

DDD Today

A Publication of the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Volume V, Issue IV July 2011
dddnewsletter@dhs.state.nj.us

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner
Dawn Apgar, Deputy Commissioner

Today's Quotes: *"The ADA is a milestone in our nation's journey to live up to our Charters of Freedom,"*
Jonathan Young, Chairman of the National Council on Disability

NEW MEDICAID REGULATIONS & FORUMS



In an effort to explain the Managed Care Enrollment process and how it will affect consumers and their families, the NJ Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services presented *A Developmental Disabilities Family Forum* on May 25 and June 8. In this edition, we are including a few helpful links to a list of Frequently Asked Questions and other information provided by the Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services. *(See below)*

For a list of FAQs, visit:

English: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/home/Medicaid-Client-FAQs.pdf>

Spanish: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/home/Medicaid-Client-FAQs-Spanish.pdf>

For more information about the Medicaid managed care carve-in, click on the links below:

- Letter on General Benefit Changes
- Letter to Waiver Clients
- Letter to Previously Exempt Clients
- Letter on Enrollment Process
- Provider FAQs
- FAQs for Individuals Previously Exempt
- Flyer for Medicaid HMO Benefit Changes

**For questions,
call the
Medicaid Hotline:**

1-800-356-1561

Community News: Arc Mercer Opens Healthcare Center

The Arc Mercer celebrated the recent opening of its Healthcare Center by hosting an Open House for local dignitaries, benefactors, stakeholders, and other members of the community. Located at 801 New York Avenue in Trenton, The Arc Mercer Healthcare Center was developed to fill a vital need for individuals with developmental disabilities in Mercer County due to the closing of the Developmental Disabilities Health Alliance (DDHA) clinic in Hamilton last December.

At the Open House, visitors were treated to lunch and a brief ceremony was held. Among those who participated in the ceremony were Department of Human Services Commissioner Jennifer Velez, The Arc Mercer's Executive Director Steven Cook and Board President Geoff Morris, as well as Tom Baffuto, Executive Director of The Arc of New Jersey. The Maria Grazia Panaro Foundation was also honored with a plaque dedication for donating a grant award in the amount of \$37,000 to establish the facility. Additional funds came from private donors and United Healthcare, formerly known as AmeriChoice.

Following the ceremony, guests were allowed to take a tour of the state of the art facility. They also got the opportunity to meet with staff, which includes two physicians, three primary care specialists, one advanced practice nurse, two registered nurses, and a part-time psychiatrist and therapist. The Arc Mercer contracted with Catholic Charities in Trenton to fill behavioral healthcare needs.

For more information on the Health Care Center, call the Center's Director Anne E. Brady at:

(609) 989-9211, ext.127 or abrady@arcmercer.org

Pet Therapy is a Hit at Woodbridge Developmental Center

Individuals living at Woodbridge Developmental Center (WDBR) have been enjoying visits from brother and sister Keeshonds named CB and Summer every two weeks since last October. The duo are pet therapy dogs owned by Connie Bowtin, and their services are contracted through TheraPet, Inc. of Clark, New Jersey.

The dogs also visit area hospitals and nursing homes and are always well groomed and behaved. They have also adjusted to the wheelchairs and other special equipment at WDBR. Presently, 60 individuals benefit from their visits and the requests to spend time with the dogs are increasing. During their visits, the dogs spend an hour in the cottage dayroom or in the outdoor patio area when the weather permits.

The responses range from a smile to singing to throwing a kiss to the dogs. Many consumers can hardly wait for them to return!



A consumer pets one of the pet therapy dogs.

NEWS FROM OUR DEVELOPMENTAL CENTERS

New Lisbon's Greenhouse Open for Business!

The greenhouse at the New Lisbon Developmental Center (NLDC) is blossoming with a wonderful variety of house plants, according to Janis Lynch, who works onsite as the Greenhouse Repairer.

In March, the greenhouse was reopened and is currently open for business 5 days a week. Thus far, NLDC has seen great success thanks to those who work there. Lynch says she loves working at the greenhouse and has help from one STPA and two individuals who reside at NLDC.

At the beginning of the year, thoughtful gardeners at NLDC dug up and contributed from their flower beds at home a number of perennial plants, Lynch said. From these plants, they were able to split and repot for sale various types of perennials, while still keeping some of the plants in stock for the future.

For Easter and Mother's Day, NLDC had plenty of annuals for sale, including Geraniums, Impatiens, Vincas, Petunias, and Begonias.

Enough profits were made to enable staff to buy more plants in the future, such as Chrysanthemums for the fall and Poinsettias for Christmas. Right now, staff are looking forward to reaping the benefits from the tomato, basil, and marigold plants that will come up soon.

Lynch said the Horticulture Department at NLDC plans to head in a new direction soon in hopes of finding new ways to support individual involvement.

Stop by NLDC for some beautiful flowers!

PANSIES- \$13 FLAT / \$1.75 FOR 4 PACK

PANSIES HANGING BASKETS- \$8.99

DAY LILIES- \$4 EACH

HOUSE PLANTS- \$1 AND UP

VARIETY OF PERENNIALS FROM \$3 TO \$5

(Including Sedum, 4 o'clock, Columbine, Salvia, Lily-of-the-Valley, Bethlehem Sage, Rose Campion, Hens and Chicks, Shasta Daisies, and Monardi)

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday - Friday

**9 - 11 AM
and
1 - 3 PM**

**PHONE: (609) 726-1000
Ext. 4509**



Christie Administration Announces New Special Needs Housing Initiative

Program Aims to Create Affordable Housing for 600 People with Developmental Disabilities

The New Jersey Departments of Community Affairs (DCA) and Human Services (DHS) recently announced a new special needs housing initiative aimed to create affordable, supportive housing for 600 people with developmental disabilities by June 2013. The initiative aligns with the State of New Jersey's goal to help integrate people with special needs into the community whenever possible.

"The Christie Administration recognizes that the housing needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers are enormous. As part of this initiative, the Department of Community Affairs will provide expertise and funding to create appropriate community-based housing so more people can be served," said DCA Commissioner Lori Grifa. "The DCA will also identify a pool of the most dynamic, experienced and reliable producers of homes for people with developmental disabilities in order to expedite the process of moving people out of institutions and into community settings."

Under the Special Needs Housing Partnership, DCA and DHS will seek to purchase three- or four-bedroom ranch style homes and two-bedroom condominiums and apartments to create supported-living arrangements for a minimum of 100 people by December 31, 2011, an additional 200 people by June 30, 2012; and 300 more people by June 30, 2013. The goal is to move

people who are able from developmental centers to the community, who are on the DHS waiting list, or who require emergency community residential placements into appropriate housing faster than the State's current process. Referrals to the homes will not exclusively come from DHS. In fact, service providers in the community can also refer their clients to the housing.

"The Partnership represents this Administration's commitment to empowering individuals with developmental disabilities by providing community-living options that support and accommodate their needs," said DHS Commissioner Jennifer Velez. "We're incredibly proud to advance an initiative that brings promise to individuals and families for whom housing is such a critical need."

The DCA and DHS will soon issue a Request for Qualifications to seek housing developers/service providers with the capacity and technical expertise to produce housing units for individuals with developmental disabilities. The information received in response to the RFQ, which must be submitted by June 15, will be used to create a pool of organizations that have demonstrated success in developing affordable housing in general and housing for disability communities in particular. Interested municipalities can access the pool of organizations to find qualified developers doing business in their area. Also, the State

will provide qualified developers with a list of interested municipalities in their business territory in order to facilitate the development of housing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

Developers/service providers that are selected to participate in the program will be able to submit project development plans to the DCA and DHS. Organizations whose plans best meet the program's objectives can expect to receive sufficient funding to purchase and rehabilitate housing units. A maximum price of \$125,000 per bed will be allowed for purchase and necessary rehabilitation under this initiative.

The Special Needs Housing Partnership supports New Jersey's obligations under the landmark 1999 Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* in which the Court ruled that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protects a person with a disability from being unnecessarily institutionalized. The decision favored unrestricted, but supported, community placements for individuals with disabilities.



FORUMS & WORKSHOPS

FORUM

In May, the National Council on Disability hosted the first of its “Living Forum” series in Portland, Oregon. One of the presentations was titled “Working Towards a Sustainable Future for Developmental Disability Services.” It was offered to self-advocates, family members, community allies, State government representatives, non-profit organizations, providers, and federal government partners.

For more information on the forum series or to see the PowerPoint from the presentation, visit: http://www.ncd.gov/events/RegionalForums/Living_Forums_

WORKSHOP

Autism Family Services of New Jersey will be hosting a Summer Series called “All Eyes on Us...Dealing with Challenging Behaviors in Public.” This free parent training/workshop will discuss Behavior Analytic methods & tools for handling difficult behaviors of individuals with developmental disabilities when they occur in public settings.

The presentation, given by Lauren McAllister BCaBA, will be held at 6 pm at the following locations:

June 23: Family Resource Network - 35 Beaverson Blvd, Bldg 11 - Brick, NJ

July 21: Family Resource Network - 322 Hwy 46, Suite 290 - Parsippany, NJ

August 4: Camden County Library - 203 Laurel Rd, Mtg Room A - Voorhees, NJ

To register, please contact Lori Delli Santi at 732-262-8020

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, October 27

Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel

515 Highway 1 South Iselin, New Jersey

Visit www.nationalcaregiversconference.org for more information!

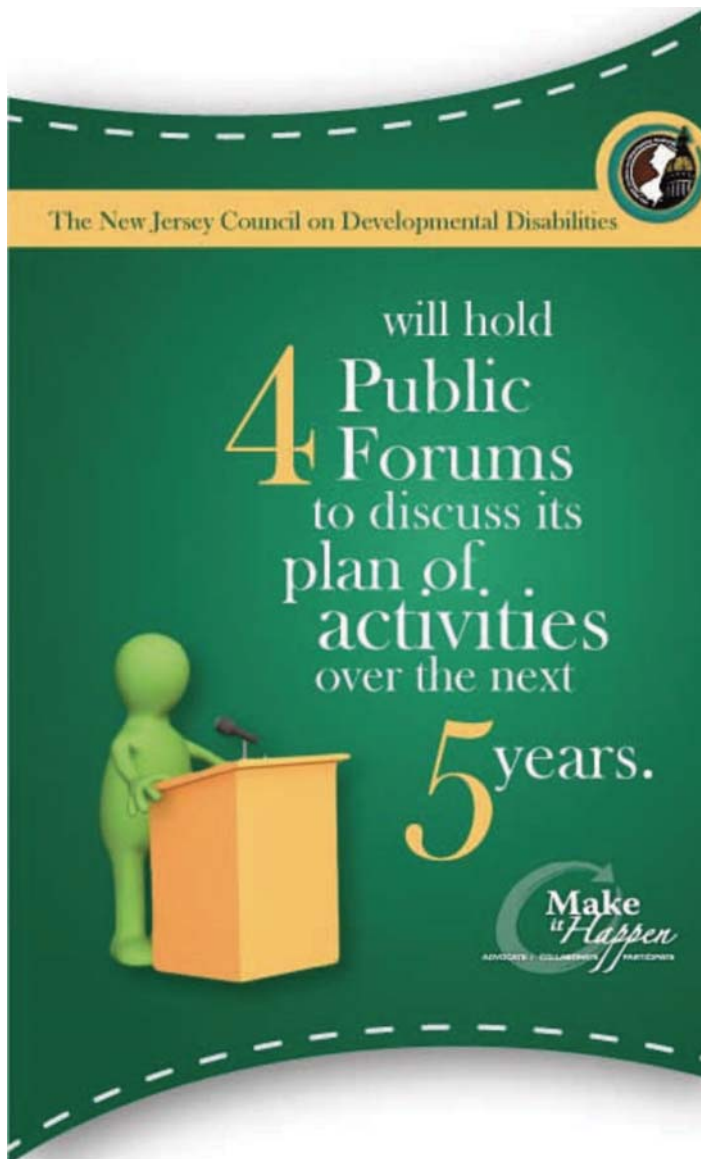


Early Registration Incentive * Respite * Exhibits
Workshops * Inspirational Speakers

Keynote Speaker: Gail Sheehy

New York Times Best Seller and Author of 16 books, including *Passages*, *The Silence Passage* and *Passages in Caregiving: Turning Chaos into Confidence*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The 5-Year Plan Public Forums will be held:

Wednesday, June 29, 2011
 at the Mary Roebling Building
 Conference rooms 219 and 220
 from 10 AM to 12 PM
 Address: 20 West State Street, Trenton 08608

Wednesday, July 6, 2011
 at the Arc of Morris County
 from 1 to 3 PM
 Address: 26 Main Street, Flanders 07836

Thursday, July 7, 2011
 at the Cumberland County College
 Conference and Events Center
 from 1 to 3 PM
 Address: 3322 College Drive, Vineland 08360

NOTE: If accommodations are needed, please contact the Council office at (609) 292-3745 at least 72 hours before the forum where those accommodations will be needed.

