

## Adults Again Eligible for NJFamilyCare

Just before Acting Governor Richard J. Codey signed legislation in July that once again makes adults eligible for NJFamilyCare, Commissioner James M. Davy reflected on the past and future of the state health program.

“Five years ago, on this very date, concerned New Jerseyans like us gathered in this town to welcome adults into a health care program originally designed for children . . . as NJKidCare became NJFamilyCare,” said Davy. “Today, I am proud to be with an equally dedicated group of leaders as we put the ‘family’ back in NJFamilyCare.”

By enrolling eligible parents, the Department of Human Services (DHS) expects to also increase the number of children enrolled in the program. And as NJFamilyCare began processing applications from eligible adults on September 1, DHS announced new measures to help make it easier for families to enroll.

The goal is to enroll an additional 20,000 children over the next fiscal year.

To do this, DHS and the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) has initiated a number of new outreach strategies intended to bring more families into the program. They include:

- Creating a one-page application form,
- Launching an on-line application,
- Replacing the monthly paper I.D. cards with annual plastic I.D. cards,
- Reaching out directly to New Jersey residents who receive food stamps or child care subsidies, and
- Increasing visibility through advertising and local grassroots marketing.

Presently, more than 109,000 children are enrolled in NJFamilyCare. More than 500,000 children are enrolled in both NJFamilyCare and Medicaid.



The NJFamilyCare Van (above) provides outreach to New Jersey communities, offering program and enrollment information to children and families.

“We want to provide health insurance and access to quality health care to everyone whose incomes or employment situations do not afford them the opportunity to get health insurance on their own,” said Davy. “I look forward to the day when all, and I mean all, of New Jersey’s eligible children and their parents are enrolled in NJFamilyCare.”



Acting Governor Richard J. Codey signs the expanded NJFamilyCare Bill. Sponsors of the Bill, Senator Joseph F. Vitale (D-Middlesex), Assemblymen Robert M. Gordon (D-Bergen), Robert L. Morgan (D-Mercer and Monmouth), Assemblywoman Joan Voss (D-Bergen) and Commissioner James M. Davy (right), join the ceremony.



Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital consumers and Devon McEnteer (far left), Art Instructor, unveil “painting mosaic” in Commissioner James M. Davy’s (3rd from left) office. The painting was created by Greystone consumers and Andrew Maishman (far right), an artist and Greystone staff member.

## DHS Extends Help to Hurricane Katrina Evacuees

The Department of Human Services wants to help evacuees of Hurricane Katrina who are now located in New Jersey, as well as evacuees of Hurricane Rita who may also relocate here.

In the weeks following Hurricane Katrina, less than 20 percent of the thousands of families estimated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as evacuees to New Jersey have applied for social services.

Commissioner James M. Davy, using the area media, has urged evacuees to find out about available services by calling the state’s social service hotline, “2-1-1.”

“2-1-1 is a one-stop, easy phone number that all people in New Jersey can use to get the help they need,” said Davy. “2-1-1 gives callers the ‘where-to-go’ and ‘how-to-apply’ information people need for a variety of human services programs.”

The NJ 2-1-1 hotline connects callers in New Jersey to local, regional and state agencies for government programs such as Food Stamps, Medicaid, NJFamilyCare, mental health counseling, welfare, child care, and home energy assistance. NJ 2-1-1 is multilingual and accessible via TTY. People can click [www.nj211.org](http://www.nj211.org) to learn more about services.

NJ 2-1-1 has hired extra staff to handle calls for information about programs offered through FEMA and the Red Cross. It also links callers who want to donate to the relief effort to United Way.

Davy has been troubled by the fact that so few families statewide are known to have applied for assistance. “We believe that many more families here can benefit from the social services we offer,” Davy said. “We just have to get the word out that these programs are available.”

See “Attention, Victims of Hurricane Katrina” - Page 5

We’re on the Web:  
[www.state.nj.us/humanservices/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/index.html)

THE NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
NEWS

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## Letter from the Commissioner



Dear Colleague:

This issue of DHS News outlines some of the major accomplishments of the department and its employees and community partners over the last several months. Like the new painting that hangs on my office wall, given to me by consumers from Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital, it is beautiful and it tells quite a story.

Just deciding what to include in each issue of the DHS News is a difficult task because there is quite literally so much going on in the department.

