

The Path to Progress: Olmstead News

Jon S. Corzine, Governor

2nd Edition - October 2007

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner

This second edition of *Olmstead News* updates you on our efforts to implement the Olmstead Plan, "Path to Progress." July 1, 2007 marked the beginning of New Jersey's commitment to transitioning individuals from developmental centers to community homes. Our goal is to transition 1,850 individuals to community homes over the next 8 years.

As the Division of Developmental Disabilities implements the goals and objectives of "Path to Progress," your insight and commentary are welcome. If you have ideas for future newsletter articles, or would like to contribute an article about an Olmstead related topic, please contact Cassandra Ross via e-mail at kassandra.ross@dhs.state.nj.us or call her at (609) 987-0936.

Support Coordination Team Lead agencies:
Caregivers of New Jersey - cnj@njcaregivers.org
Values Into Action - support@vianj.org

There are 80 individuals currently residing at New Lisbon and Woodbridge Developmental Centers who are actively working with Independent Support Coordination Teams to locate possible community supports and services. These teams work with individuals to help plan where and with whom they want to live. The Support Coordination agencies are sending out profiles of these individuals to agencies that are qualified to provide services

through the "Olmstead Individualized Community Supports and Services RFP." Qualify agencies that have the types of services specific individuals need are then interviewed by the individuals, their family members and other members of their Support Coordination Team. Service plan proposals are requested from agencies where individuals express interest. Individuals may visit these agencies in order to make final selections.

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

July 2006 - June 2007 = 86
July 2007 - October 2007 = 28

Qualified Provider Agencies:

More than 100 agencies have qualified, through the Olmstead Individualized Community Supports and Services Request for Proposal (RFP), to provide housing, residential, employment/day, medical and behavioral supports to individuals transitioning to the community from developmental centers. The RFP process will continue with open enrollment opportunities for agencies to pre-qualify and submit applications. Information on the open enrollment time periods can be found at <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/nofa.htm> on the DDD website. Information about Olmstead Qualified Providers, their services and programs, as well as links to websites, are available on the Family Support Center of New Jersey website at www.fscnj.org.

Fall Market Fairs, where individuals and families can learn about a variety of community service provider agencies, will be held at two developmental centers (DC) in conjunction with their Fall Festivals:

- Saturday, October 20th at New Lisbon DC
- Saturday, October 27th at Woodbridge DC

The fairs are organized by the New Jersey Association for Community Providers, Caregivers, Neighbors, Inc., Values Into Action and social workers from each developmental center. The market fairs also provide an excellent opportunity for individuals, family members and Support Coordinators to discuss community services.

The Olmstead Implementation and Planning Advisory Council Steering Committee

includes self-advocates, family members and provider and state agency representatives. The council met for the second time on September 28, 2007. Steering Committee meetings are scheduled throughout the next three months, where priority tasks for the workgroups and subcommittees will be determined.

Special thanks to the 198 individuals who were nominated to serve on the workgroups and subcommittees of the Olmstead Implementation and Planning Advisory Council. The workgroups and subcommittees will begin meeting in January 2008. DDD is seeking additional nominations for self-advocates and family members to participate. Please contact Cassandra Ross at kassandra.ross@dhs.state.nj.us or at (609) 987-0936 if you are interested.