



# BERGEN COUNTY SUPPORT COORDINATION AGENCY

## Virtual Roundtable

*For Caregivers/Parents/Guardians of Young Adults with Disabilities who are DDD eligible*

January 27, 2022

# Abilities First, LLC

NJ DDD Support Coordination Agency

Individualized Services for Families  
Attentive & Quality Coordination

Shawn Arpaio, Founder & Owner

(908) 875-0078

[shawn@abilitiesfirstnj.com](mailto:shawn@abilitiesfirstnj.com)





# ***Advanced Disability Management Services***

Welcome to the Virtual SCA Roundtable

Presented by: Dina Waheeb

# About Us

- ▶ Started in 2017 Advanced Disability Management Services has been serving consumers in New Jersey by providing Support Coordination and Advocacy services for the past 5 years.
- ▶ Counties we serve are Bergen, Hudson, Passaic, Morris, Essex, Union, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset, and Ocean Counties.
- ▶ We currently serve over 350 consumers in 10 counties and still accepting new consumers in all 10 counties.
- ▶ We have highly trained and committed Support Coordinators and Advocates to help guide our consumers within DDD and any other services needed.
- ▶ Advanced Disability Management Services has been authorized by DDD to approve its own cases for the past 4 years.

# Who We Can Help

- ▶ Young adults who are graduating from school and need a helping hand to begin planning for the future.
- ▶ Families who need assistance in completing the DDD application for their loved one to be eligible for DDD services.
- ▶ Families who need advocacy to help their loved one receive much needed services that they were either not qualified for or denied from.
- ▶ Existing DDD benefits recipient who may not be getting the appropriate attention and support from their existing support coordinator or support coordination agency.

# How To Reach Us?

- ▶ ADMS is available to families and consumers 24 hours a day 7 days a week.
- ▶ Call us at 201-357-7378
- ▶ Email us at [info@admsnj.com](mailto:info@admsnj.com)
- ▶ Facebook Page Advanced Disability Management Services
- ▶ You can reach me directly at extension 102
- ▶ Or you can reach me by email at [dwaheeb@admsnj.com](mailto:dwaheeb@admsnj.com)



# Questions

- ▶ Any questions please feel free to ask.
- ▶ Thank you for attending the Virtual Roundtable Event.



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*ALL HEART & SOUL*

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**SUPPORT COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION**

**[WWW.ALLHEARTANDSOUL.COM](http://WWW.ALLHEARTANDSOUL.COM)**

**[INFO@ALLHEARTANDSOUL.COM](mailto:INFO@ALLHEARTANDSOUL.COM) 201-306-4206**



The background of the image is a solid teal color. It is covered with a repeating pattern of speech bubbles. Each speech bubble is a different color: red, yellow, pink, and light grey. Inside each speech bubble is a dark blue question mark. The speech bubbles are scattered across the entire image, creating a busy, question-themed background.

# The Common Questions Answered

# What Makes Us Special

- Small, intimate agency
- The experience of the owner and the support coordination staff
- How we view our role
- Unique, out of the box approach



# The counties we serve

- Bergen
- Passaic
- Essex
- Hudson
- Morris
- Union
- Middlesex
- Mercer
- Somerset
- Monmouth
- Ocean

# How to contact us

- Phone-201-306-4206
- Email- [info@allheartandsoul.com](mailto:info@allheartandsoul.com)
- Website [www.allheartandsoul.com](http://www.allheartandsoul.com)



# AMAZING STRIDES Support Coordination

*Creating Plans. Making Connections. Changing Lives.*

# Our Services

- Amazing Strides is dedicated to helping people with intellectual and developmental disabilities get the support they need to live their best lives. Working through New Jersey's Division of Developmental Disabilities, we guide and coordinate services for residents of seven counties in northern New Jersey.
- As a support coordination agency, Amazing Strides helps adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities reach their full potential and live their best lives. We partner with clients, families and caregivers to identify strengths and create a personalized service plan to open a world of possibility and opportunity for clients. Then we connect them with local support providers and resources—and follow up regularly to ensure their needs are met.

## Counties Served

- Bergen
- Essex
- Hudson
- Morris
- Passaic
- Union
- Sussex



# Our Team

- **Dominique Anderson** created Amazing Strides in 2018 to help fill a gap she found while caring for members of her own family: Services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are out there—but they can be hard to find, access and manage. With more than 19 years' experience, starting as a high school volunteer, she has served as an aide in residential, school and day programs. She also has an extensive background in writing service plans and advocating for people with disabilities.
- **Our Support Coordinators** have more than 30 years' combined experience in disability services. Each must complete extensive training through the State of New Jersey before working with clients. They also stay current with regular training through the state's Division of Developmental Disabilities and The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.



“

*Amazing Strides is exactly what it stands for  
—nothing but amazing! Our support  
coordinator went above and beyond to find  
our adult brother the right place and all the  
accommodations he needed. We are so  
thankful for having found her in a very  
much needed time for Victor and our  
family!*

— The Da Silvas

• • •

## Our Mission

Amazing Strides provides inclusive community-based support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We custom-design our services so that each client can realize their full potential for living meaningful, productive lives.

## Our Values

Through our personalized service plans and dedicated support, we're committed to breaking barriers, nurturing independence and success and enabling opportunities to blossom.

## Our Vision

Even though we will always provide highly personalized services, Amazing Strides aims to expand throughout New Jersey and encourage a continuum of need-based support for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

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## Thank You

**For additional info and questions, please contact us!**

**Email: [Info@amazingstrides.com](mailto:Info@amazingstrides.com)**

**Phone: 862-230-8014**

**Instagram: AmazingStridesNJ**

***Creating Plans. Making Connections. Changing Lives.***



# The Caring Community Center

*"COMMUNITY, WHERE WE ALL BELONG..."*

GABRIELLA KELLISH ~ 973.489.7884. ~ [CARINGCOMMCENTER@AOL.COM](mailto:CARINGCOMMCENTER@AOL.COM)

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



# A little bit about us...

## ❖ Gabriella Kellish – Founder and Owner of The Caring Community Center

Gabriella founded the Caring Community Center in 2015. As a certified Special Education teacher in the state of New Jersey, Gabriella brings both a professional and a personal background to The Caring Community Center. