

# DDD Today

A Publication of the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Chris Christie, Governor  
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

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

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner  
Dawn Apgar, Deputy Commissioner

## STATE AGENCY PARTNERSHIP ADVANCES EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

*Provides support services necessary to train for, find, and maintain jobs*

New Jersey is advancing a philosophy that promotes competitive employment for individuals with disabilities through an intra-state agency partnership that allows individuals to pursue and maintain employment while receiving in-home or community support, as needed.

Together with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS), the Department of Human Services (DHS) provides Supported Employment for people with developmental disabilities. DDD eligible individuals who receive these services or who work part-time also can receive a DDD funded day service to supplement a part-time schedule.

"As we assist people with developmental disabilities in living as independently as possible, we



strive to provide the individual supports necessary for them to achieve competitive employment," said DHS Commissioner Jennifer Velez. "Employment expands opportunities for individual development, personal accomplishment, and financial stability."

To maximize competitive employment choices for consumers, DDD and DVRS provide funding for the initial phases of employment including pre-placement

and training. Once an individual is employed and the DVRS supports have ended, DDD is able to provide continued funding for follow-along services that assist the person in maintaining employment.

DDD funds services through contracts with private vendors and through agencies qualified to provide services to individuals participating in Self Directed Services. Additionally, through NJ Workability, consumers are able to work and still retain important safety net benefits, such as Medicaid, Social Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance.

To learn more about supported employment for individuals with developmental disabilities, go to: <http://www.state.nj.us/human-services/ddd/services/ses/>

**GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE ISSUED A PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER  
IN NEW JERSEY AS NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH.**

**For details, visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/index.shtml>**

## Report Explores Effects of Disability on Children & Families

The Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) at Texas A&M University, in partnership with the Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development (DIIFSD), would like to announce the completion of Project CHILD Voices from Around the World Special Report. PPRI and DIIFSD initiated an international study on the status of children with disabilities and their families, entitled Children and the International Landscape of Disabilities (Project CHILD). Findings from the study were recently presented at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

Over the course of Project CHILD, 102 disability experts were interviewed in 57 countries, whose combined populations represent nearly 75% the world's people. One of the most striking discoveries was that when talking about children with disabilities and their families, there are more similarities than differences.

“This report, while documenting positive, transformational change, also reveals that children with disabilities around the world, especially those in developing countries, face significant barriers with respect to social inclusion, education and access to medical care,” said Hissa Al Thani, Special Rapporteur on Disability to the UN (2003-2009)

Project CHILD increases understanding regarding the effects of disability on children and their families; provides helpful information regarding available assistance and resources; encourages increased cooperative action by local, regional, and international stakeholders; and spurs much-needed action.

To view a video further describing the project, visit: <http://ppri.tamu.edu/project-child-video-cc/>

### COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED HONORS DDD'S DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

#### Community Access Unlimited (CAU) held its 31st Annual Gala Dinner Dance Celebration at L'Affaire Fine Catering in Mountainside

At the event on October 26, Dr. Dawn Apgar, deputy commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), was honored for her work. As part of her role at DHS, Deputy Commissioner Apgar oversees the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

CAU also honored the Helping Hands Self-Advocacy Group as well as Dr. Alison Lozano, executive director of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities. About 575 people attended, and the evening included hors d'oeuvres, a surf-and-turf dinner, a live band, dancing, and the awards ceremony.

Based in Elizabeth, CAU provides supports for people with developmental disabilities, youth aging out of foster care, and people with affordable housing needs. The Gala Dinner Dance Celebration is one of CAU's most important fundraisers. Over the years, this semi-formal event has helped the organization raise more than \$45,000 to help provide a range of housing, educational, and vocational training programs for those they serve.



## RESPIRE SERVICES FOR FAMILIES TO BE IMPROVED

*SUMMIT ADDRESSED COORDINATED SERVICES, INCREASED TRAINING*

The New Jersey Lifespan Respite Program hosted its first summit October 26 at the Woodbridge Renaissance Hotel to begin the process of creating a coordinated system of accessible, community-based respite care services for caregivers of children or adults of any age. The initiative is funded by a three-year federal grant of \$147,959 from the U.S. Administration on Aging and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in addition to a \$54,347 State match.

