

The Path to Progress: Olmstead News

Jon S. Corzine, Governor

3rd Edition - December 2007

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

DDD Newsletter Merger

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) wants to thank you for your interest and support of the *Olmstead News: Path to Progress*. DDD will merge this newsletter into *DDD Today*, the division's general newsletter, beginning January 2008.

All information and news updates regarding the department's Olmstead initiative (its implementation, coordination teams, request for proposals, etc.) will be included in *DDD Today*.

The Olmstead initiative has an integral role with the divisions' overall services, and readers will benefit from the convenience of one publication. *DDD Today* will continue to provide insight into DDD's role in the lives of persons with developmental disabilities, within New Jersey and beyond. We look forward to the newsletter merger and welcome your feedback in getting news and information to you.

225 Nominated to Serve on Olmstead Advisory Council Workgroups and Subcommittees

The Olmstead Implementation and Planning Advisory Council's Steering Committee includes self-advocates, family members and provider and state agency representatives. Steering Committee members serve as co-chairpersons for five major workgroups, which have been established and meeting throughout the last two months to determine priority tasks for workgroups and subcommittees.

To date, 225 individuals have been nominated to serve on workgroups and subcommittees. The nominees will be contacted in January, 2008 regarding their workgroup and subcommittee assignments.

Support Coordination Teams - Helping Individuals Plan their Moves

As of November 2007, over 100 individuals residing at New Lisbon and Woodbridge Developmental Centers were actively working with Support Coordination Teams. As you know, the Support Coordination Teams help individuals plan where and with whom they want to live, along with scheduling and facilitating interviews with interested support providers. To date, approximately 10 support providers were interviewed by different teams.

The first Olmstead participant to use the Support Coordination Team approach is scheduled to move from the New Lisbon Developmental Center to the community in mid-January, 2008. You can find more detailed information about this approach at <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/publications/SCBrochure2007.pdf>.

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

July 2006 - June 2007 = 86

July 2007 - November 2007 = 40

Qualified Provider Agencies: New Service Added to Open Enrollment RFP Process

More than 100 agencies are now qualified, through the Olmstead Individualized Community Supports and Services and Request for Proposals (RFP), to provide housing or other residential services, employment or day programs, and medical and behavioral supports to individuals transitioning to community homes from the developmental centers.

The RFP process will continue, with open enrollment opportunities for agencies to pre-qualify and submit applications. The open enrollment period began on December 3, 2007. During this and future open enrollment periods, agencies will be able to submit applications for a new service that will be available to Olmstead participants: **Stand Alone Behavioral Support Services**.

Information on open enrollment periods, details about the services available to Olmstead participants and the qualification criteria and applications for each service can be found at <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/nofa.htm>.

The Support Coordination Brochure 2007 was developed, in collaboration with DDD, by Neighbours, Inc., which is another agency that is instrumental with the Olmstead support coordination effort at both New Lisbon and Woodbridge.