Autism Speaks has created a Transition Toolkit to serve as a guide to assist families on the journey from adolescence to adulthood. To access the free toolkit, visit:

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/community/family-services/transition.php>

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WORKSHOP

Understanding Autism: What Public School Administrators Need to Know

Approximately 10,000 New Jersey students have an educational classification of autism. There are many anecdotal examples of how administrators drive effective programs, and virtually no examples of successful programs without administrative support. Learn more about autism, Asperger's Disorder, and PDDNOS, including strategies to address students' social, communicative, and behavioral needs. Maximize your resources by learning how to determine which interventions have empirical evidence supporting their use. Expand your leadership skills by learning how to most effectively support your staff to serve the complex and unique needs of these learners in various placements throughout the school. Superintendents, principals, and directors/supervisors of special services are invited to attend this free workshop, which is based on the findings of a recent state-wide survey of public school administrators. The workshop will be presented by Elizabeth Neumann, BCaBA, Professional Services Coordinator and Linda Meyer, Ed.D., MPA, BCBA-D, CPT.

Participants will earn 4 professional development hours from the New Jersey Department of Education.

For a list of locations and to register online, visit:

<http://www.autismnj.org/WorkshopsEvents.aspx#professionals>

Congratulations to *Dr. Deborah M. Spitalnik*

On being appointed by President Barack Obama to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

Spitalnik has previously served as Chair of the Committee and is currently Executive Director of the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, where she is also a Professor of Pediatrics.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

State Awards Recreational Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities (ROID) Grants

The Christie Administration recently announced the award of \$585,000 in Recreation Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities (ROID) Grants. The funds will go to 43 municipalities in the state.

"No matter who you are, participating in recreational activities is essential to feeling part of the community and to improving quality of life," said New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Lori Grifa. "The grants will provide a variety of opportunities for children and adults with disabilities to engage in leisure activities that range from sports to crafts to cooking."

ROID Grants provide funding assistance to local units of government for both short-term special events and comprehensive recreational services for individuals with disabilities. Funding is allocated through the DCA Division of Housing and Community Resources.

The ROID program strives to reinforce the status of persons with disabilities as complete members of the community; to promote the least restrictive environment in providing recreation and leisure service for persons with disabilities; and to assist local governments in the commencement or expansion of recreation and leisure services for person with disabilities. For further information on the ROID program, go to:

<http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dhcr/rec/grants.html>

Executive Director of the Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities Accepts Governor Appointment

Lowell Arye, who has served as Executive Director of the Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities (ABCD) in Hamilton for the past 14 years, left the position in June to take on the role of Policy Advisor to Governor Christie on Human Services, Children and Families.

Under Arye's leadership, ABCD has been a vibrant and strong voice for agencies that serve people with complex physical and neurological developmental disabilities.

ABCD's Board has put into place a transition plan that includes an immediate search for a new Executive Director and continuation of initiatives on policy analysis, information and education, and advocacy.

Anniversary of Olmstead Ruling

June 22 marked the anniversary of the Supreme Court's ruling on *Olmstead v. L.C.* in 1999 that states that under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the unjustified institutional isolation of people with disabilities is a form of unlawful discrimination.

Since the Olmstead ruling, much progress has been made and New Jersey's efforts to adhere to the ruling continues. More information on these efforts can be found in *The Olmstead Initiative*, which is DDD's plan for moving 1,850 residents from its seven developmental centers into the community over eight years. This plan is outlined in a document called *Path to Progress*, which was released in May of 2007.

As of June 30, 2011, the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) has moved 396 individuals out of its developmental centers around the State and into the community, as outlined in the *Path to Progress*. Furthermore, proposed plans are in place to close the Vineland Developmental Center by June of 2013. Governor Christie has stated that promoting human rights was a big factor in this decision, as many of the center's residents will be better served in community-based setting, like group homes.

For more details on these efforts, visit: <http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/programs/olmstead/index.html>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER OF NJ PRESENTS SIBSHOPS!

Sibshops/Teen Sibshops are for kids between the ages of 8 - 12 and teens 13 - 16 years old who have a sibling with special needs. FSCNJ will host Sibshop meetings once a month on a Saturday from 10 AM - 2 PM for Sibshops and 3 - 7 PM for Teen Sibshops. Each session costs \$25.00 per child.

2011 Sibshops Meeting Schedule

July 16, August 20,
September 17, October 15,
November 19 and December 17

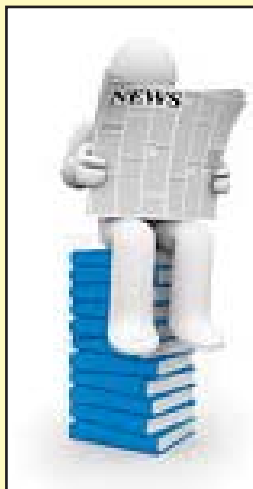
Sibshops/Teen Sibshops will take place at:

The Family Resource Network - Shore Office
Lions Head Office Park
35 Beaverson Blvd., Bldg. 11
Brick, NJ 08723



Please call the Family Support Center of NJ to register at 1-800-372-6510. Click [here](#) to download a Sibshop registration form and [here](#) for the Teen Sibshops form and then follow instructions to ensure proper registration.

SPACE IS LIMITED! PLEASE REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE



Story Ideas?

If there is something you'd like to see mentioned in DDD Today, e-mail us at: DDDnewsletter@dhs.state.nj.us. We will happily consider your request.

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28th ANNUAL NJACP CONFERENCE ***“Your Search Engine for Innovation”***

November 17 -18, 2011

Atlantic City Convention Center

The New Jersey Association of Community Providers invites you to participate in our call for papers for this year’s conference, “Your Search Engine for Innovation,” our 28th Annual Statewide Conference on November 17-18, 2011.

The NJACP is a professional association leading the advancement of the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities by advocating for standards of practice and promoting personal, professional development and industry growth through information exchanges and training. Over the last 27 years, the NJACP has offered an annual conference to provide a forum for the industry to explore the changing field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our conferences have provided opportunities for the community based services system and our workforce to explore and collaborate on opportunities for professional development, quality of life, ethics, policy and practice as the industry and system move in new directions. We invite you to offer papers that focus on the continued exploration of changing policy, practice and cultural shifts as we develop a consumer driven system and the changing business, service and workforce environment of community based service systems.

We are seeking speakers for both our Pre-Conference Symposium on Thursday and our General Workshop Sessions on Friday. Conference proposals should incorporate the NJACP conference theme “Your Search Engine for Innovation.” Consideration will be given to all proposals relevant to the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities and address issues from policy to person. We will seek CEUs for all selected presentations from the National Association of Social Workers-NJ Chapter.

Pre-Conference Symposium: Thursday, November 17, 2011:

Presentations focus on best practices in policy, practice and implementation serving as the anchor for the beginning of the conference and are 2 hours in length.

General Conference Workshops: Friday, November 18, 2011:

Presentations should focus on innovation in agency design, policy, practice and implementation in supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Subject matter should address innovation in building futures for agencies and supporting quality lives of people and their families. Presentations are 2 hours in length.

All workshop proposals should be submitted on the form (on the next page) via email to admin@njacp.org no later than **Friday, July 8, 2011**. If you have any questions, please call us at (609) 406-1400 or e-mail admin@njacp.org.

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28th ANNUAL NJACP CONFERENCE (Continued from page 10)

Suggested Areas:

- Administrative Track/ Innovation in Practices and Design
- Leadership/ Management & Workforce Development
- Creative Housing Options
- Management/Administration/Operations
- Strategic Planning/ Sustainability
- Human Resources/Fiscal /Financial /Billing Systems
- Performance/Accountability/Continuous Quality Improvement
- Marketing
- Risk Management
- Information and Technology
- Supporting Deinstitutionalization
- Community Inclusion, Wellness, and Lives of Choice
- Coordination and integration with other systems
- Building Futures/Creating Quality Lives
- Transition and Community Inclusion
- Addressing Special Needs
- Dual Diagnosis
- Accessibility/Technology
- Getting the most out of the Education System
- Customized Day Support
- Self-Direction
- In-home Supports
- Fostering Community Connecting
- Strengthening Family/Friend Relationships
- Supporting Children, Young Adults and the Elderly
- Employment and meaningful day activities

Title of Presentation:

Presenter Name(s)/Title and contact information:

Address:

Telephone Number(s):

Fax Number(s):

Email Address :

Presenter License Number(s), if applicable:

Presenter NASW Member ID#, if applicable:

Overview:

List clear, concise and measurable educational objectives and/or outcomes for the course:

Describe relevant presenter qualifications:

List current bibliography or references (current within the past five years):

Specify target audience (Direct Support Professionals, Administrative, General, etc.):

Identify the skill levels (beginning, intermediate, and advanced) targeted for the presentation:

Specify presentation needs:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUTISM DOCUMENTS TRANSLATED INTO MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

As part of the work of New Jersey's *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* team, the Governor's Council on the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities provided support to have the following CDC *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* materials translated into Arabic, Korean, and Portuguese:

- Developmental Screening Fact Sheet (a fact sheet that contains information for parents about developmental screenings)
- Milestone Informational Card (this includes some key milestones from 7 months to 4 years of age and questions parents can ask their child's doctor)
- Tips for Talking with Parents (a tip sheet to help early educators and childcare providers share concerns about a child with the parent)

These are available for free downloading from the CDC's *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* website:
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/downloads.html#lang>

New Jersey's Learn the Signs. Act Early. state team is facilitated by The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, NJ's University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. For more information about this initiative, contact Kathy Roberson at kathy.roberson@umdnj.edu or call 732-235-9317.

In addition, a collection of faculty, staff, and trainees from the USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (USC UCEDD) at Children's Hospital Los Angeles have translated the CDC *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* Autism Fact Sheet into other languages to reach underserved populations in CA, among others who need it.

The USC UCEDD completed an extensive review process in developing these translations, consulting both parents and health care professionals. The Autism Fact Sheet provides a one-page tool for clinicians to share with families to raise awareness about developmental delay, which may be related to autism or other developmental disabilities. The fact sheet encourages parents who have concerns about their child's development to speak with their doctor. The Autism Fact Sheet is available in Arabic, Armenian, Farsi, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese at: http://uscucedd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=455&Itemid=426

You can also contact Cary Kreutzer, MPH, RD at ckreutzer@chla.usc.edu to obtain copies or ask questions. English and Spanish versions of the fact sheet are available from the CDC at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/downloads.html>

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FIRM DONATES EMERGENCY READINESS WHEELS TO DDD

EAD & Associates, LLC, a consulting firm with particular expertise in integrating people with functional and access needs into all aspects of emergency management, recently donated 900 preparedness wheels in English and Spanish for DDD to distribute to consumers and families interested in learning how to prepare for various emergencies.

Working with private and public entities at the local, state, federal, and international levels, EAD & Associates, LLC has found meaningful ways to integrate all segments of the population into emergency management and to improve overall mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery to disasters.

With products such as the **Emergency Readiness Wheels for People with Disabilities** and the accompanying training course, EAD & Associates, LLC, has trained and empowered many people around the country to take steps towards greater personal preparedness. They have trained and partnered with home based care agencies, adult day care facilities, community centers, senior centers, and independent living centers, among others. In addition, EAD & Associates, LLC offers services in emergency plan development and implementation, including continuity of operations plans, standard operation procedures, County, local and agency emergency plans, and so forth.



DDD would like to thank EAD & Associates for their generosity.

For more information on EAD & Associates, LLC, call (718) 330-0034 or visit: www.eadassociates.com

Contact us at:

Division of Developmental Disabilities
P.O. Box 727, Trenton, NJ 08625-0726

**DDD INFORMATION
& DHS CENTRAL
REGISTRY HOTLINE:
1-800-832-9173**

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) was created in response to the need for better and more effective services for state residents with developmental disabilities. Advocates for those services included many parents and other family members who wanted community-based alternatives to the institutional care that had been their only option for many decades.

Today, more than 40,000 individuals are eligible to receive services funded by the division, including a growing number who are under the age of 22. Most DDD-eligible individuals live in the community, either with family or in a community residence such as a group home or supervised apartment or in a Community Care Residence with a family caregiver. Almost 2,700 individuals reside in one of the seven developmental centers now administered by DDD.