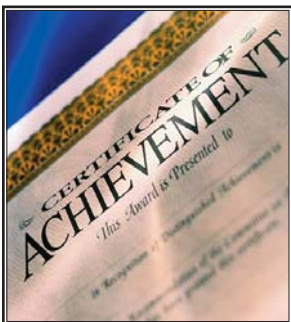
The event brought together all relevant stakeholders in lifespan respite care to discuss current systems and opportunities to develop a seamless, fully integrated system for family caregivers. Attendees participated in focus groups and break-out sessions to identify areas of concern in the current system and brainstormed potential programmatic changes to enhance families' access to respite and evolve delivery of services. Speakers included the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, Dawn Apgar, and Acting Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Health and Senior Services, William Conroy.

These and other state agencies, provide respite services through a variety of programs. Working collaboratively with the NJ Lifespan Respite Coalition, they are advancing efforts to manage resources in a way that effectively and appropriately serves eligible families.

The Lifespan Respite Care Program is intended to enable states to better coordinate existing respite services, identify service gaps, and create and monitor new respite services. It also provides opportunities to recruit, train, and support paid and volunteer respite providers as well as raise public awareness about the need for and importance of respite services. For more information about the implementation of the Lifespan Respite Care Program, please visit AoA's website at:

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA\\_Programs/HCLTC/LRCP/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/LRCP/index.aspx)

## THE ARC OF NJ TO HONOR DDD EMPLOYEE



In an effort to recognize and applaud the exceptional efforts of individuals and organizations in the state's disability community who dedicate their time and talent to improving the quality of life for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, The Arc of New Jersey hosts a special awards dinner and celebration each year. Among the honorees this year is Joni BenNacef, assistant regional administrator of the Division of Developmental Disabilities' (DDD) Northern Regional Office. BenNacef was chosen as the winner of the Professional of the Year Award for her stellar work in the field.

As its mission, The Arc of New Jersey promotes and protects the human rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes; it is also committed to enhancing the quality of life of those individuals and their families through advocacy, empowerment, education, and prevention.

DDD congratulates BenNacef on a job well done! She will receive her award on November 15 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Edison, NJ. The event in its entirety will take place from 6-9 p.m.; the awards ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. For more information on The Arc of New Jersey or to attend the event, contact Celine Fortin at (732) 246-2525, ext. 25 or visit:

[http://www.arcnj.org/news\\_events/calendar.html/event/2011/11/15/the-arc-of-nj-annual-awards-dinner](http://www.arcnj.org/news_events/calendar.html/event/2011/11/15/the-arc-of-nj-annual-awards-dinner)

# ARC MERCER TO HONOR GOVERNOR CHRISTIE FOR HISTORIC MOVE TO MEET SET ASIDE PROGRAM GOALS

## *Governor's Decision to Dramatically Increase the Set Aside of Janitorial Contracts Leads to Hundreds of Job Opportunities for People with Disabilities*

Before coming to The Arc Mercer, Nicholas Pettit had been unemployed for over two years. He had struggled to find the right job training, the right career path to match his skills, and an available job opportunity. In today's economy this story seems familiar, but Nicholas faces additional challenges. He is a person with a disability, and the unemployment rate among people with disabilities is nearly double that of workers without a disability at 16.1%.

But, in July of 2011, something changed for Nicholas. He connected with Arc Mercer, and through skills and interest assessments, he was put on a vocational training track focused on janitorial work. The first step was to rebuild his confidence, and believe again that he could become employed and succeed at a job. Next, Nicholas became proficient at the variety of skills needed for a janitorial position through training at the Arc Mercer Occupational Training Center (OTC). With every successful day and new skill learned, Nicholas began to build his self confidence and vocational skills. In September, Nicholas had the opportunity to participate in the Janitorial group placements at Arc Mercer, leaving the OTC during the day to have the opportunity for on-the-job janitorial training.

And finally, this October something wonderful happened. A job opportunity became available through a very unique source.

Under state law, New Jersey is required to set aside work for people with disabilities. Governor Christie has demonstrated a further commitment to this concept by supporting the Executive Order to increase the mandate to 3%.

CNA Services, ACCSES New Jersey's marketing division for the state set-aside program for people with disabilities, is responsible for managing the set aside program's activities. They report that the program has grown from some 900 jobs to more than 4,000 jobs in recent years, generating an economic impact in 2010 of nearly \$9 million in taxes paid and reduced entitlements. The workers with disabilities who held the jobs earned just over \$4 million in paychecks last year, at an average wage of about \$8.30 an hour.

