



TRANSITIONS WEBINAR

June 26, 2024

AGENDA

Office of the IDD Ombudsman

The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

NJ Department of Health – Early Intervention

NJ Department of Education – Office of Special Education

NJ Department of Children and Families – Children’s System of Care (CSOC)

NJ Department of Human Services – Division of Developmental Disabilities

NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Office of IDD Ombudsperson





Paul Aronsohn, Ombudsman

Office of the IDD Ombudsman

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Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD

*The Boggs Center on
Developmental Disabilities*

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From IFSP to IEP

Transition Planning from Early Intervention to Preschool Services in New Jersey

Josephine Shenouda, DrPH
Executive Director

NJEIS NJ EARLY
INTERVENTION
SYSTEM
BIRTH TO THREE

From Family Focused to Child Focused

Under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), children who qualify may receive special education services. From Birth up to age three, services are provided by the New Jersey Early Intervention System. Early intervention services and goal planning for your child and family are defined in an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

The Part B preschool program focuses on your child's educational needs. Children ages three through five years old are provided educational supports to enable them to participate in daily activities and have access to the general curriculum.



IDEA Part C

Early Intervention - Family Focused

Lead Agency: New Jersey Department of Health

Ages Served: Infants and Toddlers, birth to age three, with developmental delay or disabilities

Eligibility: Infant or Toddler has a delay in one or more of the five designated areas of development or has a condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay.

Timeline: 45 Days to complete evaluation and Initial IFSP once parental consent and completed referral is received.

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP): A written plan of services that your child and family will receive.

Location: Services occur in child's natural setting, such as in home or childcare center.

IDEA Part B

Preschool - Child Focused

Lead Agency: New Jersey Department of Education

Local Lead Agency: Local School District

Ages Served: Children, ages three to five years, with disabilities. Five-year-olds who are eligible for kindergarten are not served through the Preschool Program.

Eligibility: Child must meet criteria as having a disability in one of 14 classification categories as defined by IDEA, and a determination must be made that the disability affects their learning.

Timeline: 60 days from the time referral is completed and parental consent is signed and submitted to complete evaluation.

Individualized Education Program (IEP): A legal document that states a child's educational goals and the services and supports the school will provide, must be written within 30 calendar days after a child is determined eligible.

Location: Supports and services are provided in the least restrictive environment.

The Purpose and Aims of the Early Intervention System

- Early intervention services, like those provided by the EIS, have a profound effect on a child's developmental path, enhancing life outcomes for children, their families, and the wider community.
- The program is built on the understanding that experiences in the early years of life play a pivotal role in shaping brain development. By stepping in during this critical period of rapid brain growth, we can leverage the brain's adaptability to help children achieve their maximum potential.
- The EIS does more than just support child development; it equips families with the necessary skills and knowledge to foster their child's growth and development effectively



Goals of Early Intervention

Child Find/ Public Awareness



Identify, evaluate and meet the needs of children including historically under-represented populations

Enhance Capacity of Families



To meet developmental & health related needs of infants/toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities

Provide Family Centered Approach



Based on the uniqueness of the family and their culture

NJEIS Mission Statement

Support Families As Children Transition From EI



Into community programs: preschool, early childhood programs, and other systems of services & supports

How EIS delivers services

State Interagency
Coordinating Council

Department of
Health

4 Regional EI
Collaboratives

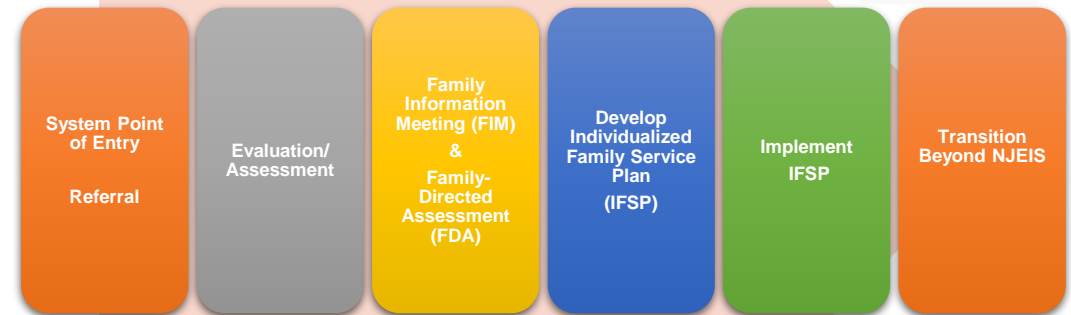
49 Provider
Agencies

21 County Service
Coordination Units

4,500+ practitioners



EI Steps for Families of Eligible Children



The Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)



A written plan of action developed by the team



Describes child's current levels of development



Addresses child's strengths & challenges



Identifies the family's concerns, priorities & resources



Develops activities & strategies to meet the family's goals

Most Common Types of Early Intervention Services



**Service
Coordination**



**Developmental
Intervention**



**Speech-Language
Therapy**



**Occupational
Therapy**



Physical Therapy



Family Training



Social Work



When a Child is Preparing to Exit IDEA/ Part C Services Parents Have the Right To:

A transition plan with outcomes, supports, and services needed to support their child's exit from IDEA/ Part C when their child turns three years old.

Notification to the local school district that their child is potentially eligible for preschool services.

Referral to the school district and/or other community programs.

A transition conference with the school district or with an early childhood/preschool program of the parents choosing.

Transitioning Beyond Early Intervention



Reasons for Transition

- Child turns age 3
- Child has progressed - no longer meets NJEIS eligibility criteria
- Family moves within the state or to another state
- Parent withdraws



Transitioning where?

- Early Childhood program
- Head Start
- Home and community activities
- Pre-school special education and related services through local school district



Transition Planning

- Service coordinator works with family to develop a transition plan – and next steps to prepare child/family for the change

What Is Transition?

Leaving and entering a program requires formal planning and preparation. A transition planning conference can be held as early as age 2 years and 3 months, but no later than 2 years and 9 months.