If you have been paying even only a little attention to my weekly emails, you know that I place a high premium on continually acknowledging and recognizing the dedication and hard work of our co-workers and partners in the community. I think this is important primarily because the work of those engaged in social services is the most important work one can do and, quite likely, among the most under appreciated.

It is easy to forget that the social safety net saves lives. It lifts people up when they are down, it extends a helping hand, it vigilantly defends and protects the underdog.

But sometimes the work of caring for others can take its toll on our own health and well being.

That is why, I am excited to announce a new initiative called Working Well NJ. This program, co-sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Personnel and the Department of Health and Senior Services, is an employee-based wellness program designed to provide state employees with the knowledge, resources and incentives to improve the quality of their lives at home and in the workplace. Agencies such as the American Cancer Society and the American Diabetes and Heart Associations will provide pertinent information through literature and lecture series on how to prevent some of the most prevalent diseases and medical conditions we face.

We are working diligently to design a comprehensive workplace wellness structure with a foundation built upon prevention. Our goal is to promote physical, nutritional and mental fitness, as well as prevention resources, through our DHS portal page and wellness-focused events. Look for future updates in the DHS News, the portal page, and on the Working Well NJ link of DOP's website:

[www.nj.gov/personnel/](http://www.nj.gov/personnel/)

I hope you enjoy reading about your accomplishments.

*James M. Davy*

## CHOICES to Address Tobacco Dependency Among People with Mental Illness

This summer, Commissioner James M. Davy and University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), University

(CHOICES) Program," mental health peer counselors will be trained to help other people with mental illness quit smoking.

Behavioral HealthCare President and CEO Christopher Kosseff announced a \$100,000 American Legacy Foundation Grant to fund a smoking cessation program for people with mental illness. UMDNJ was awarded the grant and will partner with the Division of Mental Health Services (DMHS) and the Mental Health Association in NJ (MHANJ) to develop the program. Called the "Consumers Helping Others Improve their Condition by Ending Smoking



Glenn Roth, UMDNJ-University Behavioral Health Care MICA Clinician, discusses consumer motivation and treatment efficacy of the CHOICES program.

"This is an innovative way to address a major problem among this population and have a positive impact on their lives," said Davy.

A national expert in tobacco dependence among people with mental illness, Dr. Jill Williams, of the Department of Psychiatry at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, leads the project and has partnered with DMHS on several successful initiatives addressing physical wellness among mental health consumers.

"Smokers with psychiatric disorders consume nearly half of all cigarettes in the U.S.," said Carolyn Beauchamp, President of MHANJ.

## Commissioner Davy Tours "Apartment" at JKRC

Commissioner James M. Davy toured the new "apartment" recently completed for CBVI consumers transitioning out of their 16-week blindness skills training at Joseph Kohn Rehab

Center in New Brunswick. After touring the revamped computer lab, Davy met with students (some of whom are



seen here wearing "sleep shades" which block out any remaining "residual" vision that might interfere with their blindness skills training) who told him they were learning how to function around their home and community, while gaining job skills and much more self-confidence.

## CICRFC Awards \$8.1 Million in Fiscal Year; Helps 277 Families

At its annual June meeting, the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund Commission (CICRFC) announced awards totaling \$8.1 million for the 2005 fiscal year, helping 277 New Jersey families with overwhelming medical expenses.

A family qualifies if their child's unreimbursed medical and related expenses exceed ten percent of their annual income up to \$100,000, plus 15 percent of any income over \$100,000. The



Carrie Foley is tearful as she rejoins husband Peter and son Nicholas after telling the audience how much CICRFC helped her family.

Fund does not restrict coverage to a specific diagnosis or disease and covers hospital and physician bills, medications, disposable medical



Retiring CICRFC member Joan Applebaum receives an award for her 14 years of dedication. She's surrounded by (l. to r.) Bill Ditto, CICRFC vice-chairman; her husband Dave; Ralph Condo, CICRFC executive director; and Jane Lorber, CICRFC chairperson.

goods and medical equipment, as well as home care and medical-related transportation, such as home or vehicle modifications like ramps or wheelchair lifts.

CICRFC also thanked five recipient families who participated in public service announcements and outreach during the year, giving testimonials of how the Fund helped them.



