

# DDD Today

Vol. II May 2008- 12th Edition

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**Today's Quote:** *"Never treat your audience as customers, always as partners."* Jimmy Stewart

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) has many partners within the state of New Jersey. We have shared a few of our partners, by agency name and services, with you in the Partner Profile Series. You hopefully understand more about our relationship with organizations like the Elizabeth Boggs Center, The Arc of NJ, The New Jersey Association of Community Providers (NJACP), and The Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities (ABCD), to just name a few. Yet, there is another organization that expands the scope of partnerships beyond New Jersey: The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS). This organization has been an instrumental tool for states across the country for many, many years.

On the NASDDDS website, they describe themselves as *"a nonprofit organization, established in 1964, to improve and expand public services to people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities."* The organization has been a tremendous resource for state disability agencies in evaluation and analysis of legislation and policy issues. NASDDDS also offers

technical assistance and support with the development of sound service delivery methods to its member organizations. A very important aspect of their partnership is the access to staff and information from other member states via NASDDDS' e-mails and electronic news services. These communication opportunities are extremely helpful in sharing information and resources nationwide.

NASDDDS recently held their 2008 Mid-Year Meeting (May 7 - 9, 2008) in Nashville, Tennessee, which focused on Autism. The title of the conference was "Beyond the Spectrum: New Knowledge; Perspectives and Strategies to Support People with Autism and other Complex Needs." Our own Assistant Commissioner Ken Ritchey serves as the Vice President/President elect of the Board.

For more information on NASDDDS and to view the conference materials, please visit their website at <http://www.nasddds.org/index.shtml>.

## ❖ SCCAT Open House

- ◆ Trinitas Hospital Statewide Clinical Consultation & Training (SCCAT) Northern/Upper Central Open House:
  - Thursday, June 12th, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
  - 1055 Parsippany Blvd., Suite 214, Parsippany, NJ 07054

## ❖ The Regional Family Support Planning Council #2 (serving Hudson, Passaic, & Bergen Counties)

<http://www.njcdd.org/FamilySupport/familysupporthome.htm>

The Family Support Planning Councils hold public forums in order to obtain input from individuals with disabilities and their family members regarding services that best meet their needs.

- ◆ Public Forum & Provider Fair
  - Saturday, May 31, 2008 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
  - Jose Marti Middle School,**  
1800 Summit Ave., Union City, NJ 07087 (201) 348-5400
- ◆ DDD is proud to announce that we have three staff members who were officially recognized for their contributions over the past couple of years.
  - The [ARC of Morris County](#) is currently recognizing Sue Weiss, from the Northern Regional Office (NRO), as the "Professional of the Year" during the month of May.
  - The [ARC of Bergen/Passaic](#) has named Mary Giorlando, also from NRO, as their "Professional of the Year." The Award ceremony is scheduled for this summer.
  - In 2007, the ARC of NJ recognized Patricia Mayurnik as their "Professional of the Year."