A Service Coordinator and IFSP team will work closely with families to make sure they are as prepared as possible to support their child's transition to an early childhood setting(s). If a child is eligible for preschool special education services, important decisions about the child's future educational needs will be discussed.



2 YEARS, 3 MONTHS TO
2 YEARS, 9 MONTHS:

Transition meeting is scheduled, and transition plan is written.

(Transition meeting can be held during six-month IFSP review.)

2 YEARS, 9 MONTHS:

Plan for Initial Part B evaluation is written and given to parent (s) for consent.

2 YEARS, 11 MONTHS:

Evaluation is completed and a determination of eligibility is made.

What Happens Before a Child Turns 3?

Referral:

At least 90 days before a child's third birthday, the Service Coordinator will send the child's name, date of birth, and contact information to the local school district unless the family chooses not to do so (opt out).

Evaluation:

A variety of assessment tools and strategies are used to gather information about a child, including information shared by the family.



Eligibility

When the evaluation is completed, eligibility is determined collaboratively at a meeting. To be eligible for special education and related services a student must have a disability according to one of the eligibility categories below:

- Auditory Impairment
- Autism
- Communication Impairment
- Deaf/Blindness
- Emotional regulation impairment
- Intellectual disability
- Multiple disabilities
- Orthopedic impairment
- Other health impairment

If a child is found eligible for preschool special education, the family will participate in a meeting to develop their child's Individual Education Program (IEP). Families are part of the IEP team. At the parent's request the Part C Service Coordinator and others who know the child well will participate in the IEP meeting.



Babies & Toddlers Can't Wait!

#ActEarly – it can make a real difference!

If an infant or toddler (birth to 36 months) is not meeting developmental milestones or if a family has other developmental concerns, **call now.**

To Refer Your Child:
New Jersey Early Intervention System (NJEIS)
TOLL-FREE: 888-653-4463



nj.gov/health/fhs/eis/for-families/when

NJ DOH-NJEIS Website:

<http://nj.gov/health/fhs/eis>

REIC Websites:

www.njreic.org

www.thefamilymatterswebsite.org

Josephine Shenouda, DrPH

NJEIS Executive Director

609-913-5426

Josephine.Shenouda@doh.nj.gov

Thank You!



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Transition Supports for Students with Disabilities

Office of Special Education

Division of Educational Services

June 2024



Welcome

“ PART OF THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE TEND TO THINK THAT EQUALITY IS ABOUT TREATING EVERYONE THE SAME, WHEN IT'S NOT. IT'S ABOUT FAIRNESS. IT'S ABOUT EQUITY OF ACCESS.

— JUDY HEUMANN



Guiding Legislation

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Federal legislation that ensures students with disabilities receive a public education.

N.J.A.C. 6A:14

State special education regulations. Includes all requirements in the IDEA.

- ✓ Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- ✓ Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- ✓ **Transition Planning**

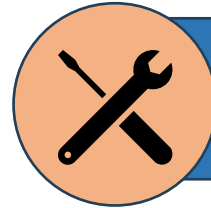
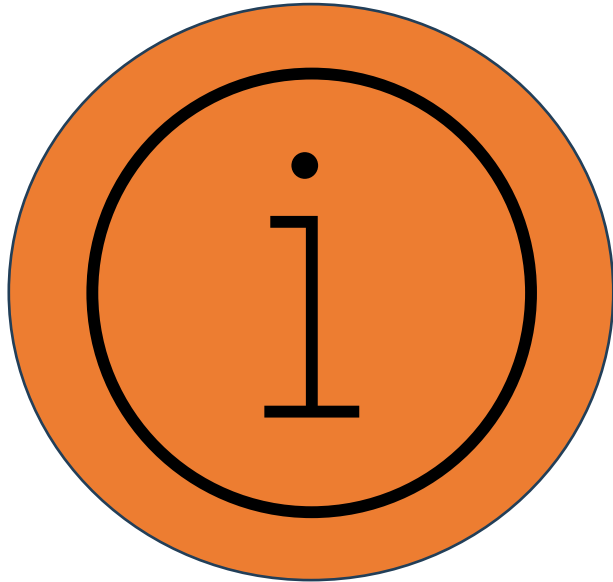


Transition Planning

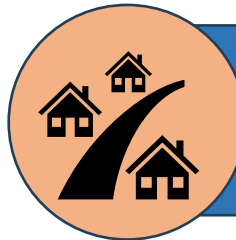
- ✓ Part of the IEP beginning at age 14
- ✓ Student is invited to the IEP meeting
- ✓ Post-secondary aspirations, courses of study, linkages to other agencies, strengths and preferences, and post-secondary liaison
- ✓ Age-appropriate Transition Assessments (age 16)
- ✓ Transfer of Rights/Age of Majority



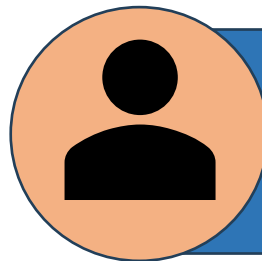
Transition Resources



OSE Transition Toolkit



Community-Based Instruction




Person-Centered Approaches to School and Transition (PCAST)

Collaborations in Transition NJ (CITNJ)

 \$8.6 million over 5 years

 Transition Hub Website

 Interagency Training in 3 LEAs

 3rd Transition Specialist



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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Children's System of Care