## DFD Earns \$2 Million Bonus for Food Stamp Accuracy

For Director Jeanette Page-Hawkins, General Assistance/Food Stamp Coordinator

Marybeth Schaedel and the entire Division of Family Development (DFD), the sweet smell of success is a \$2 million check from the federal government, a bonus for DFD's continued improvement to the Food Stamp Program. Commissioner James M. Davy accepted the check in July from U.S.

Department of Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Kate Coler. "This bonus is high praise for the hard work our Division of Family Development and the County Welfare Agencies have done together to enhance our payment accuracy," said Davy. Over the past

three years, New Jersey has gone from worst in the nation to third best.



Pictured left to right: DFD Director Jeanette Page-Hawkins, GA/Food Stamp Coordinator Marybeth Schaedel, Regional Administrator Mid-Atlantic Region, Food and Nutrition Service Yvette Jackson, and USDA Deputy Under Secretary Kate Coler

of Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Kate Coler recognized the accuracy of New Jersey's Food Stamp Program. "We are pleased to watch New Jersey improve from having one of the worst accuracy rates in the nation to one of the best," Coler said.

Household enrollment in the program has also increased by more than 10 percent, widely attributed to the online application which went live June 2004.

In presenting the check, U.S. Department

## Ed Cotton Leaves DYFS

Office of Children's Services (OCS) Assistant Commissioner Edward E. Cotton, instrumental in implementing the state's massive child welfare reform effort, has announced his decision to leave the agency effective November 1.



Cotton took over the helm of the OCS Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) in July 2003, shortly after the state signed an agreement to settle a class action suit that had been

filed against the agency in 1999 by a New York-based child advocacy organization.

"Ed Cotton has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of countless thousands of vulnerable children and at-risk families in New Jersey and is leaving behind a system that is significantly improved as a result of his efforts," said Commissioner James M. Davy.

During Cotton's tenure, the number of caseworkers assigned to DYFS increased by more than 500 to some 2,000 workers, reducing caseloads from an average of 22 families per worker to about 14.5 families per worker today.

He also launched the state's first 24-hour, fully-staffed, centralized child abuse reporting hotline, hired specially trained investigators to handle child abuse and neglect investigations, reduced the length of time that so-called "boarder babies"

remain in hospitals awaiting foster placements, and implemented a sweeping new case practice model that emphasizes child safety and links families to needed services and supports.

"Our efforts to improve our child welfare system have benefited from Ed Cotton's knowledge of child welfare case practice as well as his commitment to child safety and family stability," said Kathi Way, OCS Deputy Commissioner.

Cotton said he feels particularly proud of the DYFS field staff, "who deserve credit for their hard work, their dedication and for their largely unheralded efforts to make life better for New Jersey's children each and every day."

"Working as part of a team reforming New Jersey's child welfare system has been among the most exciting and the most challenging assignments of my career, and I have been honored to work with many energetic, committed and dedicated people during the last 27 months," said Cotton. "But after more than 30 years in government service, in child welfare operations for nearly that entire time, I am looking forward to spending more time with my family and pursuing other career options."

Before coming to DYFS, Cotton was the Administrator of Child and Family Services for the Nevada Department of Human Resources (NDHR), where he was responsible for all children's programs, including child protection, child welfare, juvenile justice, and children's mental health. Prior to NDHR, he worked 22 years in the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, as a caseworker, child protective investigator, field supervisor, child welfare manager, and ultimately as the Deputy Director of the Division of Child Protection. He is also a single parent of four sons and has been a foster and adoptive parent for children with special needs for more than 25 years, caring for more than 30 foster children during that time.

## New Substance Abuse Treatment Program Opens in South Jersey

Commissioner James M. Davy and Assistant Commissioner, Division of Addiction Services, Carolann Kane-Cavaiola recently joined community provider Daytop-New Jersey as it opened the first state-funded residential substance abuse treatment program for adolescents in South Jersey.

"For far too long, children suffered because they were forced to travel to the other end of the state to get the intensive residential services they needed," said Davy. "Now they can get the services they need with the support of their family and friends close to home."

The new facility is the result of the persistence and perseverance of a dedicated group of parents whose children battled substance abuse problems. Back in 1998, the group called Parent-to-Parent urged state officials to create a residential treatment program in South Jersey.

## Two Divisions Have New Leaders

Commissioner James M. Davy has named Carol Grant the Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and Kevin Martone the Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Mental Health Services (DMHS).

Grant, who has served as Acting Director for the past year, will continue to oversee institutional and community-based services for more than 35,000 people who receive DDD services in New Jersey.



Carol Grant appointed DDD Director

"Carol has been a part of the DDD leadership team that has improved conditions in our developmental centers, brought more federal dollars to the state, and championed consumer-focused programs like Real Life Choices," said Davy.

Grant, of North Brunswick, joined DHS in 1987 after serving as executive director of Community Action Program Executive Directors' Association (CAPE-DA). She has been special assistant and executive assistant to former commissioners and deputy commissioners and, was acting director of the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for almost one year. She succeeded James W. Smith as acting DDD director after he was promoted to deputy commissioner last year.

Grant has a Bachelor's degree in Urban Development and Social Work and a Master's degree, with honors, in Public Administration from Rutgers University.

Martone succeeds long-time division director, Alan Kaufman, who retired in June. He oversees the operations of the Division of Mental Health



Kevin Martone appointed Assistant Commissioner of DMHS

Services (DMHS) and will guide the implementation of the initiatives resulting from the Governor's Mental Health Task Force.

Martone, of Pennington, formerly served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Advance Housing Inc., a supportive housing provider in Hackensack. He also served on Acting Governor Codey's Task Force on Mental Health as Chair of the Housing Advisory Committee.

He has a Master of Social Work degree from Rutgers University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology degree from Kean University.



## Professional Development Recognized

At four separate awards ceremonies this summer, Commissioner James M. Davy and Assistant Commissioner of Human Resources Dr. Alma Joseph recognized all levels of professional development and service across the entire scope of DHS divisions:

### TPH Earns "Innovation in NJ State Government Award"

At the 20th Annual New Jersey Public Service Recognition Awards, Trenton Psychiatric Hospital (TPH) received the first annual "Innovation in New Jersey State Government Award," co-presented by the Department of Personnel and Quality New Jersey, Inc., for reducing its nursing overtime by 30 percent without compromising patient safety, care or treatment. At the same time, the hospital also reduced the use of seclusion and restraint and increased the amount of treatment/programs. TPH used a comprehensive systems-based approach to collect and evaluate data and resolve the problems underlying the overtime issues. Overall, this effort resulted in TPH saving approximately \$2 million in overtime costs over the course of two consecutive years.

The Department also earned 38 awards which recognized the work of 144 employees. Joseph helped distribute the awards and accepted the Best of the Best Award for Longevity on behalf of Renee Lipschutz for her 45 years of service.

Heroism Awards went to Douglas Hall of Hunterdon Developmental Center, for pulling a drowning man from the Delaware River and performing CPR on shore, saving his life; and to Medical Security Officers Ronald Kirkland and Thomas Savage of Ann Klein Forensic Center, who stopped to help at a multiple vehicle accident on Interstate 195, helping to rescue two adults and two children trapped in their vehicle. A Longevity Award also went to Donnell Young, for 45 years of service.



Gregory Roberts, CEO of Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, accepts award from Diane Legriede, Chief of Operations and Management, Office of the Governor, and Dave Corso, Chair of the Employee Awards Committee.



The Division of Disability Services Information and Referral Team of Marlene Hester, Joseph Amoroso and Christine Cripps-Barker received a Teamwork/Partnership Achievement Award from Commissioner Davy, DDS Director Bill Ditto, DOP Commissioner Rolando Torres and DHS Assistant Commissioner of Human Resources Dr. Alma Joseph.

gratulated 272 graduates of the first Career Ladders class. "With this group's experience and knowledge," said Davy, "and Career Ladders curriculum, we can build toward improving the lives of New Jersey's children and families." The Career Ladders program offers DHS clerical and support staff better career opportunities within New Jersey's child welfare system. At the ceremony, graduates received a Certificate of Competency in Child Protective Services and are now eligible to receive 12 credits towards a social services certificate and degree program.

### Clinical Scholars Program

In July, Davy and Joseph congratulated 27 graduates of the Clinical Scholars Program, which supports employees in DHS developmental, treatment, and mental health facilities who are earning degrees in nursing, physical therapy and occupational therapy.

