



CEO Message regarding DDD Services

Since the fall of 2012, when NJ DHS DDD announced its' transition to a Medicaid fee for service system under the Comprehensive Medicaid Waiver, Abilities has been actively preparing for the Supports Program rollout, which is set to begin in July 2015 for individuals new to DDD, who live at home or in unlicensed settings. What has been typically called "Day Program" services, will now be unbundled into a variety of services that will allow for more flexibility and consumer choice for their service needs.

I hope that we have been able to keep you connected and updated on the overwhelming amount of information shared by the Division since that time. You can visit the "Caregiver Resources" page of our website at <http://www.abilitiesnw.com/important-updates.php> to review the latest postings or webinars and visit DDD's website directly for more detailed information at <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/home/>

Here is a summary of how we have been preparing for this transition, and what you can expect as we move forward:

1. In 2012, we joined the ABCD (Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities) trade organization to stay updated on critical system changes, as well as to provide advocacy on behalf of those we serve.
2. We have expanded our training programs (Print Shop, Electronics Recycling, Hydroponics, retail Thrift Shop) so that individuals may have greater success in enhancing their skills in order to secure and maintain competitive integrated community employment. We are a DVRS CARF accredited employment agency. Our team of dedicated professionals have placed over 600 individuals into

community employment, 37 within this last fiscal year! We are thrilled with the employment success stories of those we serve.

3. In anticipation of an increase in providing Supported Employment services to our DDD individuals, we are training more job coaches throughout our agency bases (Washington, Phillipsburg, and Hackettstown).
4. We have invested in an electronic health record system, Foothold Technologies, in order to automate and track service provision, documentation and billing through Medicaid.
5. We have invested in tablet technology agency wide, not only for staff use to track services, but more importantly, as a tool to provide applications that enhance skill development for all of our individuals.
6. We have added Occupational Therapy to our line of services.
7. We have expanded our behavioral supports with services provided under the direction of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.
8. We launched our ACES program "Autism Customized Employment and Services" for the growing need of supports for those with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

What you can expect from our team moving forward:

- Many services will be provided by Abilities under the Medicaid system; here is a list of our current services with the Medicaid Supports Program titles:
 - Career Planning, Prevocational Training, Supported Employment (Individual and Group)
 - Day Habilitation, Community Inclusion, Community Based Supports
 - Behavioral Supports, Occupational Therapy, Transportation
- A transition for day services from 25 hours per week to 30 hours per week.
- Expanded employment services and support as well as volunteer opportunities throughout the community.
- Increased volunteers and other individual participation within our center based activities.

New services available in the near future:

- Speech Therapy
 - Home based supports and services for children, youth and adults
-

Here are some key points to remember as we move into the new world:

1. Maintain your Medicaid eligibility.
2. Research the Workability Program through the Department of Disability Services if your resources push you over the Medicaid limits.
3. If you have received a letter from DDD regarding the NJCAT assessment or reassessment, and have not responded, do so as soon as possible. If you require assistance, please contact us at 908-689-1118.
4. For employment supports, inquire with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) at the Hackettstown office (908-852-4110) to see if you are eligible for services. You can have both DVR and DDD services at the same time.
5. If you are not eligible for DVRS, but wish to have employment, volunteer or paid work-related services through DDD, you must have one or more of the following services approved in your plan: Career Exploration, Prevocational Training or Supported Employment

**The Abilities team is ready to move into the future of DDD services through Medicaid.
We are here to provide you with the supports you need to reach your fullest
potential in life!**

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Michelle Savino,
Director of Program Services at 908-689-1118 x19.



[Visit Abilities Online](#)

