who are in Real Life Choices, Self-Determination, or at the top of the Priority and Priority-Deferred categories of the Waiting List for Waiver Services (formerly known as Community Services Waiting List [CSWL] or Residential Waiting List) to attend a county-based family forum.

These forums are geared toward the family's need to plan and prepare for the well-being of their adult child/children with developmental disabilities. Forums are being held in each state county.

For information, contact Janice Delorenzo at 609-689-1794 or janice.delorenzo@dhs.state.nj.us.

Burlington County Family Forum

- Date: Monday, March 22, 2010
- Time: 6:30 - 9:00 PM
- Location: Burlington County Human Services Facility
795 Woodlane Road, Westampton, NJ 08060
(609) 265-5800



Morris County Family Meeting

- Date: Thursday March 11, 2010
- Time: 6:30 - 9:00 PM
- Location: The Morris County Library
30 East Hanover Avenue, Whippany, NJ 07981

How many people have recently moved to the community from developmental centers?

Year One: July 2006 – June 2007 = 86

Year Two: July 2007 - June 2008 = 121

Year Three: July 2008 - June 2009 = 112

Year Four: June 2009 – February 17, 2009 = 46

“The Family Support Center of New Jersey www.fscnj.org has re-established The Training Calendar, an online resource for information about training opportunities, lectures, and other activities for caregivers and receiving support and care. Please visit www.thetrainingcalendar.org for more information.”

On www.fscnj.org, you also will find the new Spring 2010 Training Schedule and registration information for Life Line For the Journey, Pathways To Adult Life or Preparation for Life After 21.