Through ACCSES NJ, the Arc Mercer Occupational Training Program has been awarded janitorial contracts at the New Jersey Departments of Transportation, Community Affairs, and Environmental Protection. In April of 2011, they also took on Riverview Plaza. The Arc Mercer Occupational Training program has gone from cleaning 700,000 square feet daily to cleaning 2.5 million square feet with a workforce of people with disabilities.

Governor Christie's decision to dramatically increase the set aside of the New Jersey State janitorial contracts, as well as other key items, such as document management, call centers, and toner cartridges, has surpassed all previous efforts. For example, the number of square feet cleaned under the set aside program has increased from some 4 million square feet to nearly 9 million square feet a day. As a result, janitorial services have already put approximately 350 individuals with disabilities to work throughout New Jersey, a number which is expected to rise. And one of those individuals is Nicholas Pettit.

At the Arc Mercer alone, 130 people with developmental disabilities were provided access to employment, earning a paycheck, and contributing to the community in which they reside. The additional benefit of the set aside programs is that they provide a paid opportunity for individuals with disabilities to build skills while in a real job setting and then move onto fully integrated and competitive jobs as a result of this on-the-job training and experience.

Through hard work, skill building, and new found self-confidence, Nicholas now works Monday through Friday as part of a janitorial crew cleaning state offices in Trenton, NJ. According to Nicholas, he feels an increased sense of independence and confidence since he has been working regularly. He enjoys the relationships he has made with his co-workers and supervisors and enjoys the work that he does.

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“These mandates are very important for raising the awareness of the need for state government to support employment for people with disabilities,” said Geoff Morris, President of Arc Mercer’s Board of Directors. “Governor Christie put his money where his mouth is and significantly increased set aside projects with his actions.”

Because of his actions, the Arc Mercer has selected Governor Christie to receive a 2011 Community Hero Award at its annual Fall Gala on November 18. Arc Mercer is joined by ACCSES NJ, which represents all non-profit agencies involved with state set-aside programs, in congratulating the Governor on this recognition. “The Governor has moved the State’s commitment to meeting state set aside goals forward quite substantially,” said Nils Richardson, President of ACCSES NJ. “This move alone increased state set-aside ratios from an annual rate of less than 1% to nearly 2%.”

“The most impressive thing about the Governor’s actions was his move, with no fanfare, to significantly grow jobs for people with disabilities while substantially reducing costs to state taxpayers,” said Steven Cook, Executive Director of Arc Mercer. “It is a win-win for those we serve and the State of New Jersey.”

On November 18, Nicholas Pettit won’t just be celebrating the Fall Gala, or the award, but his new job and his new found self-confidence and independence. For more details, contact: Kelly Jiras, of the Arc Mercer, at (609) 406-0181, ext. 146 or [kjiras@arcmercer.org](mailto:kjiras@arcmercer.org).

## **NJ Self-Directed Supports Conference Building My Life: Practical Tools**

**Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5, 2012**

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

The NJ Self-Directed Supports Conference invites proposals for workshops. The 2012 conference will focus on giving attendees the “how-to” and “where to” TOOLS to make self-direction work. Ten workshops will be offered on Saturday, May 5. Workshops will be 75 minutes each and will repeat in the morning and afternoon.

Workshops are sought on the following topics:

- ❖ managing your budget — writing job descriptions and managing staff — futures planning
- ❖ health and wellness — home modifications — assistive technology — special needs trusts and wills
- ❖ self-advocacy — transportation — financial planning — self-employment
- ❖ acronyms and what each agency does — state programs and resources
- ❖ Centers for Independent Living — County Offices on Disabilities

View the Call for Presenters Form

Deadline: November 18, 2011

Sponsored by: NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities

In partnership with:

Caregivers of New Jersey

Easter Seals New Jersey

The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

Neighbours, Inc.

Values Into Action

## LIVES WORTH LIVING PREMIERES ON THE PBS SERIES INDEPENDENT LENS

Powerful Documentary Chronicles the History of America's Disability Rights Movement

While there are close to 50 million Americans living with disabilities, *Lives Worth Living* is the first television history of their decades-long struggle for equal rights. Produced and directed by Eric Neudel, *Lives Worth Living* is a window into a world inhabited by people with an unwavering determination to live their lives like everyone else, and it offers a look back into a past when millions of Americans lived without access to schools, apartment buildings, and public transportation—a way of life unimaginable today. *Lives Worth Living* premiered on the Emmy® Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*, on Thursday, October 27, 2011.

*Lives Worth Living* traces the development of the disability rights movement from its beginning following World War II, when thousands of disabled veterans returned home, through its burgeoning in the 1960s and 1970s, when it began to adopt the tactics of other social movements. Told through interviews with the movement's pioneers, legislators, and others, *Lives Worth Living* explores how Americans with a wide variety of disabilities (including blind, deaf, mental, and physical) banded together to change public perception and policy. Through demonstrations and legislative battles, the disability rights community finally

secured equal civil rights with the 1990 passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, one of the most transformative pieces of civil rights legislation in American history.

To learn more about the film and the issues involved, visit the film's companion website at [www.pbs.org/independentlens/](http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/). Get detailed information on the film, watch preview clips, read an interview with the filmmaker, and explore the subject in depth with links and resources. The site also features a Talkback section, where viewers can share their ideas and opinions.

### ABOUT THE FILMMAKER:

*Eric Neudel (Producer/Director)* has produced, directed, and edited numerous award-winning films for public television. His many credits include *Eyes on the Prize*, *AIDS: Chapter One*, *LBJ Goes to War*, *Tet 1968*, *Steps*, *After the Crash*, *The Philippines* and *The US: In Our Image, Body and Soul*, and more. He was a visiting senior critic and lecturer in film at Yale University and served as producer, director, and editor for Harvard University's Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, and Spectrum Media's program series on the art and craft of teaching. Neudel was also a photographer and video production consultant, teaching video production to a team working for the Compass Project in Malawi. Photographs from his two years in Malawi were exhibited in the Sandra and Phillip Gordon Gallery at The Boston Arts Academy in October 2007.

He also served as a story consultant for *Row Hard No Excuses*, an award-winning documentary about two middle-aged American men who set out to cross the Atlantic in a rowboat. Most recently, he served as a photographer in Rwanda for *The Boston Globe*, where he directed, produced, and edited a companion documentary about the Maranyundo Middle School, which was built on the site of one of the worst concentration camps and killing fields in Rwanda.



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### ***ABOUT INDEPENDENT LENS:***

Independent Lens is an Emmy® Award-winning weekly series airing Tuesday nights at 10 p.m. on PBS. The acclaimed anthology series features documentaries and a limited number of fiction films united by the creative freedom, artistic achievement, and unflinching visions of their independent producers. Independent Lens features unforgettable stories about a unique individual, community, or moment in history. Presented by the Independent Television Service (ITVS), the series is supported by interactive companion websites as well as national publicity and community engagement campaigns. Further information about the series is available at [www.pbs.org/independentlens](http://www.pbs.org/independentlens). Independent Lens is jointly curated by ITVS and PBS; it is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), a private corporation funded by the American people, with additional funding provided by PBS and the National Endowment for the Arts. The series producer is Lois Vossen.

### **DOCUMENTARY PARTICIPANTS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):**

- **Fred Fay**, early leader in the [disability rights movement](#) (1944 – 2011)
- **Ann Ford**, director of the Illinois National Council on Independent Living
- **Judy Heumann**, leading disability rights activist
- **Judi Chamberlin**, Mental Patients Liberation Front, a movement for the rights and dignity of people with mental illness (1944-2010)
- **Dr. William Bronston**, former staff physician at the notorious Willowbrook State School who was dismissed after agitating for change
- **Bob Kafka**, established ADAPT of Texas, a disability rights advocacy organization
- **Zona Roberts**, counselor, UC Berkeley's Physically Disabled Students' Program and Center for Independent Living, Berkeley; mother of disability rights pioneer Ed Roberts
- **Pat Wright**, Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
- **John Wodatch**, Chief, Disability Rights Section, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice
- **Jack Duncan**, Former Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives
- **Mary Jane Owen**, disability rights activist, philosopher, policy expert, and writer
- **Marca Bristo**, CEO, Access Living and leader in the disability rights movement
- **Michael Winter**, former director, Berkeley Center for Independent Living
- **Lex Frieden**, former director, National Council on the Handicapped
- **Dr. I. King Jordan**, President Emeritus, Gallaudet University
- **Jeff Rosen**, alumni leader, Gallaudet University
- **Senator Tom Harkin**, (D-Iowa)
- **Bobby Silverstein**, Chief Counsel, Senate Subcommittee on Disability Policy
- **Richard Thornburgh**, US Attorney General, 1988-1991
- **Tony Coelho**, former Congressman, House Majority Whip, 1986-1989



- **Build a reliable, multi-skilled workforce**
- **Clients and patrons relate better to a diverse staff**
- **An industrious staff creates a prosperous business**

**Simple solutions can overcome potential obstacles in hiring individuals with disabilities. Appropriate assistive technologies, minor accommodations and some basic training are usually all that is needed.**

**For information on how to recruit diverse talent:**

**Think Beyond the Label:** [www.thinkbeyondthelabel.com](http://www.thinkbeyondthelabel.com)

**What Can You Do?:** [www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org](http://www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org)

**Job Accommodation Network:** [www.askjan.org](http://www.askjan.org)

**or call the**

**New Jersey Department of Human Services'**

**Division of Disability Services: 1-888-285-3036**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Medicaid Managed Care Guide Recently Revised

**Your Guide for Making Medicaid Managed Care Work for You** has been revised and re-printed in English and Spanish. The guide was developed by The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services. This second printing was funded by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities.

The guide explains managed health care in New Jersey. It gives individuals and families an opportunity to learn about how managed care works and to keep track of important information about their doctors and health care services.

Chapters/sections include:

1. What is Managed Care and How Does it Work?
2. How to Use Managed Care
3. Tips on Improving Your Health Care and Being Healthy
4. What You Can Do If You Have Problems and Concerns  
About Your Doctor, Your Health Care, or Your HMO
5. Glossary
6. My Important Information
7. Sources of Help



**Download the guide on [The Boggs Center website](#)** or call the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services at **1-800-356-1561** for hard copies.

### Conference Celebrates and Educates Caregivers

The Family Support Center of New Jersey (FSCNJ) hosted the 2011 National Caregivers Conference on Thursday, October 27 at the Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel in Iselin, NJ. The event hosted over 80 exhibitors from the healthcare industry, 12 workshops, and several hundred professionals and families.

Gail Sheehy, New York Times Best Selling Author, was the keynote speaker. She discussed her innovative approach to the art of caregiving and her personal experience caring for her husband. A Library of Congress survey named her book *Passages* one of the 10 most-influential books of all time.

Since 2011 is “The Year of the Caregiver,” family caregivers attended the conference at a heavily discounted rate. Workshop topics included caring for veterans, navigating Medicaid and Social Security issues, student caregivers, and assistive technology.

“We wanted families to have the opportunity to participate regardless of financial ability. We (brought) together countless caregiving resources from across the country and the families need this information the most,” explains Laura Kay of FSCNJ.

Following the workshops, The Family Resource Network’s inclusive fitness program, Get FIT, celebrated its official launch targeting those with disabilities and their caregivers by providing unique opportunities to stay or get in shape.

## New Rules for Family Support Funds

*Please read the information below regarding important changes to permissible uses of the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Family Support Assistive Device Technology/Home & Vehicle Modification funds. This is effective immediately. Thank you for your attention to these important changes.*

### **General Items:**

DDD may pay for an item or device that replaces a life skill to perform a basic task of daily living that is normally expected to be performed based on a person's age, but not an item that is solely therapeutic.

❖ **Example:** DDD will not fund a car seat for children covered under the State Child Passenger Safety Law, which is based on age and weight. DDD may consider requests for children whose age and weight are outside of current state law.

❖ **Example:** Because all young children require supervision, DDD will not pay for a door alarm as a home modification for a child under the age of twelve (12) who elopes, but may consider requests for older children.

❖ **Example:** DDD will not fund a pediatric treadmill to help an infant with poor muscle tone learn to walk; the family should pursue physical therapy through Early Intervention or through private insurance. DDD may fund a walker or scooter for a child who is two (2) years of age or older, if denied by insurance and needed to replace a skill that is not present (in this case, ambulation).

Although insurance denials and doctor's prescriptions are required, they do not necessarily guarantee funding approval.

### **Electronic Devices:**

❖ DDD funds will no longer be used to purchase electronic devices, such as iPads and iPod Touches.

❖ DDD may, however, fund the popular communication "app" Proloquoto2, which may be downloaded to a privately owned electronic device. Requests for all other apps will be reviewed on an individual basis.

### **Regarding the Proloquoto 2 app:**

❖ The minimum age of the individual DDD will consider for use of this app is three (3) years old.