## TIP Helps Protect Children and Boosts Parents

Commissioner James M. Davy recently visited the Camden County Center for Family Services to laud the success of the pilot

TANF Initiative for Parents, or TIP Program. Holding a beautiful toddler, Kennedy, he congratulated her mother and the 12 other participants for their commitment to bettering their lives and the lives of their children.

"TIP emphasizes protecting a child's well-being while teaching parents the needed skills to transition from assistance to independence," said Commissioner Davy. "We have found that chil-

dren stand the best chance of growing up safe, secure and well-adjusted if their families are educated early on to prevent abuse and neglect."



Commissioner Davy holds Kennedy during his visit to Camden County Center for Family Services.

through TANF, begins a rollout to serve clients statewide this fall.

TIP provides intensive case management to families receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). As part of their work requirement, mothers participate in workshops ranging from time and money management to nutrition and child-home safety instruction. Case workers also visit the families' homes to provide support and to reinforce proper health care and safety for the children.

The program, funded

## Cumberland Leaders Lauded for Lead Poison Testing Initiatives

Commissioner James Davy recently joined Cumberland County community leaders for breakfast to recognize their efforts to educate parents as well as the community at large, about the serious health effects caused by childhood lead poisoning.

"You have shown great creativity in making the systemic changes necessary to encourage parents to take their children to the doctor to get tested for lead," the Commissioner said. "And the Department of Human Services appreciates it."

Childhood lead poisoning remains a serious health issue for many children in NJ because it can cause:

- ✦ slower growth and development
- ✦ learning problems
- ✦ hearing problems
- ✦ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

The only way to know for sure if a child is lead burdened is through a blood lead test by a health-care professional, so Cumberland County child care centers have urged doctors to increase the number of screenings. Due to their efforts, centers in Bridgeton have increased screenings from 28 percent in 2000 to 77 percent in 2004; and in Millville, from 22 percent in 2000 to 64 percent in 2004.

## Million Dollar Housing Rehab Program to Help Foster Families

Resource/foster families who care for abused and neglected children are now eligible for funds to repair their homes, under a new 1 million Resource Homes Program (RHP) announced by Department of Community Affairs (DCA)



Acting Commissioner Charles A. Richman (right) and DHS Commissioner James M. Davy (left).

"This new program is part of our ongoing reform efforts to expand supports for our foster families," said Davy, "whose dedication enables thousands of New Jersey children to have a loving and safe place to call home." The 1 million rehabilitation program is designed to expand the number of available resource/foster homes and allow current homes to make repairs or upgrades to properly care for children.

Repairs and improvements funded through RHP include construction of additional living space; repair of major building systems such as heating/cooling, electrical, plumbing, roof, structure; walls, ceilings and windows; appliances to replace inoperative ones; and purchase of safety items such as smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, pool fencing, radiator covers, railings and carpeting.

RHP is open to both homeowners and renters who are approved DHS Resource families. To be eligible, a person or household must have an income up to 80 percent of area median income. Grants and loans are available, depending on project cost.

As part of the state's child welfare reform plan, DHS' Office of Children's Services (OCS) is improving services and supports for resource families in partnership with Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS), the lead advocacy organization for foster and adoptive families. "Working together, we can lend a helping hand to foster families by offering the financing necessary to provide good homes for children in need," Commissioner Richman said. "The Resource Homes Program does just that by making it easier for foster parents to make repairs and rehabilitate their homes. We can provide real options and make a real difference in the lives of these children."

To learn more about becoming a resource/foster family, call toll free 1-877-NJ-FOSTER or visit [www.njfostercare.org](http://www.njfostercare.org).



# Heart Gallery Aims to Help Children Find “Forever Homes”

The Heart Gallery, a unique and stirring exhibit of portraits of older children and siblings in the care of

the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), is designed to win hearts and homes.

The exhibit features 300 children under DYFS supervision who are legally free for adoption by individuals and families. These children are typically considered the “hardest to place,” those who are at least 3

years old, minorities, and/or in sibling groups. More than 150 professional photographers donated their time and traveled across the state to photograph the children in locations such as arenas, churches, or

civic centers. Biographies, written by *Star Ledger* reporters, accompany each portrait and share each child’s hopes and dreams of finding a “forever family.”



More than 1,000 people, including Acting Governor and Mrs. Richard J. Codey, attended the grand opening of the New Jersey Heart Gallery at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City earlier this summer. The exhibit will continue to move across the state to a variety of venues throughout the year. Originating in New Mexico in 2001, the Heart Gallery has since debuted in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Florida, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Washington. New Jersey

has undertaken the most expansive project to date. Najlah Feanny Hicks, co-founder of the Heart Gallery and a noted photographer in her own right, recruited many of the celebrated photographers for the project.

In an interview on ABC News featuring her as Person of the Week, Hicks summarized the Heart Gallery concept: “There’s going to be this picture on the wall, and this family is going to walk by. There’s going to be something that speaks to them that’ll make them walk by again and really look and see the beauty of this child.”

In addition to the profiles of New Jersey children in newspapers statewide, the Heart Gallery has received national attention in *Parade Magazine* and was recently featured on ABC’s news program, *20/20*.

In a *Star Ledger* article, Commissioner James M. Davy said he was “awestruck by what has been happening. The synergy between the photographers and our staff partnering for these children is gratifying. But the ultimate reward will be when these kids, who otherwise would probably not be placed in loving homes, get placed with good families. That will be the best of the best!”

He also commended DYFS staff members Daryl Bender, Gloria Burnett Harrison, Eileen Crummy, Collette Tobias and Peggy Stofick for their unwavering commitment to the Heart Gallery project. To view the Heart Gallery portraits or for more information, log on to [www.heartgallerynj.com](http://www.heartgallerynj.com).

## ATTENTION, VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

If you have left your home as a result of Hurricane Katrina and you are temporarily living in New Jersey, the following assistance and services are available to you through the New Jersey Department of Human Services:

- **CASH ASSISTANCE** - Provides cash to meet your living expenses through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or the General Assistance (GA) programs. TANF assists families with children, while GA helps single adults and childless couples.
- **FOOD STAMPS** - Covers the purchase of food and personal items.
- **HEALTH CARE** - Provides coverage for doctor visits, maternity care, pediatric care, prescription coverage, home care services, medical supplies through the state Medicaid and NJFamilyCare programs.
- **OTHER EMERGENCY AID** - Funds temporary shelter, clothing purchases, furniture and other necessities through the Emergency Assistance program.

**TO ACCESS THESE SERVICES** - Call the toll-free statewide hotline, **2-1-1**, to be connected to state and local services in your area. You can get information on the above programs as well as information on child care, services for people with disabilities, substance abuse programs and more.

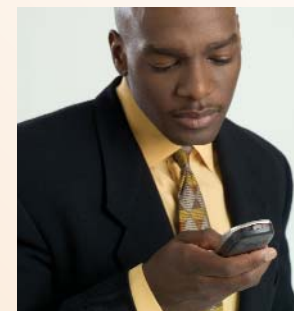
You can also contact the County Welfare Agency (CWA), Municipal Welfare Agency (MWA) or local Board of Social Services where you are staying. See attached list or go to the following link: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/dfdewa39.html>

**COUNSELING/EMOTIONAL SUPPORT** - Counselors can help you explore ways of coping with your emotional reaction to the hurricane or locate other resources near to your home. To reach the Counseling Helpline, call toll-free **1-877-294-HELP (4357)**, or **1-877-294-4356 TTY**; or visit: <http://www.disastermentalhealthnj.com/>

Both the 2-1-1 hotline and the Counseling helpline are available 24-hours a day, 7-days a week.

## ICE - In Case of Emergency!

Since the bombings in London this summer, and now with catastrophic weather events, the world-wide campaign of ICE - for In Case of Emergency to get critical information to first responders during an accident or medical emergency - is more important than ever.



The DHS Office of Facilities Support and Emergency Management (OFSEM) urges all DHS employees to enter the letters ICE into their mobile phone’s phone book, along with the name and phone number of a primary contact(s) to be reached during an emergency. In this way, a cell phone now becomes a tool to assist first responders in delivering aid, when time is of the essence. Easy---call for I-C-E!

According to Anthony Innes, Director of OFSEM, “Just as earlier public safety campaigns are now accepted practices nationwide, such as ‘Call 9-1-1’ and ‘Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries,’ I hope the I-C-E campaign will also successfully educate the public and make them aware of the importance of having next of kin contact numbers readily available.”