Melinda Carnassale & Alex Encarnacion

6/26/24

The Children's System of Care

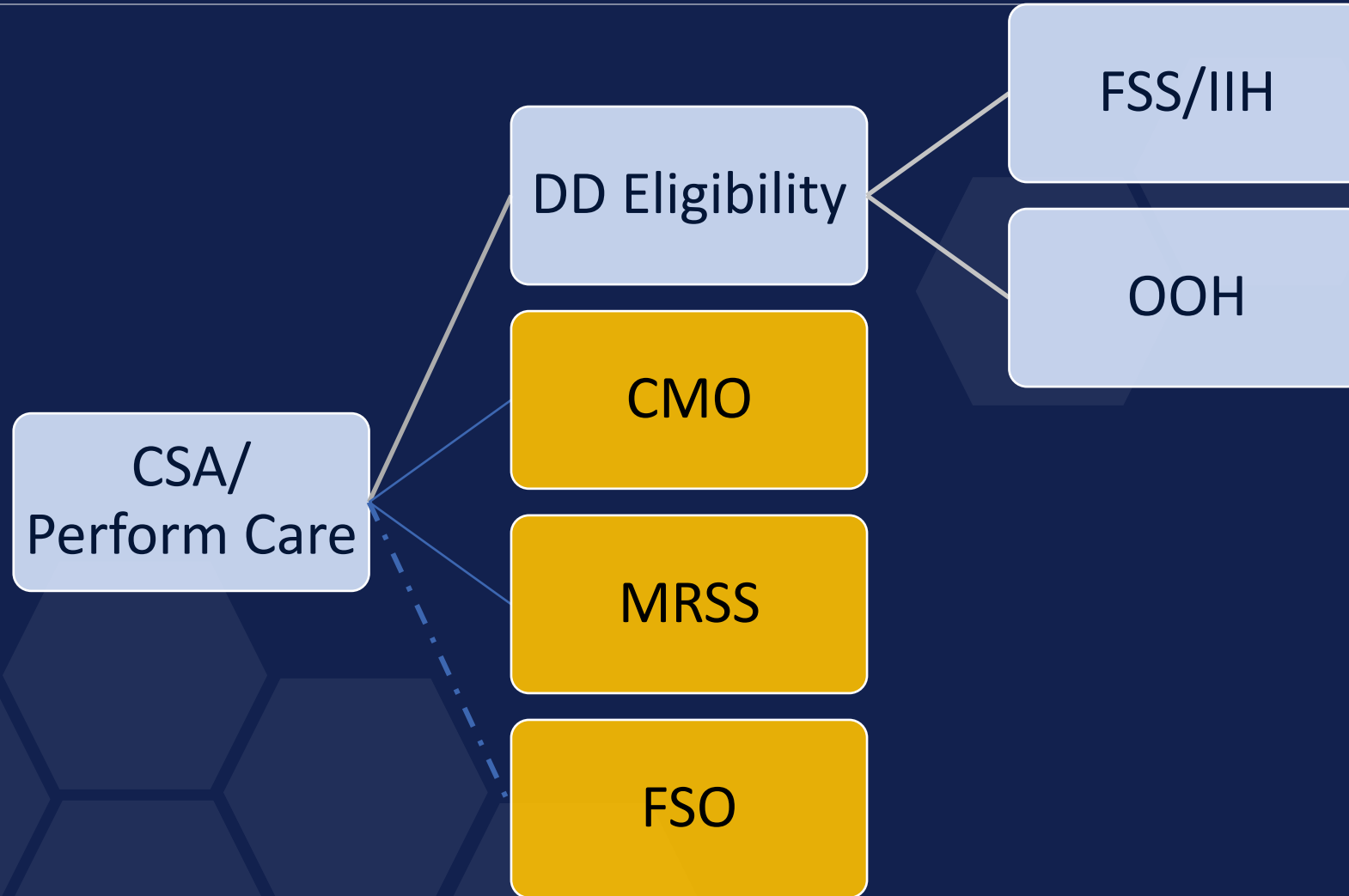
- Serves youth under age 21 with emotional and behavioral health care diagnoses, intellectual/developmental disabilities including autism, and/or substance use disorder.
- Families may access services by request across the state by contacting PerformCare, CSOC's Contracted System Administrator.
- CSOC structure and foundational values ensure that supports and services provided are based on the needs of the youth and family, are family-centered, culturally competent and community-based.



Roles and Responsibilities



PerformCare Roles and Responsibilities



PerformCare: CSOC's CSA

- Single point of access for children, youth, and young adults up to age 21
- Available 24/7/365
- Triage calls to assess immediacy of need
- Authorize services based upon level of urgency
- Provide information and referral



CSOC Core Service Array

Core Community Services:

- Mobile Response and Stabilization (MRSS)
- Care Management Organization (CMO)
- Family Support Organization (FSO)



Service Array-DD Eligible Youth

Can include any CSOC SERVICE:

- Mobile Response Stabilization Services
- Care Management Organization
- Family Support Organization

As well as FUNCTIONAL SERVICES:

- Family Support Services
- Intensive In-Home Services



Developmental Disability (DD) Eligibility

- For individuals **under age 18**, eligibility is determined by CSOC
 - Application materials and information for individuals under 18 are available on PerformCare's website: www.performcarenj.org
 - **CSOC is responsible for providing services until age of 21**
- For individuals aged **18 and older**, eligibility is determined by DDD
 - Application materials and information for individuals 18 and older are available on DDD website: www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/home
 - **DDD is responsible for providing services after age of 21**
- A youth must be diagnosed with a **developmental disability** to be considered for eligibility
- Families can complete a DD eligibility application on line via PerformCare's Family Portal found on the website: www.performcarenj.org



Family Support Services (FSS)

Designed to strengthen and promote families that provide care at home for a child or young adult

Eligibility for FSS:

- Child must be determined eligible for Intellectual/Developmental Disability services through NJ CSOC
- Child must live in the community either with a family member or a Resource Family

How to apply for/request FSS:

- Call PerformCare toll free at 1-877-652-7624 to complete an application by phone
- PerformCare evaluates for FSS based on individual need, caregiver need, current services utilized/available, and the availability of resources



Family Support Services (FSS)

- Educational Advocacy
- Camp
- Assistive Technology
 - Assistive Devices: Examples include travel chairs, walkers, and positioning systems
 - Vehicle Modifications: Examples include motorized lifts and ramps
 - Environmental Modifications: Examples include widening of doorways, ramps and/or grab-bars, and their installation



Family Support Services (FSS)

- Respite Care
 - Agency Hired Respite
 - Self-Hired Respite
 - Agency After School Care
 - Agency Weekend Recreation
 - Overnight Respite



Intensive In-Home Services (IIH)

- Behavioral Services (ABA)
- Clinical and Therapeutic Services
- Individual Support Services



Transitioning Young Adults to DDD

- DDD performs eligibility determination for youth who will require services past their 21st birthday. Families are strongly encouraged to ensure DDD eligibility process is completed prior to youth's 20th birthday
- Youth is required to have the appropriate type of Medicaid to qualify for DDD services. For more info, visit DDD's website: [nj.gov/human services/DDD/services/apply/index.html](http://nj.gov/human%20services/DDD/services/apply/index.html)
- Collaboration between CSOC and DDD includes roundtable conferencing and data sharing



Thank you!