❖ An insurance denial and doctor's or speech therapist's prescription are still required for the app, but do not necessarily guarantee funding approval.

❖ Prior authorization for the app will need to be granted. After authorization to purchase the app is given, DDD will reimburse the cost upon receipt of proof of purchase. This is the only exception to our policy against reimbursement to families, since the only way to obtain free and frequent upgrades issued by the software developer is for the family to own the app directly. A family should never purchase the app before receiving funding approval from DDD as DDD will not reimburse for costs incurred before approval is granted.

❖ DDD will not pay for apps that are "games" even if used to enhance memory, motor or sensory skills, or are otherwise "therapeutic." DDD may review requests for apps that help a person to accomplish basic tasks, such as a checklist.

While DDD may concur that a desired item enhances someone's life, DDD is not resourced to use limited state funds to pay for it. Our mission as a Division is to serve as many families as possible with available Family Support funding for respite and other specialized DDD services. By assisting families with the cost of those unique programs, DDD anticipates that families will pursue additionally desired items, such as those examples given above, with private funding or through other means outside of Division resources. The Division of Disability Services' Information and Referral Office (**1-888-285-3036**) may be able to help identify alternative resources.

## Tolerance Museum Fosters Acceptance of Disability Community

Tacked on a column inside the Kidsbridge Tolerance Museum located on the campus of The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) in Ewing, are countless stories from youth who have faced discrimination and been bullied. Just a few feet away, visitors can watch a special video of even more youth recounting how they have been picked on and how it made them feel. The stories are poignant and meant to leave an impact on those who view them.

“It is designed to get kids to feel empowered as advocates,” said Lynne Azarchi, Executive Director of Kidsbridge, which is a non-profit organization that provides programming in character education, diversity appreciation, empathy, conflict resolution, and life skills.

Through a partnership with TCNJ, Kidsbridge established the Tolerance Museum in 2006. Students from the college not only work in small groups with kids who visit the museum, but they also serve as role models. To date, more than 7,500 elementary and middle school students have interacted with 200 docent college students during their visit to the museum.

Presently, the museum proclaims to be the only humanistic museum on a college campus in the country. The museum features interactive exhibits that bring youth and college students together to focus on bullying, discrimination, prejudice, heroism, self-esteem, and sensitivity to persons with disabilities.

As part of the lessons taught in the room devoted to disability awareness, youth participate in various exercises in order to experience what it is like to have a disability. This helps them become empathetic and reinforces the fact that people with disabilities are just like them--they have feelings and want to be treated equally. Students also get to see some adaptive devices and medical equipment up close. Moreover, the room has plenty of books about various disabilities and there are many supporting props, like puppets with disabilities.

Overall, the museum provides each visitor with a thought-provoking learning environment where students, teachers, college students, parents, and volunteers collaborate to explore the fundamentals of diversity, tolerance, and life skills.



Through the on-site exhibits and corresponding lessons, students learn how to:

- Value the importance of human diversity
- Examine prejudice, discrimination, exclusion, behavior, and stereotypes
- Distinguish between real heroes and celebrities
- Become an “upstander” rather than a bystander

Azarchi said she’d like to see more children with disabilities visit the museum. Those interested in doing so are asked to schedule an appointment by calling **(609) 581-0239**.

For more information, visit [www.kidsbridgemuseum.org](http://www.kidsbridgemuseum.org).



## STORY IDEAS?

E-mail us at:

[DDDnewsletter@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:DDDnewsletter@dhs.state.nj.us)

We will happily consider your request!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER OF NJ ANNOUNCES TRAINING SCHEDULE**

The Family Support Center of New Jersey's (FSCNJ) Training Department has been conducting information sessions for New Jersey's families since May 2004, and has developed exciting, interactive sessions intended to assist families of children with developmental disabilities, targeting different age ranges, in order to address unique needs.

With each of the training sessions, families are exposed to appropriate advocacy strategies and are encouraged to develop a person-centered approach to planning for their child. FSCNJ encourages and empowers families to create solutions that are right for them.

FSCNJ currently conducts three trainings through collaboration with the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities; they are:

#### **Life Line for the Journey**

This is an interactive training session designed to assist families of children from infancy through age 14. At this stage, families are typically wondering and worrying about what the future holds for their child with a disability. The information presented includes vision building, as well as the different systems that they may encounter and the scope of service provision for each, including eligibility criteria. Networking time is built into the sessions so that families have an opportunity to connect with other families facing similar concerns. Click [here](#) to view an informational flier. Click [here](#) to register.

#### **Pathways to Adult Life**

This training is dedicated to the needs of children between the ages of 14 and 19. The purpose of this training is to assist students and their families with making informed choices during the transition process from school to adult life. At these sessions, a representative from New Jersey's Department of Education, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) provides an overview of responsibilities and their services to transitioning students. Families have an opportunity to meet their local contact representatives and follow-up with individual concerns. Click [here](#) to view an informational flier. Click [here](#) to register.

#### **Preparation for Life After 21 - Part 1**

This spring, we will be offering Part 1 of the two-part training series designed to specifically address the concerns of students with developmental disabilities ages 19 through 21 and their families as they quickly approach the end of their education entitlement. This training provides detailed information on DDD Traditional Day Programs and Self-Directed Day Services options, Division of Disability Services programs and services, and DVRS resource information. Also, participants receive information on NJWINS (specifically for SSI/SSDI beneficiaries to make informed decisions about employment). In the Part 1 session, attendees will also have the opportunity to network with local providers at the "Provider Marketplace!" Click [here](#) to view an informational flier. Click [here](#) to register.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Fire Prevention Week Held October 9 -15

The [National Fire Protection Association's](#) (NFPA) annual public awareness campaign, Fire Prevention Week (FPW), took place October 9-15. This year's theme was focused on educating families about what causes home fires, how to prevent them, and what to do in an emergency situation.

The [Fire Prevention Week website](#) offers helpful tools and resources for anyone wanting to run a community campaign or people simply trying to educate themselves or family members. Some features on the site include the Fire Prevention Week quiz, public service announcement videos, fire safety resources for families, and safety tip sheets covering a broad range of topics.

Fire Prevention Week website visitors can test their fire safety IQ with the [Fire Week Prevention Quiz](#), which asks questions about pertinent fire safety information, such as "Where do most home fires start?" and "What time in the day do home fires peak?" At the end of the quiz, visitors can see how they did, review correct answers, and even showcase their results on Facebook or Twitter.

Kids of all ages are sure to enjoy [audio and video public service announcements](#) that touch upon the topics of escape planning and smoke alarms. The videos feature NFPA's mascot Sparky, who is voiced by firefighter Barry Brickey, winner of the popular "Voice of Sparky" contest.

Parents and children can learn about home fire safety together with a printer-friendly version of the [Family Fire Safety Checklist](#). The checklist is contoured for grown-ups and kids to familiarize the whole family with smoke alarms and fire escape planning. Hanging the checklist on the fridge is a great way to keep the family aware of fire safety.

[Safety Tip Sheets](#) are also available on the FPW website and cover cooking, escape planning, heating, smoke alarms, home fire sprinklers, candles, electric wiring, and smoking materials. The detailed sheets offer life-saving safety tips as well as relevant information and statistics related to home fire safety.

Visit the [Fire Prevention Week](#) website for safety tips, statistical information, and more. The materials are available for use by fire departments, teachers, families, and anyone interested in learning or teaching about fire safety.

#### About Fire Prevention Week

NFPA has been the official sponsor of [Fire Prevention Week](#) since 1922. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

#### About the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building, and life safety. The mission of the international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education.



In 2009, US fire departments responded to 362,500 home structure fires. These fires caused 12,650 civilian injuries, 2,565 civilian deaths, and \$7.6 billion in direct damage.



**Family Support  
Center of  
New Jersey**

## **Person Centered Description Workshops**

### **Developing Meaningful Day Supports**

The focus of this workshop is to provide instruction regarding key principles of person centered thinking and future planning processes. Participants will develop information gathering skills through a series of guided exercises. A one page description for the person with a disability will be initiated through directed conversation, listening, identifying appropriate tools, and sorting information.

The purpose is to provide critical support to individuals with disabilities and their families as they plan for the transition to adult-life. This is an opportunity to capture useful information that will be utilized in various aspects of adult-life including continuing education, employment, volunteerism, and/or day services.

#### **Workshop Objectives**

- To look at an individual in a different way.*
- To recognize individual desires, interests, and dreams.*
- To capture information from key individuals in the life of the person with a disability.*
- To develop an effective planning tool for the transition to adult-life.*
- To assist the person with a disability gain more control over their own life.*

#### **Who should attend?**

Individuals with disabilities who are transitioning from school to adult-life and their families as well as professionals supporting students in the transition.

