

DDD Today

A Publication of the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Volume VI, Issue IV April 2012
dddnewsletter@dhs.state.nj.us

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner
Dawn Apgar, Deputy Commissioner

NEW JERSEY MOVES TOWARD A NEW APPROACH IN SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Submitted by:

*New Jersey Department of Human Services Commissioner Jennifer Velez
& New Jersey Department of Children and Families Commissioner Allison Blake*



Governor Christie has long spoken of the State's moral obligation to recognize the individuality and unique needs of every New Jerseyan with a developmental disability. This year's budget reaffirms the Administration's commitment to a fundamental rethinking of how people with developmental disabilities receive support and services.

New Jersey has a system of care in place for children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities, but it can be

confusing, difficult to navigate, and frustrating for families just learning of a diagnosis. These critical services, including early intervention, special education, behavioral health support, disability services, employment assistance, and housing options span six different cabinet-level agencies of State government.

While independently and collaboratively, the Departments strive to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families, and there is an opportunity to make State government more responsive and accessible to New Jerseyans who need these services. Governor Christie and his administration are seizing this opportunity.

To ensure there is an integrated continuum of services responsive to the whole child and the whole family, Governor Christie announced a common sense restructuring during his Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Address that moves all services for children with



developmental disabilities from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) beginning in July. This move and creation of the Division of Child Integrated System of Care Services within DCF is one that stakeholders have applauded and one that, we agree, will benefit families seeking a single point of entry.

Story continued on Page 3.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES AT DDD

As you may be aware, there have been several organizational changes that have occurred within the Division of Developmental Disabilities' (DDD) administration of Community Services. These changes, which took effect in March, are as follows:

- ◆ Robert Harbold transitioned from his duties as the Regional Administrator of Lower Central Region to a new assignment within the Waiver/Quality Assurance Unit.
- ◆ Linda Gately is now the Regional Administrator for the Upper Central Region.
- ◆ Seth Bassion is now the Regional Administrator for the Lower Central Region.
- ◆ Jenny Zayschly remains as the Regional Administrator for the Southern Region.
- ◆ Emil Brisson is now serving as the Regional Administrator for Community Services in the Northern Region. Brisson has over 32 years experience with DDD. His experience spans administrative oversight of operations within Community Services, Developmental Centers, and DDD's Central Office.
- ◆ Finally, Racquel Clark was selected to fill the position of Director of Quality for the Southern Regional Office within the Quality Unit of the Office of Medicaid Services and Quality Assurance. She will work in the Mays Landing office. Clark has the knowledge base and skill set that make her a welcome addition to the office.

DDD congratulates everyone on their new roles!

EARTH DAY AT HUNTERDON DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

On Thursday, April 19, Hunterdon Developmental Center will celebrate Earth Day (officially scheduled for Sunday April 22). The day was filled with activities for our individuals to participate in, such as plantings, decorating plant containers, viewing films about our planet, and simply enjoying the outdoors with music and activities.

We also celebrate the successes of Hunterdon's recycling program that employs our individuals in recycling all plastic, aluminum, white paper, and cardboard generated on our campus.



NEW JERSEY MOVES TOWARD A NEW APPROACH IN SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Story continued from Page 1.

DCF is family-centered and has the expertise and infrastructure in place to serve children with developmental disabilities. This restructuring ends the historic fragmentation that now exists—particularly for families whose children need services and supports from both Departments. With its wide-ranging network of community services, DCF is positioned to provide a holistic approach to serving children with autism and other developmental disabilities. DCF and DHS will ensure a seamless transition to provide needed services and supports as part of a transition plan for older youth moving into the adult system.

Since Fiscal Year 2011, aging out services have been fully funded. This means that young adults with developmental disabilities who are no longer eligible for the special education entitlement and who are not involved in a work activity may participate in day programs.

Also, there is an array of in-home services and supports that allow families to care for an adult child with autism or other developmental disability, reducing the need for institutionalization or out-of-home placement.

Further, DHS continues to advance efforts to move individuals residing in the State's developmental centers into the community. The Governor's FY'13 budget provides nearly \$40 million to ensure community living opportunities.

In addition, we are working with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on New Jersey's Comprehensive Medicaid Waiver application. Our goal is to increase community-based services for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Integral to this, is the Supports Program, which will promote in-home, self-directed services for adults with autism and other developmental disabili-

ties; a program to provide intensive in-home assistance for children with the dual diagnosis of mental illness and autism or other developmental disabilities; and evidence-based Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapies for Medicaid-covered children up to age 12, who are diagnosed with a pervasive developmental disorder, which includes autism.