For more information:

Children's System of Care:

www.nj.gov/dcf/about/divisions/dcsc

CSOC.Director@dcf.nj.gov

CSA-PerformCare Member Services:

1-877-652-7624

www.performcarenj.org



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Office of Transition to Adult Life and Employment

Division of Developmental Disabilities

A Division of the NJ Department of Human Services

Mission

DDD assures the opportunity for individuals with developmental disabilities to receive quality services and supports, participate meaningfully in their communities and exercise their right to make choices.

Who Does DDD Serve?

To be eligible for DDD services a person must:

- Have an intellectual and/or developmental disability that began before age 22 and is expected to be lifelong
- Be age 21* or older
- Be a legal U.S. citizen and resident of New Jersey
- Be eligible for Medicaid
- Meet the functional criteria for a developmental disability

Services Available Through DDD

- Assistive Technology
- Behavioral Supports
- Career Planning
- Cognitive Rehabilitation (SP only)
- Community Based Supports (SP only)
- Community Inclusion Services
- Community Transition Services (CCP only)
- Day Habilitation
- Environmental Modifications
- Goods & Services
- Individual Supports (CCP only)
- Interpreter Services
- Natural Supports Training
- Occupational Therapy
- Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)
- Physical Therapy
- Prevocational Training
- Respite
- Speech, Language, and Hearing Therapy
- Supported Employment
- Supports Brokerage
- Transportation
- Vehicle Modifications

Graduates Aging Out of School System



New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities

Graduates Aging Out of the School System: Accessing Adult Services from the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities

A TIMELINE FOR STUDENTS EXITING SCHOOL AND TURNING 21

To be determined eligible for services all applicants must complete either the short or the full application

STEP 1 Apply for Medicaid Eligibility

- Information about Medicaid eligibility information can be found here: www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/individuals/applyservices/medicaid
- For additional help, email DDD.MediEligHelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov

STEP 2 Apply for DDD Eligibility

- Individuals can begin applying for DDD Eligibility any time after 18 years old
- Call the DDD Community Services Office closest to where you live and/or download the DDD Eligibility Application here: www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/individuals/applyservices

STEP 3 Complete NJ Comprehensive Assessment Tool (NICAT)

- As part of the application process, individuals will complete the NICAT with a DDD Intake Worker, usually from the DDD Community Services Office closest to where they live. Learn about the NICAT here: www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/individuals/applyservices/assessment

STEP 4 Complete the Support Coordination Agency Selection Form

- When the individual is in their last year of receiving school-based services, the Support Coordination Agency Selection Form is completed and submitted. Research Support Coordination Agencies here: www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/assets/documents/individuals/support-coordination-agencies-list.pdf

SEPTEMBER – JUNE: Preparation and Planning

- Participate in webinars and activities offered about Transition Planning
 - Planning for Adult Life (www.planningforadulthood.org) offers monthly educational sessions for students with intellectual/developmental disabilities ages 16-21 and their families, and other resources, like:
 - Webinar Wednesdays – monthly webinars on transition-related topics
 - GOT PLANS? ONLINE LESSONS – a downloadable guide and fun instructional videos
- Participate in webinars offered by Division of Developmental Disabilities Office of Transition to Adult Life and Employment
 - DDD Welcome Sessions and Transition Thursdays are for people and families to learn about the transition process, including services available through DDD. To sign up for DDD Transition news and announcements, scan the QR code or email DDD.TransitionHelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov



NJDDO Graduates Timeline: September 2023

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DDD Community Services

Flanders: 973-927-2600
Freehold: 732-863-4500
Mays Landing: 609-300-1898
Newark: 973-693-5080
Paterson: 973-977-4004
Plainfield: 908-226-7800
Trenton: 609-292-1922
Voorhees: 856-770-5900

- Explore person-centered planning tools to help individuals in identifying their vision for work and life and the supports needed to achieve this vision

- To get started, review the DDD Person-Centered Planning Tool: www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/person-centered-planning-tool.docx
- Use Charting the Life Course tools during the person-centered planning process: www.lifecoursetools.com

- Learn about Support Coordination (Care Management)

- Support Coordination is the care management model used by DDD to help people access DDD services and other needed medical, social and educational services. Learn more about Support Coordination here: www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/individuals/community/care

- Learn about Service Providers

- Use the DDD Provider Search Database to find service providers in your area: <https://irecord.dhs.state.nj.us/providersearch>

FEBRUARY/MARCH: Support Coordination Agency Selection

- Complete and submit the Support Coordination Agency Selection Form (STEP 4)

- The individual's DDD Intake Worker will provide a Support Coordination Agency Selection Form during the eligibility application process. There is a better chance of getting a selected agency if the individual identifies both a first-choice and second-choice agency. There is an up-to-date list of Support Coordination Agencies here: www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/assets/documents/individuals/support-coordination-agencies-list.pdf
- Return the completed Support Coordination Agency Selection Form to the DDD Intake Worker who helped the individual with the eligibility application process.

APRIL: Support Coordination Agency Assignment

- DDD assigns the student to a Support Coordination Agency

- DDD assigns all graduating students to a Support Coordination Agency, even if they turn 21 in June, based on the completed selection form and available capacity of the person's first-choice and second-choice agencies.
- Once assigned, the Support Coordination Agency can receive funding to attend exit IEP and/or transition-related meetings at the school and begin working with the individual and family to develop the Individualized Service Plan (ISP).