*"David is doing great and I can't say enough how this is such an awesome starting point and useful ongoing tool. Thanks for your help in making David's life better."*

*- Parent*

#### **Registration**

This is a free workshop. Space is limited and registration is on a first come basis. Registration is available online through [www.fscnj.org](http://www.fscnj.org) or call 1-800- FSCNJ10

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# PERSON CENTERED DESCRIPTION WORKSHOPS



### Dates, Times, and Locations

#### **Wednesday - November 16, 2011**

The Children's Institute  
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
1 Sunset Ave.  
Verona, NJ 07044

#### **Thursday - November 17, 2011**

Norman Bleshman School - Cafeteria  
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
333 East Ridgewood Ave.  
Paramus, NJ 07652

#### **Wednesday - November 30, 2011**

Morris County Library - Whippany Branch  
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
30 East Hanover Ave  
Whippany, NJ 07981

#### **Tuesday - December 6, 2011**

Burlington County Special Services  
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
20 Pioneer Road  
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060

#### **Monday - December 12, 2011**

Atlantic County Library - Mays Landing Branch  
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
40 Farragut Ave.  
Mays Landing, NJ 08330

#### **Tuesday - December 13, 2011**

Children's Center of Monmouth County  
(Meeting room is located between building 7 and 8)  
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
1115 Green Grove Road  
Neptune, NJ 07753

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Register now for Certificate Program in Developmental Disabilities Workshops!

The Certificate Program in Developmental Disabilities has been created as a joint effort between The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at UMDNJ - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the Rutgers School of Social Work, Institute for Families, Office of Continuing Education. It is intended to enhance the skills and knowledge of professionals working with people with disabilities in a variety of settings.

#### Fall/Winter Workshops:



- 10/31 Legal and Ethical Issues in Developmental Disabilities
- 11/18 Children's Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (Elective)
- 12/2 Supporting Youth with Disabilities in the Transition to Adult Life
- 12/12 Disability Policy Issues

#### To register:

The Certificate Program in Developmental Disabilities is administered by Rutgers University School of Social Work.

Register online or download a course catalog at:  
[Rutgers School of Social Work Continuing Education website](#)

### When You Have Medicaid and Other Insurance: Balance Billing, Choosing Providers, and Other Advice on Third Party Liability

Prepared by the NJ Dept. of Human Services, this new guide aims to help individuals comprehend health coverage in New Jersey if they have Medicaid and Medicare and/or other health insurance coverage. The TPL Coverage Guide is also meant to assist Medicaid Health Plan members and families in understanding the details with service payments. A Spanish translation will be available soon.



To view the guide, visit:

[http://nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/home/Medicaid\\_TPL\\_Coverage\\_Guide.pdf](http://nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/home/Medicaid_TPL_Coverage_Guide.pdf)



# WORKSHOPS FOR SIBLINGS

Sibshops are for kids between the ages of 8 -12 years old who have a sibling with special needs. Family Support Center of New Jersey will host Sibshop meetings once a month on a Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Each session costs \$25.00 per child. Please call the Family Support Center of New Jersey to register at: **1-800-372-6510**.

## Monthly Meetings in Brick, NJ

**Dates:** November 19 and December 17

**Location:** The Family Resource Network  
Lions Head Office Park  
35 Beaverson Blvd. Bldg.  
11 Brick, NJ 08723

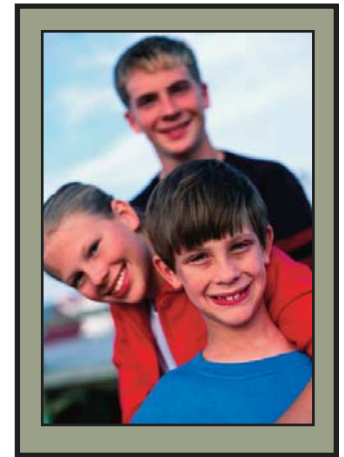


[Click here for an informational flier!](#)

## Monthly Meetings in Parsippany, NJ

**Dates:** November 19 and December 17

**Location:** The Family Resource Network  
North Jersey Office  
322 US Highway 46, Suite 290  
Parsippany, NJ 07054



[Click here for an informational flier!](#)

## 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](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd)