



## June 9, 2011

### Hot Topics

#### ***DHS Fills Key Leadership Positions***

Commissioner Jennifer Velez filled several key vacancies in her top management team this week. Among them: an Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Director of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), a Medical Director at the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) and Director of the Division of Disability Services (DDS). Other critical positions including: Assistant Directors in three Divisions, a Chief Information Officer in Medicaid and a Director in the Office of Legal and Regulatory Affairs. To read the press release, use this [link](#).

#### ***Medicaid Managed Care Carve-In***

Medicaid clients not yet enrolled in a managed care plan must do so by July 18. 'Ready to Enroll' packets describing the four HMOs contracted with Medicaid and their respective insurance plans have all been mailed. To help providers and consumers navigate the change, DHS has created a dedicated web page about the [Medicaid Managed Care](#) carve-in. This page will be updated regularly, and as necessary, with FAQs, enrollment information and deadlines.

#### ***Self-Help Centers Prepare Mental Health Consumers for Independent Living***

[Self-Help Centers](#) have opened on the grounds of Greystone Park and Trenton Psychiatric Hospitals. The centers will provide peer support and link consumers to community wellness and employment services as they pursue recovery outside of the hospital. NJN covered the Greystone opening with this very positive and inspirational news story.

#### ***Special Needs Housing Partnership***

The Department of Community Affairs and DHS hosted an information session this week for agencies and developers interested in responding to the [RFQ](#) to create affordable, supportive housing for 600 people with developmental disabilities by June 2013. About 75 companies and community providers attended the successful two-hour session.

### ***Also in DHS News...***

#### ***Commissioner Velez honored by the National Association on Mental Illness - NAMI-NJ***

The Commissioner received the [Outstanding Public Service Award](#) for her role in advancing services for individuals with mental illness and her accessibility and attentiveness to the needs of the mental health community.

#### ***Free Smoking Cessation Program for All***

The state Department of Health and Senior Services has extended its offering of free nicotine replacement therapy, quit-smoking patches or nicotine-replacement gum to all NJ residents while supplies last. You must be 18 or older. Go to [njquitline.org](#) or call 1-866-NJSTOPS for more information.

#### ***Monitor New Jersey's Weather Emergencies*** [www.ready.nj.gov](#)

The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management is a great resource for information about severe weather conditions. Remember to check on friends and neighbors during weather emergencies, particularly individuals with mobility issues or special needs.

#### ***Special Olympics NJ - June 10 through 12*** ***The College of New Jersey***

Special Olympics New Jersey will conduct the annual Summer Games at The College of New Jersey from June 10 through June 12. All events, including Opening Ceremonies, are free and open to the public. Eric Le Grand, the Rutgers football player paralyzed while making a tackle last October, will lead the opening procession into the stadium using his motorized wheelchair - an inspiration for NJ's 2011 Special Olympians. Use this [link](#) for more information or to learn more about the 2011 Summer Games, visit [www.sonj.org](#) or call 609-896-8000.

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