APRIL – JUNE: Service Plan Development

- Develop the Individualized Service Plan

The Support Coordinator is responsible for writing the Individualized Service Plan (ISP), with guidance from the planning team (individual, family, providers, etc.) and information gathered during the person-centered planning process and completion of the NICAT.

Students Turning 21 July – March

- Ensure that STEP 1, STEP 2, and STEP 3 are complete
- 2-3 months before services are needed, reach out to the individual's DDD Intake Worker to complete STEP 4.

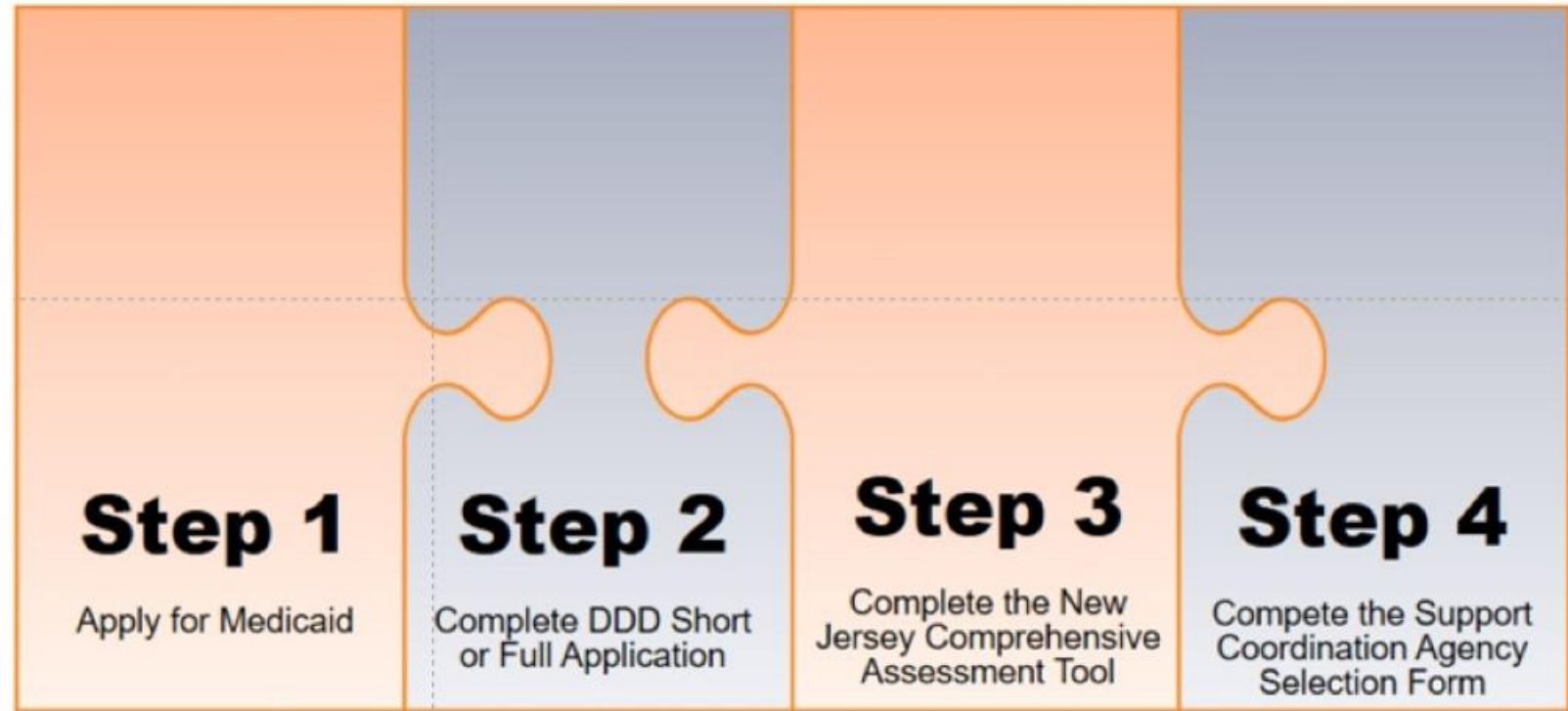
NJDDO Graduates Timeline: September 2023

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Steps to Accessing DDD Services

Eligibility Determination

- Steps 1, 2, & 3 are part of the intake and eligibility determination process.
- Step 4 is completed after a person is determined eligible, prior to accessing services.



Office of Transition to Adult Life & Employment

Transition To Adult Life & Employment Specialist

Mays Landing Office

Counties Served:
Atlantic - Cape May -
Cumberland - Salem

Voorhees Office

Counties Served:
Burlington - Camden -
Gloucester

Freehold Office

Counties Served:
Ocean - Monmouth

Plainfield Office

Counties Served:
Union - Somerset,

Newark Office

County Served:
Essex

Patterson Office

Counties Served:
Bergen - Hudson -
Passaic

Flanders Office

Counties Served: Morris
- Sussex - Warren

Contact us at 800.832.9173, #2
DDD.TransitionHelpDesk@dhs.nj.gov

Presentations Available from Office of Transition to Adult Life and Employment

Navigating the DDD Service System

- Overview of DDD service system and steps necessary to complete intake and eligibility process.
- Services available through the Community Care Program and Supports Program
- Support Coordination (care management)
- Available in English and Spanish.

Preparing for a Bright Future: First Hand Experiences of a Person with a Disability

- Geared toward students with disabilities but available to all audiences.
- The perspective of a person with a disability working in Transition to Adult Life & Employment.
- Discusses available services, resources on choosing a career, identifying personal skills, understanding higher education opportunities, and becoming aware of employment resources.

Employment: Why It's Important and An Overview of Resources and Supports

- DDD is dedicated to ensuring that each individual with IDD who wants to work has opportunities to do so.
- Overview of how to prepare a student with IDD for employment, including services available to support people with IDD in finding and maintaining competitive integrated employment in the general workforce after they have exited the school system.

Request a DDD Resource Day

During a DDD Resource Day, schools can schedule 15- to 20-minute time slots for school personnel, students, and/or family members to meet one-on-one with a DDD staff member to ask questions and seek guidance. DDD will work with schools to organize a transition or employment related Resource Day.

Resource Days can be held during or after school hours, virtually or in person. We encourage schools to hold Resource Days bi-annually or quarterly, depending on student the needs.

To request a Resource Day, reach out to your DDD Liaison or visit the [Transition to Adult Life and Employment](#) webpage.

Request a DDD Information/Exhibit Table

DDD is available to participate in school/transition fairs and conferences with an information/exhibit table, with at least one DDD information specialist on hand to provide information and answer questions.

To request our attendance or find out where we will be next, visit the [Transition to Adult Life and Employment](#) webpage.

Transition Thursdays

Webinar Series



Scan our QR code with your phone camera to join our listserv!

1st Thursday - Quarterly

Welcome Session - General
Noon – 1PM

2nd Thursday - Monthly

Intake Process & Transition Resources
6PM-7:00PM

3rd Thursday - Monthly

Topic of the Month
Noon – 1PM

4th Thursday - Quarterly

Welcome Session (with Breakouts)
6PM – 7:30 PM

Quarterly

September | January | April | July

Monthly

Quarterly Welcome Sessions

September – January – April – July

DDD Introduction

Quarterly – 1st Thursday of the Month
Noon – 1 p.m.

This 1-hour session is an introduction to DDD and discusses how to prepare to access DDD services. With plenty of time for questions, participants will leave this session with their questions answered, great information to follow up on, and many resources to look into.

DDD Breakout Sessions

Quarterly – 4th Thursday of the Month
6 – 7:30 p.m.

In this evening session, participants can join breakout rooms of their choice to learn more about a particular topic and ask questions. Breakout room topics include:

- Intake and Transition Process
- Understanding Support Coordination
- Self Directing your Services and the Community Care Program Waiting list
- Understanding Employment Options

Monthly Webinars

Learn About DDD Intake and Transition to Adult Life

2nd Thursday of the Month
6 – 7 p.m.

This 1-hour webinar discuss a wide array of topics for individuals and families, including navigating the adult service system, future planning, employment and more. There will be plenty of time for questions.

Topic of the Month

3rd Thursday of the Month
Noon –1 p.m.

In this 1-hour evening session, participants have an opportunity to learn about the DDD application and intake process necessary to be determined eligible for DDD services. They will also learn about valuable resources that can help them in planning for the transition process. There will be plenty of time for questions.

Register for the Next Welcome Session!

DDD Introduction

Wednesday July 3rd

Noon – 1PM



DDD Breakout Sessions

Thursday July 25th

6 – 7:30 p.m.



Scan the QR code with your phone and follow the link to register!

Join the Office of Transition to Adult Life & Employment Listserv



Scan the QR code with your phone and follow the link to sign up for email news and updates from the Division (Division Update)!

Join the DDD Communications Listserv



Scan the QR code with your phone and follow the link to sign up for email news and updates from the Division (Division Update)!

Contact Us

DDD Community Services Offices

- Flanders: 973-927-2600
- Freehold: 732-863-4500
- Mays Landing: 609-300-1898
- Newark: 973-693-5080
- Paterson: 973-977-4004
- Plainfield: 908-226-7800
- Trenton: 609-292-1922
- Voorhees: 856-770-5900

Division Phone Number: 1-800-832-9173

Email for routine questions: DDD.FeeForService@dhs.nj.gov

For Additional DDD Information

DDD Website www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/

Sign up for DDD Email Updates: email DDD.Communications@dhs.nj.gov and write “*Division Update Subscribe*” in the subject line

Supports Program Policies & Procedures Manual

www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/assets/documents/supports-program-policy-manual.pdf

Community Care Program Policies & Procedures Manual

www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/assets/documents/community-care-program-policy-manual.pdf

Supports Program & Community Care Program: A Quick Guide for Families

<https://njcdd.org/nj-supports-program-policies-and-procedures-manual-a-quick-guide-for-families/>

Additional Resources

Office of Education on Self-Directed Services

www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/individuals/community/education/
DDD.OESDS@dhs.nj.gov

Employment First

www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/individuals/employment/
www.nj.gov/humanservices/involved/employmentfirst.html
DDD.EmploymentHelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov

Medicaid Approved Providers Search

<https://irecord.dhs.state.nj.us/providersearch>

Life Course Tools: Life Course Trajectory/Integrated Supports

www.lifecoursetools.com

How to Select a Provider

www.rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/SelectingaServiceProvider.html

How To Select a Support Coordination Agency

<https://rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/products/documents/SelectingaSupportCoordinationAgency-F.pdf>



Thank You!

DDD.TransitionHelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov

AGENDA

Office of the IDD Ombudsman

The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

NJ Department of Health – Early Intervention

NJ Department of Education – Office of Special Education

NJ Department of Children and Families – Children’s System of Care (CSOC)

NJ Department of Human Services – Division of Developmental Disabilities

NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Office of IDD Ombudsperson



NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES (DVRS)





The mission of the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services is to enable eligible individuals with disabilities to achieve an employment outcome consistent with their strengths, priorities, needs, abilities, and capabilities.

WHAT IS DVRS?



- The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, is a state agency within the New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development
- DVRS helps individuals with disabilities prepare for, obtain, and maintain competitive employment
- At the federal level, DVRS is monitored by the US Dept. of Education, through the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)
- Our professional staff are highly trained in the field of vocational rehabilitation

THE VALUE OF DVRS

- DVRS is a comprehensive workforce development program serving people with disabilities and the employer community
- DVRS staff are disability employment experts
- DVRS provides a full array of work-based learning opportunities and employment related services to assist people with disabilities in support of their chosen career pathway



WHO SHOULD BE REFERRED?