The CDC's recent report on the prevalence of autism makes even more important Governor Christie's commitment to the vital work underway in New Jersey to reshape and enhance our service system. The ideas, assistance, and support that we have received from families, advocates, and professionals across our state has played an essential role in creating a continuum of care that will continue to evolve and be responsive to the complex needs of children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities.

**For more news on the
NJ Department of Human Services...**

**Find us on Facebook@
www.Facebook.com/NJDHS**



DDD CELEBRATES AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Submitted by:
Jonathan Sabin, Director
Division of Developmental Disabilities' Office on Autism

In New Jersey, 1 in 49 children has autism. It's a developmental disability that can cause difficulty with social interaction, motor coordination, attention, physical health, communication, and behavior. However, early intervention and evidence-based therapies can improve long term outcomes. To assist, the Department of Human Services, in collaboration with several other state agencies, developed the Family Guide to Navigating the New Jersey Service Systems for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders last year.

Awareness also helps. In celebration of Autism Awareness Month, "Light it Up Blue" was held on April 2, World Autism Awareness Day. In an effort to "shine a bright spotlight on the public health crisis of autism and improve the future for everyone who struggles with the disorder," Autism Speaks encouraged iconic landmarks around the world to "Light It Up Blue" to show their support.

And on April 26, people around the world will raise awareness by blowing bubbles and attempting to break the Guinness Record! (Details below.) For more opportunities to participate in Autism Awareness Month events, visit the Office on Autism's website, which can be found at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/home/ooa.html>.

BLOW BUBBLES 4 AUTISM

FACES 4 AUTISM started Blow Bubbles 4 Autism in 2004, and now bubbles cover the globe each April to make a difference - one child at a time. Each bubble symbolizes the support and compassion of those who educate, befriend, and love people with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Can your school join Faces to Blow Bubbles 4 Autism on April 26 for the Guinness World Record? Many people are already making signs and ribbons and ordering bubbles. Faces will do a "warm up" on April 17 at Georgian Court University in Lakewood, NJ. Even Atlantic City Mayor Langford has vowed to include his city workers in the effort! Schools are checking in all over the world, so please spread the word. The event time was also changed so that the West Coast can join Faces and their partners! Schools in Utah, Arizona, and California are also on board now.



Join Faces on Thursday, April 26, at 1:15 pm EST and help spread the love! After many requests to try for the Guinness World Record again, Faces will do so. But, your help is really needed to make it happen. Thanks to all for believing in this effort to send those bubbles to the skies above in honor of those we love. Here are this year's updated forms for participation in Bubbles Day:

<http://faces4autism.townsquareinteractive.com/blow-bubbles-4-autism/>

NEED A VACATION AND LOOKING TO TRAVEL?

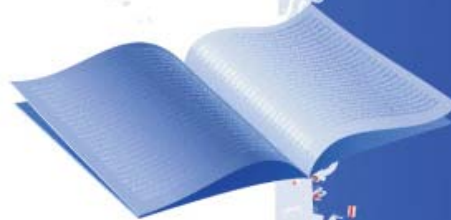
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- Car rentals, with and without hand controls
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For more information, call 888-211-3635 or visit www.abletotravel.org.

STORY IDEAS?



E-MAIL US AT:
DDDnewsletter@dhs.state.nj.us

We will happily consider your request!

2012 GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON RECREATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES *LEISURE 4 LIFE*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2012

at

Crowne Plaza Hotel in Monroe, New Jersey

Registration 8 - 9 a.m. / Conference 9 am - 4:15 p.m.

Keynote Speaker - Steven M. Eidelman

Executive Director, Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation

H. Rodney Sharp Professor of Human Services Policy and Leadership, University of Delaware

Member, National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities

Topics at a glance:

- ◆ Adaptive Aquatics
- ◆ Yoga
- ◆ Dealing with Difficult People
- ◆ Doing More with Less
- ◆ Horticultural Therapy
- ◆ Musical Interventions

(Plus other exciting sessions; CEUs and PDUs pending)

PRESENTED BY:

New Jersey Commission on Recreation for Individuals with Disabilities

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Office of Recreation

New Jersey Recreation and Park Association, Therapeutic Recreation Section

*Supported by the Aronow Family Foundation
in memory of Evelyn N. Aronow*

Check the following website for updates, information, and to register

www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dhcr/rec/

*Fee \$50.00 (after April 27, fee is \$75.00 - if space is available);
Continental breakfast & lunch included.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

20th Annual Facing the Future Conference Held in March

Submitted by The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities



The 20th annual Facing the Future Conference, Employment 1st. Expect. Explore. Earn., which was sponsored by The Boggs Center and NJ APSE (founded as Association for Persons in Supported Employment), was held on Friday, March 23 at the Doubletree Somerset Hotel. Nearly 350 employment specialists, rehabilitation counselors, and educators attended the conference.

The NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities' Deputy Commissioner Dawn Apgar, PhD, presented welcoming remarks on behalf of the Department of Human Services. Keynote presenters were MaryAlice Mowry and Scott Chesney, both strong advocates in the disability community. Workshops held throughout the day focused on job development/coaching, education/transition, employer perspectives, career exploration, program management, self-direction, and technology.

Jennifer Joyce, Coordinator of Employment and Day Services for the Division of Developmental Disabilities was honored with the Rebecca McDonald Award by NJ APSE. Glori Bine-Callagy, President of NJ APSE, presented her with the award.



Jennifer Joyce was honored by NJ APSE.

Jennifer has demonstrated her belief that all people with disabilities should have the opportunity to do real work for real pay' in everything that she does," Bine-Callagy said. "She wears her 'employment hat in all aspects of her work and ensures that everyone around her is equally aware. In all aspects of Supported Employment in New Jersey, Jennifer has stepped up to take a lead or supporting role to ensure Employment is the first option for all people with disabilities. Her leadership and vision has had a substantial and positive impact in the field of Supported Employment that spreads throughout New Jersey and beyond." Congratulations Jennifer!



DDD's Deputy Commissioner Dawn Apgar addresses conference attendees.

Hold the date for next year's Facing the Future conference!
 The event will take place on March 22, 2013,
 at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset

NEW LISBON DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER NEWS

Submitted by Hope Soliman, CTS Walnut Cottage

On February 29, Walnut Cottage at the New Lisbon Developmental Center (NLDC) held its first celebration in recognition of Black History Month. We had a presentation on Harriet Tubman, an escaped slave who returned and led hundreds to freedom utilizing the Underground Railroad. She became a leading Abolitionist against slavery and a scout for the Union Army during the Civil War.

This presentation delightfully explained by Harold E. Stewart, fifth generation nephew of Ms. Tubman-Ross, was followed by a solo from his wife Mary. Harold and Mary Stewart are the parents of Valerie Cason, HCTS, Spruce Cottage.

Those in attendance included Patricia Merck, CEO; Sheila Hoffman, DPRS, Connie Wilder, SPRS, Walnut, Dogwood, and Cedar Cottage, as well as other NLDC Staff. Individuals from Holly Cottage were also in the audience. Light refreshments were served. It was an enjoyable event for all in attendance.

A special thanks to Walnut staff for without their cooperation the event would not have been so successful!

THE ARC OF NEW JERSEY TO HOST THE 23RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON MEDICAL CARE FOR PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The 23rd Annual Conference on Medical Care for Persons with Developmental Disabilities is fast approaching. The conference will be held on Friday, June 1, at the Westin Princeton Hotel in Forrestal Village. It is being sponsored by Mainstreaming Medical Care, a program of The Arc of New Jersey, and the theme is "Promoting Quality Healthcare."

A registration fee of \$60 includes a continental breakfast and materials (with lunch on your own); the fee of \$90 includes lunch. For every four registrations from the same non-profit agency, a fifth employee attends free. The registration deadline is Friday, May 18.

For additional information, including the conference brochure and online registration, please visit www.mainstreamingmedicalcare.org. Exhibitor information is also available on the Mainstreaming Medical Care page. Contact Helen Rivera at hrivera@arcnj.org or 732-246-2525 x35 with any questions.

SELF-DIRECTED SURVEY PREPARATION

Advocates for Alternatives & New Jersey Developmental Disabilities Planning Institute presents Self-Directed Survey Preparation, which provides an opportunity to learn how supports and services will be determined for DDD-eligible individuals as they transition to adult life.

This presentation is for individuals who are eligible for Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) services. It is a forum to clarify the Developmental Disabilities Resource Tool (DDRT). This is the phone survey used by DDD to determine an individual's level of need. A review of the DDRT will be presented, examples will be given of individuals who are currently self-directing, and time will be allotted for questions and answers.

