

The Path to Progress: Olmstead News

Jon S. Corzine, Governor

1st Edition - August 2007

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

The Path to Progress: Olmstead News

Welcome to the first edition of *The Path to Progress: Olmstead News*. This publication is dedicated to providing you with news, information and updates regarding supports and services available for people transitioning from developmental centers to New Jersey communities.



Included is a brief description of the Division's Implementation and Planning Advisory Council as described in the *Path to Progress* (the Department of Human Services' action plan for transitioning individuals with disabilities to community settings), along with reports on the progress we are making towards having individuals live as independently as possible.

We encourage your insight and commentary. Consumers, families, agency staff and major stakeholders have genuine perspectives that must be considered as we continue on this journey. We are partners through this experience and will only reach the goals, set forth by each individual, by working together.

Please send an email to dddolmstead@dhs.state.nj.us requesting to be included on the mailing list. If you wish to be removed, send the email with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

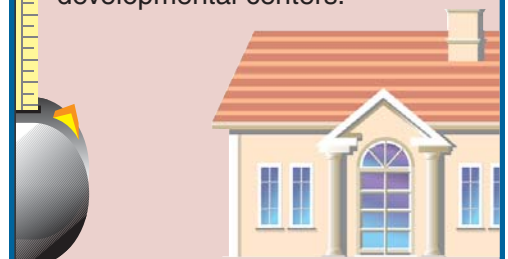
We hope that this publication serves as a valuable resource for you. Your comments are always welcome.

*Kenneth W. Ritchey,
Assistant Commissioner*

So, how many people have actually moved?

Actually, **86 individuals** moved during fiscal year 2007, that's July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. DDD's goal was to move 80 individuals during that time and we exceeded the goal. Next year's goal is to transition 100 individuals to community settings.

Note: On a monthly basis, we will provide an update on the total number of individuals transitioning into community settings from developmental centers.



Open Enrollment - Olmstead Individualized Community Supports and Services

August 20, 2007

RFP Notice in [New Jersey Register](#) and on DDD Web site
http://www.state.nj.us/human_services/ddd/index.html

September 1 - 15, 2007

Submission of pre-submission qualification documents by non-DDD providers, including Real Life Choices Qualified Providers

“FAMILY DAY” MARKET FAIRS

Easy access to community agencies and support services

Fifty-five individuals, who reside in Developmental Centers, along with their families and various representatives from 68 community agencies, talked and shared information at the first DDD-sponsored Market Fairs. Individuals and families also received beautiful door prizes donated by the participating agencies.

The Market Fairs, held at the New Lisbon and Woodbridge Developmental Centers in conjunction with each center’s “Family Day,” provided an opportunity for individuals and families to learn more about the array of supports and services available and needed to live in the community. Family and peer mentors also took the opportunity to share their experiences with transitioning to community living.

Eight individuals at the Fairs expressed strong interest in moving. Two individuals want to move into group homes; the other six individuals want to live in homes of their own. All eight, along with their families, are being invited to attend additional information and education session --- about housing options, community supports and services and the community living transition process.



Overall, most participants felt that both Market Fairs held on June 9th were beneficial. They provided great networking opportunities for community agencies, individuals and families. The suggestions for future Market Fairs received from the community agencies included: holding them indoors; making sure that all of the individuals and families attending are educated about the “New Process” of identifying their own service providers; providing more space for individuals and families to move about freely; and, supplying larger display tables.

The Market Fairs were organized by Neighbours, Inc.; the New Jersey Provider Association; Eileen Coyne, Director of Support Coordination for Caregivers of New Jersey; Paul Saulino, Director of Support Coordination for Values Into Action and Social Workers from each Developmental Center.

Caregivers of New Jersey and the Values Into Action are the two agencies that will provide support coordination services for individuals transitioning to community settings from developmental centers. Both are looking forward to working with staff from the Developmental Centers to plan the Fall 2007 Market Fairs.

Olmstead Implementation And Planning Advisory Council

The Path to Progress establishes the Olmstead Implementation and Planning Advisory Council as the key to ensuring that the goals and benchmarks are attained and developmental disabilities community stakeholders maintain an active partnership with the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).

The first meeting of the Olmstead Implementation and Planning Advisory Council was held on June 29, 2007. Self-advocates, family members, service providers and the DDD leadership were invited to participate on the Advisory Council by Jennifer Velez, Commissioner of DHS.

At this initial meeting, a Steering Committee was formed and five major workgroups were established. The five workgroups are Clinical Decision Making Processes, System Redesign, Service Delivery, Quality Improvement, and Self Advocacy & Family Partnership. Each workgroup will consist of a number of different sub-committees. For a detailed breakout of the workgroups and the sub-committees that will be established under each workgroup, please click on [Workgroups](#).

The DDD is seeking additional nominations for self advocates, family members, service providers and division staff to participate on the five major workgroups and related sub-committees. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for participation on a workgroup and/or a specific sub-committee, please contact Kassandra Ross via e-mail at kassandra.ross@dhs.state.nj.us or by telephone at (609) 987-0936 by August 15, 2007.