DVRS serves eligible people with disabilities who want to work in competitive-integrated employment.

This includes:

- Adults (18 and older)
- Out of School Youth (ages 16-24)
- Student in High School (ages 14+)





- DVRS promotes and advocates for Inclusive Employment
- DVRS is committed to creating and supporting career pathways for DVRS consumers

STEPS IN THE DVRS PROCESS



STEP I: THE REFERRAL



Referrals: Individuals of adult age may refer themselves to DVRS. Minors or others under guardianship may be referred by their parent/guardian. Referrals can also be made by hospitals, service providers, state or county agencies and others. Referrals can be completed on the DVRS/DOL website, or by contacting a DVRS office.

- Our confidential referral form can be used to submit a referral, or it can be taken over the phone. The referral can be completed via this link :

[NJDVRS Confidential Referral Form](#)



STEP 2: APPLICATION PROCESS

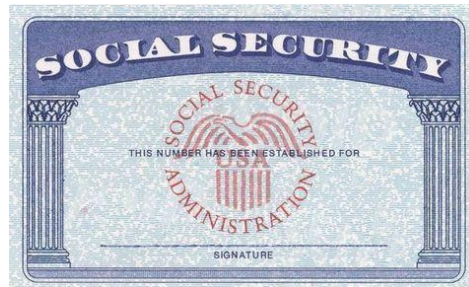


Application Process: When a referral is made, the individual will be contacted by DVRS to set up an Intake Appointment, known as the *Survey Interview*.

If the individual wants to pursue services with DVRS the applicant will then officially apply for services at this time.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE SURVEY INTERVIEW

- During the initial meeting, the interviewing counselor will ask questions and collect information about disability history, education, employment, vocational goals, and expectations for DVRS
- The applicant will need to bring proof of identification, a social security card/number and verification of income or benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)



WHAT TO BRING TO THE SURVEY INTERVIEW

- ✓ Personal identification and contact information
- ✓ Medical or psychiatric evaluations, including all disability & medical diagnoses, and a Diagnostic & Statistical Manual (DSM) diagnosis if there is a mental health and/or a Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
- ✓ In the case of high school students or recent graduates, the most recent Individualized Education Plan (IEP) psychological, social and learning assessments and other pertinent school documentation
- ✓ Results from career interest testing

STEP 3: ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION



- In order to be eligible for DVRs services, individuals must have a documented physical, cognitive, or mental/emotional impairment that poses a substantial barrier to employment, and
- Requires vocational rehabilitation services in order to prepare for, secure, maintain, or regain employment consistent with the individual's unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice
- The individual must be available for employment

STEP 4: INDIVIDUAL PLAN FOR EMPLOYMENT (IPE)

An **IPE**

- Is a written agreement between the consumer and the counselor;
- Will be developed after the consumer is determined eligible for DVRS services; and...
- When there is a determination of the consumer's vocational goal and specific services needed to obtain and maintain employment.



WHAT SERVICES CAN DVRS PROVIDE?



- The core service provided to DVRS consumers is Vocational Counseling and Guidance conducted by our DVRS counselors
- Diagnostic evaluations and an array of needed adjunct services to assist DVRS consumers in obtaining or maintaining employment
- All services must be in service of the consumer's vocational goal and are individualized based on the consumer's work history, skill level, and disability related barriers as well as the consumer's interests, abilities, and strengths
- Many services are at no cost to the consumer, such as diagnostics, vocational counseling and job coaching, but others are based on a financial needs assessment

EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC SERVICES



- Career Assessments
- Benefits Counseling
- Work readiness skills, training
- Work based learning experiences
- Self-Advocacy skills
- Financial support for post-secondary education
- Job coaching, supported employment
- Mental and Physical restoration services
- Assistive technology, workplace accommodations and auxiliary aids such as hearing aids
- Tools & equipment needed for a job

DVRS SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT & SPECIALIZED SERVICES



- Assessment & Job Development:
 - Pre-Placement Activities
 - Trial Work Experience (TWE)
 - Community Based Work Experience (CBWE)
 - Internship Development & Supports (IDS)
 - Discovery, Customized Employment (CE)

- Placement & Job Coaching:
 - Time-Limited Job Coaching (TLJC)
 - American Sign Language (ASL) Job Coaching
 - Supported Employment (SE) Intensive Job Coaching
 - Long-Term Follow-Along (LTFA)

STEP 5: CASE CLOSURE



- The consumer's case is closed when the individual has been successfully employed for a *minimum* of 90 days
- This means that the specific services provided through DVRS have ended
- A consumer may reapply to DVRS at any time in the future if the job situation changes, or there is an interest in career advancement

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES (PRE-ETS)



- Available to all students with disabilities in need of such services, regardless of whether a student has applied for VR services
- May begin as early as 14 years of age for in-school youth
- Services help students identify career interests to explore through additional Vocational Rehabilitation services
- Pre-Employment Transition Services are considered to be a shared responsibility between the local school district and the NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Pre-Employment Transition Services cannot be duplicated if provided by the student's local school district

[DVRS website:](#)

www.nj.gov/labor/career-services/special-services/individuals-with-disabilities



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Governor Phil Murphy • Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver

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Department of Labor and Workforce Development



Career Services

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[Find a Job](#)

[Tools and Support](#)

[Education and Training](#)

[Specialized Support](#)

[Business Services](#)

One-Stop Career Centers are currently CLOSED for in-person services. [➔ Submit a request for virtual career services support.](#)

[Home](#) / [Specialized Support](#) / [Individuals with Disabilities \(DVRS\)](#) / [Vocational Rehabilitation Services](#)

Vocational Rehabilitation Services



Any individual with a physical, mental, cognitive, or other form of disability who has a substantial impediment to employment may qualify for the following services through the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS).

The mission of the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services is to enable eligible individuals with disabilities to achieve an employment outcome consistent with their strengths, priorities, needs, abilities, and capabilities.