This forum is most appropriate for families who have young adults (14 years of age or older) currently in transition planning from school to adult-life and professionals working with these families.

**Registration is free.
Space is limited.
RSVP required;
call Cheryl at 800-372-6510.**

**Pemberton Library
16 Broadway Browns Mills NJ 08015
Tuesday - June 5, 2012 6:00 - 8:15 PM**

**The Jardine Academy
75 Rod Smith Pl. Cranford, NJ 07016
Thursday - June 7, 2012 6:00 - 8:30 PM**

**New Beginnings School
28 Dwight Pl. Fairfield, NJ 07004
Monday - June 11, 2012 6:00 - 8:30 PM**

NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH



Going Green for National Nutrition Month

March was National Nutrition Month and the men and staff at Woodbine Developmental Center celebrated by “Getting Your Plate in Shape” and “Eating Right with Colors”, specifically green beverage and foods. Everyone was greeted at the Galley with a quick, nutrition quiz and educational materials. Green foods such as wasabi peas, guacamole, veggie sticks, spinach veggie wraps, pea soup and a limeade that made you pucker were enjoyed! Blood pressure checks were given and the Shamrock toss was lots of fun! Prize bags were distributed and raffle tickets were collected for the biggest win of all, the leprechaun Stash! This large basket was overflowing with every possible green fruit and vegetable that you can imagine! Ms. Joyce Wilson, speech language Pathologist, was our lucky recipient! Thank you to all who participated and supported this event. We look forward to next year to share our good news on nutrition!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

United Way
of Greater Mercer County

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UNITED FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT \$ CENTER



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NOW OPEN!
Tuesdays

11:00 am to 8:00 pm

Come visit at:

3131 Princeton Pike
Building 4, Suite 113

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

609.896.1912

financialempowerment@uwgmc.org

Bus Directions: on NJ Transit Bus #603 & #613
Stop Princeton Pike & Franklin Corner Rd, Walk 2 blocks North on
Princeton Pike, Turn left at Executive Park Place, Walk 1 block on
Executive Park Place to Building 4, enter suite 113-United Way

FREE HELP FOR:

- Consumer credit counseling
- Debt management
- Foreclosure counseling
- Tax preparation
- Women's interview clothing
- Career center mentoring
- Financial planning
- NJ FamilyCare

Staff available to help you!
Not all services available every Tuesday.

United Financial Empowerment Partnership *Building economic security and self-sufficiency*

Free service brought to you by United Way of Greater Mercer County, Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness, Dress for Success Mercer County, Isles, NJ FamilyCare, Family Guidance Center/Consumer Credit Counseling Service, and Financial Planning Association of New Jersey.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ABILITIES EXPO TO OFFER A VARIETY OF INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND DEMONSTRATIONS ON NEW ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

**Friday, May 4 - Sunday, May 6
At the New Jersey Convention & Expo Center in Edison, NJ**

**Friday 11 AM - 5 PM
* Saturday 11 AM - 5 PM * Sunday 11 AM - 4 PM**

Workshops * Demonstrations * Vendors

For over 30 years, the Abilities Expo has helped to improve the lives of Americans with disabilities, their families, caregivers, and healthcare professionals. Over the course of three days, visitors can check out cutting-edge products and services, attend compelling workshops, and participate in fun activities and demonstrations. For more information, visit: www.abilitiesexpo.com

WORKSHOPS

**“In Community: Supporting People with DD in Establishing
Meaningful Community Connections”**

**Thursday, April 26 from 6-8:30 PM
Family Support Center of NJ
2516 Route 35
Manasquan, NJ 08736**

This workshop is designed to help families, professionals and others who assist people who use supports to participate and make contributions in their communities. Specific tools and strategies for understanding, planning, supporting, and sustaining community connections will be covered.

*Presented by: Michael Steinbruck, M.A., Self-Directed Supports Project Mgr.,
The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



2012 PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS

**Last chance for Professional
Workshops until the Conference!**

Back by popular demand...

**Autism for Public School Administrators: What You Need to Know
Hosted by the NJ Principals and Supervisors Association**

Wednesday, April 25 from 9 AM - 2:30 PM in Monroe Township

**Presenters Dr. Linda Meyer and Elizabeth Neumann have earned
rave reviews from more than 350 superintendents, principals,
and special services directors.**

**“It was a well-planned, resourceful use of my time -- a great deal of
information presented in a logical, concise format with practical
applications. This will to help me evaluate my school’s programs
and identify resources to improve our practices.”**

To register online, go to:

***Discounts available for Autism New Jersey members.**

http://www.featraining.org/ISGweb/Association/index_iframe.aspx?ContinueURL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.featraining.org%2fISGweb%2fEvents%2fCalendarEventsListView.aspx

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ELIZABETH M. BOGGS CENTER
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Department of Pediatrics



ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON
MEDICAL SCHOOL

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

Training Opportunities from The Boggs Center

*There's Still Time to Register for the Spring 2012 Developmental Disabilities
Lecture Series! Three sessions are open to additional registrations!*

May 18 from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM at the Doubletree Suites in Mt. Laurel
Maximizing Quality of Life with Person-Centered Cognitive Support Technologies
(Presenter: Daniel Davies, MA)



Emerging cognitive support technologies resulting from evidenced-based research are having a transformational impact on the independence and self-determination of individuals with developmental disabilities. This session will illustrate state-of-the-art technologies for social connectedness, transportation, and self-directed supports developed specifically for individuals with developmental disabilities to facilitate their independence. The symbiotic relationship of these supports with innovative Smart Living Technologies, such as cloud-based technologies for caregiving, also will be presented.



View session details and register online at:

http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter/dd_lecture/DD_lecture.html

Sessions are free of charge. Registration is required, and space is limited.

NOTE: The May 11 session listed online is filled to capacity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SPRING AUTISM WEBINAR SERIES

Sexuality Instructions and ASD: What Behavior Analysts Need to Know

May 9 from 7-8 PM

Presenter: Peter F. Gerhardt, Ed. D

To register, visit: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/889291654>

Proactive Strategies for Addressing Challenging Behavior

June 13 from 6:30-7:30 PM

Presenter: Bridget Taylor, Ph.D., BCBA

To register, visit: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/172306054>

Transportation

July 2012

Presenter: Louis Hoffman, Travel Instructor/Project Manager, NJ TIP

For information, visit: www.autismfamilyservicesnj.org



Able Newspaper is an established, widely known publication in the disability community and a monthly newspaper that is published for, by, and about those with disabilities.

The New Jersey edition of Able can be read online for free.

Just visit www.ablenews.com and click on the

“Click Here for Free Edition”

at the top of the page.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Jersey Developmental Center News



January 15: The New Jersey Developmental Center (NJDC) Rough Riders basketball team played their first game of the year at the Wayne Hills High School. Even though the Rough Riders lost all three games in January, they did their best! Kudos goes to the hard working athletes and coaches Mr. K. McKenzie, Mr. R. Feliciano, and Ms. K. Washington.

February 5: Twenty-three clients were escorted by six staff to the T-Bowl in Wayne, where they participated in Special Olympics bowling. Everyone received ribbons and had a wonderful time. Later, everyone enjoyed a cup of coffee or soda. Thanks to the cottage for giving us help from the direct care.

February 6: We also had clients participating in the winter games. They participated in skiing in Mountain Creek in Vernon, NJ. They returned on February 8 showing off their medals thanks to the dedication shown by coaching staff and the athletes.



February 12: The Rough Riders played again in Wayne. This time, they were ready for the other team and their hard work paid off!

February 14: There was a Valentine's Day party, which was held in the Food Service Dining Room during the afternoon. Some clients arrived early and some stayed late, but all had a wonderful time. They enjoyed the music, which was played by M. Franklin. They also had cupcakes, water, juice, and chips. Thanks to everyone for making this day special for our clients.



February 19: The Rough Riders played at the Lincoln High School in Jersey City and swept the other team! The athletes stated the game was over before it began. Hats off to the coaches and athletes.

February 25: Six clients were escorted to Wallington, NJ, where they participated in Special Olympics bowling. Many of them earned trophies. Hats off to our athletes and coaches for doing so well!

NJDC has three athletes going to the State Championship in April. Good luck to them!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Jersey Self-Directed Supports Conference Building My Life: Practical Tools

Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5, 2012

**Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center
in Somerset, New Jersey**

The NJ Self-Directed Supports Conference is a fun and welcoming place to learn and share experiences related to self-direction. It is a place to share successes and struggles from all perspectives, whether you are someone purchasing supports, a family member, or a provider organization. Individuals and organizations not yet involved with self-directed supports are highly encouraged to come and learn more.

To register: View complete brochure with conference details and registration form (PDF)
View additional conference information on The Boggs Center web site
Registration contact: deborah.mahovetz@umdnj.edu or call 732-235-9543

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