**\*\*\*I-C-E maker Instructions\*\*\*  
(As published by Vodafone, April 18, 2005)**

Depending on your mobile phone, go to ‘Phone Book’, or ‘Options’ or ‘Contacts’ to add a new name. Enter the letters ‘ICE’ under the name, followed by the telephone number of your next of kin (include daytime, cell and evening numbers if possible)

Make sure that person has agreed to be your ICE partner and has a list of people they should contact on your behalf - including your place of work

Make sure your ICE partner’s number is easy to contact [e.g., more than a home number if the person works full time]

Make sure your ICE partner knows about medical conditions that could affect your emergency treatment, such as allergies or current medication

For those Under 18, the ICE partner should be their mother, father or an immediate family member authorized to make decisions on their behalf [needing a life or death operation, for instance.]

Include multiple ICE contacts if needed, using ICE1, ICE2, ICE-Mom, etc.

## Davy Launches “Rewarding Work” Website Recruitment Tool

Commissioner James M. Davy and William Ditto, Director, and Division of Disability Services (DDS), recently launched the Rewarding Work program that will help DHS recruit direct care workers for people with disabilities through a new website and hotline.

“For years we have had difficulty finding direct support workers for programs that serve people with disabilities,” said Davy. “Rewarding Work will be a great help. Its theme ‘Some people are lucky enough to love their work’ stresses how noble this work is.”

Rewarding Work, begun in Massachusetts, is funded in New Jersey through a grant from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Its goal is to help Medicaid-approved and/or State-contracted provider agencies (Mental Health, Developmentally Disabled, and Home Health Care) recruit direct care workers via a special New Jersey website - [www.rewardingwork.org/nj](http://www.rewardingwork.org/nj), or toll-free number: 1-888-444-1616 (voice or TTY). Workers can apply online or by toll-free phone. By August, there had been 1007 job inquiries by website or toll-free phone.

Rewarding Work Resources, Inc © Copyright 2005



# News in Brief . . . . .

## Spider-Man & Friends Train at NJ CAP

Sometimes when you are a Superhero, children come to you with very scary stories about child assault. And they want you to help. Or at least that's what the actors who portray Spider-Man at school assemblies have learned from experience.

So in July, Marvel Comics paid for a group of actors who portray Spider-Man to fly to New Jersey from across the country to be trained in how to respond to and assist such children. Pat Stanislasky, executive director of NJ Child Assault Prevention in Sewell, Gloucester County, provided the day-long training.



## ACS Becomes Health Benefits Coordinator for Medicaid

The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) has awarded the new health benefits coordinator contract to Affiliated Computer Services, Inc. (ACS). ACS also will process and enroll eligible children and adults into NJFamilyCare.

## New Jersey's First Lady visits DHS

DHS and Commissioner James M. Davy welcomed First Lady Mary Jo Codey to this year's Women's Month Celebration, "Phenomenal Women of New Jersey." Her keynote speech stressed the need for better diagnosis and treatment for depression and postpartum depression in women across the state.

## DHS has 4 Great Nights at Trenton Thunder

DHS programs celebrated with the Trenton Thunder for at least four nights of baseball this summer. In May, DDHH co-sponsored a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at the Mercer County Waterfront Park along with the Trenton Thunder and Signs of Sobriety. In June, winners from DFD's Child Support Services' Teen Media Contest were on hand to throw out the first pitch of the game. Trenton Thunder also hosted a NJFamilyCare Night in July and in August. DMAHS donated more than 100 tickets to resource "foster" families in Mercer County for those two special nights.

## Back-to-School Backpack Drive a Success

Commissioner Davy (right), Connie Mercer (left), HomeFront Executive Director, and DHS Central Office staff, Kinya Williams (center), donated more than 170 backpacks filled with school supplies, clothing and shoes, making this year's annual Back-to-School Backpack Drive one of the most successful ever. The backpacks were distributed to children at HomeFront, a social services agency in Mercer County for people who are homeless.



## DDHH honors Attorney General Peter J. Harvey

Twenty-two organizations participated and sold 7,800 tickets for DDHH's 21st Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at Six Flags Great Adventure on June 4. DDHH also honored State Attorney General Peter J. Harvey and Division of Civil Rights Director Frank Vespa-Papaleo for their successful efforts last year to get New Jersey's major movie chains to improve access for deaf, hard of hearing, blind and visually impaired audiences.