Make a referral

- [Complete the online referral form](#)
- [Pre-ETS Student Referral Form](#)

Related topics

- [Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services](#)
- [Benefits Counseling Services](#)
- [DVRS Services for Employers](#)

DVRS OFFICE CONTACTS & LOCATIONS



The list of the offices and contact information can be found on the DVRS website:

www.nj.gov/labor/career-services/special-services

DVRS Central Office

1 John Fitch Plaza	Phone:	609-292-5987
12 th Floor	Toll free:	866-871-7867
P.O. Box 398	Fax:	609-292-8347
Trenton, NJ 08625-0398	VP:	609-498-6221

dvradmin@dol.nj.gov

NJ DVRS OFFICE LOCATIONS & CONTACT INFORMATION

<p>CENTRAL ELIZABETH (Union) 921 Elizabeth Ave., 3rd Floor Elizabeth, NJ 07201</p> <p>908-965-3940/PHONE 908-965-2976/FAX 908-242-3563/VP DVR.Elizabeth@dol.nj.gov</p>	<p>CENTRAL NEPTUNE (Monmouth) 60 Taylor Avenue Neptune, NJ 07753-4844</p> <p>732-775-1799/PHONE 732-775-1666/FAX 732-606-4961/VP DVR.Neptune@dol.nj.gov</p>	<p>CENTRAL NEW BRUNSWICK (Middlesex) 550 Jersey Avenue New Brunswick, NJ 08901</p> <p>732-937-6300/PHONE 732-937-6358/FAX 732-393-8056/VP DVR.NewBrunswick@dol.nj.gov</p>
<p>CENTRAL SOMERVILLE (Somerset, Hunterdon) 75 Veterans Memorial Drive East Suite 101 Somerville, NJ 08876-2952</p> <p>908-704-3030/PHONE 908-704-3476/FAX 732-393-8056/VP DVR.Somerville@dol.nj.gov</p>	<p>CENTRAL TOMS RIVER (Ocean) 1433 Hooper Ave. Suite 214 Toms River, NJ 08753-2225</p> <p>732-505-2310/PHONE 732-505-2317/FAX 732-606-4961/VP DVR.TomsRiver@dol.nj.gov</p>	<p>CENTRAL TRENTON (Mercer) Labor Station Plaza 28 Yard Avenue, P.O. Box 959 Trenton, NJ 08625-0959</p> <p>609-292-2940/PHONE 609-984-3553/FAX 609-498-7011/VP DVR.Trenton@dol.nj.gov</p>
<p>NORTH HACKENSACK (Bergen) 60 State Street, 2nd Floor Hackensack, NJ 07601-5471</p> <p>201-996-8970/PHONE 201-996-8880/FAX DVR.Hackensack@dol.nj.gov</p>	<p>NORTH JERSEY CITY (Hudson) 438 Summit Avenue, 6th Floor Jersey City, NJ 07306-3187</p> <p>201-217-7180/PHONE 201-217-7287/FAX 201-616-0447/VP DVR.JerseyCity@dol.nj.gov</p>	<p>NORTH NEWARK (Essex) 990 Broad Street, 2nd Floor Newark, NJ 07102</p> <p>973-648-3494/PHONE 973-648-3902/FAX 862-772-7166/VP DVR.Newark@dol.nj.gov</p>
<p>NORTH PATERSON (Passaic) 200 Memorial Drive, 1st Floor Paterson, NJ 07505</p> <p>973-742-9226 (Option 3) or 973-340-3400/PHONE 973-279-5895/FAX 973-968-6556/VP DVR.Paterson@dol.nj.gov</p>	<p>NORTH PHILLIPSBURG (Sussex, Warren) 445 Marshall Street Phillipsburg, NJ 08865</p> <p>908-329-9190 (Option 2)/PHONE 908-454-8334/FAX 908-645-0616/VP DVR.Phillipsburg@dol.nj.gov</p>	<p>NORTH RANDOLPH (Morris) 13 Emery Avenue, 2nd Floor Randolph, NJ 07869</p> <p>862-397-5600 (Option 4)/PHONE 973-895-6420/FAX 973-607-2034/VP DVR.Randolph@dol.nj.gov</p>
<p>SOUTH BRIDGETON (Cumberland, Salem) 40 E. Broad Street, Suite 204 Bridgeton, NJ 08302-2881</p> <p>856-453-3888/PHONE 856-453-3909/FAX 856-497-0075/VP DVR.Bridgeton@dol.nj.gov</p>	<p>SOUTH CHERRY HILL (Camden) 101 Woodcrest Road, Suite 127 Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-3620</p> <p>856-549-0600/PHONE 856-795-4782/FAX 856-831-7599/VP DVR.Camden@dol.nj.gov</p>	<p>SOUTH PLEASANTVILLE (Atlantic) 2 South Main St., 1st Fl., Suite 2 Pleasantville, NJ 08232</p> <p>609-813-3933/PHONE 609-813-3959/FAX 608-813-3958/TTY 609-224-1218/VP DVR.Pleasantville@dol.nj.gov</p>
<p>SOUTH RIO GRANDE (Cape May) 3801 Rt. 9 South, Unit 3 Rio Grande, NJ 08242</p> <p>609-224-2010/PHONE 609-224-2047/FAX 609-224-1218/VP DVR.RioGrande@dol.nj.gov</p>	<p>SOUTH SEWELL (Gloucester) 1480 Tanyard Rd, Suite A Sewell, NJ 08080</p> <p>856-384-3730/PHONE 856-384-3777/FAX 856-342-0342/VP DVR.Sewell@dol.nj.gov</p>	<p>SOUTH WESTAMPTON (Burlington) 795 Woodlane Road, 2nd Floor Westampton, NJ 08060</p> <p>609-518-3948/PHONE 609-518-3956/FAX DVR.Westampton@dol.nj.gov</p>

AGENDA

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NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Office of IDD Ombudsperson





Paul Aronsohn, Ombudsman

Office of the IDD Ombudsman

Thank
you!