## OPMRDD 20th Anniversary

For its 20th Anniversary, the Governor's Council on the Prevention of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities released a progress report called Changes & Challenges: Securing Our Children's Future. To receive copies of the report, contact [Hilda.mitchell@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:Hilda.mitchell@dhs.state.nj.us) or download from the Office for Prevention of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities website at [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/OPMRDD](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/OPMRDD)

## Commissioner Visits Eye Screening Site with CBVI

Commissioner James M. Davy and Deputy Commissioner Terri Wilson observed diabetic eye screenings at CAMcare Health Corporation in Camden. CBVI

schedules regular eye screenings across the state with community partners like CAMcare, to detect diabetic eye diseases such as diabetic retinopathy, cataracts and glaucoma. "Nutritional tips and counseling are also part of the screenings," said Vita DeSantis, CBVI Executive Director.



## More Housing for Aging Out Youth

By the end of this year, DHS expects to have awarded more than \$4 million for developing some 83 new transitional housing beds for young people aging out of the foster care system. Commissioner James M. Davy announced that \$1.7 million was awarded in April to fund 43 beds and another \$2.4 million will be awarded later this year to establish 40 more beds. Over the next five years, the state's Child Welfare Reform Plan (CWRP) requires DHS to develop 200 new transitional housing beds for aging out youth.

DHS has also awarded 96 new residential treatment center beds to community-based providers, with the goal of adding 215 additional beds, in order to meet the need for New Jersey's system of behavioral health care for children and youth.

## DDHH Hosts Second Conference on Technology

The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) second annual conference, held in April, brought together almost 200 consumers, service providers and others to learn about Best Practices in Technology for People with Hearing Loss. DDHH Director Brian Shomo noted that "technology, especially CapTel - the captioned phone, which has a caption screen for visually communicating - is critically important in making sure that people with hearing loss can succeed in school, work, the community and recreational activities."

## Broadway Star Visits Regional School

Todd Michel Smith, who stars in the Broadway musical *Hairspray*, spent a Monday in May at the DHS Regional School Hudson Campus talking about careers with students from the Hudson, Passaic, Bergen and Ocean campuses... the first time four campuses came together for an event. Smith urged the students to "follow your star and do something you really love in life." Commissioner Davy joined in the festivities, which featured student-made rock & roll decorations. Ralph Romano, northern region administrator, Clara Lozada, cook, Donna Morse, principal, and Elsa Hernandez, assistant principal, spent Sunday in the school kitchen preparing food for this event.

## Commissioner Promotes Water Safety for Children

Commissioner James M. Davy began summer by promoting water safety with the New Jersey Child Fatality & Near Fatality Review Board (CFNFRB).

"Most parents don't think it can happen to them," said Dr. Ernest Leva, Vice-chair of the CFNFRB. "Unfortunately, most swimming pool accidents happen in less than five minutes."

"We must ask that parents never leave their children alone near water- not even for a minute," said Dr. Anthony D'Urso, chairman of the New Jersey CFNFRB.

## Lemonade Fundraiser Helps Fight Pediatric Cancer

The pregnant and parenting students in the Project TEACH program at the Office of Education's Regional School Cape May Campus raised \$420 in



two hours through an Alex's Lemonade Stand community service project.

Teachers Judy Winter and Louise Maddox, nurs-

ery staff Heather Gray and Rebecca Williamson, project coordinator Bridget Saracco and nurse Doreen Ambrose assisted.

## CBVI Student Wins National Braille Reading Prize

Romy Lopez, a Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI) Braille student and fourth grader from Hunterdon County, placed third in his age category at the National Braille Invitational Challenge in Los Angeles on June 25. Romy, one of more than 300 participants from across the U.S. and Canada who earned a spot at the national challenge, was the only finalist from New Jersey. He received a \$500 savings bond and a medal. CBVI helped finance his trip to California for the competition.

Vito DeSantis, executive director of CBVI, also applauded this year's New Jersey State Legislature for increasing the funding for Braille instruction by \$900,000 in the FY2006 budget, which will give more students like Romy the opportunity to try for such competitions.



Romy Lopez

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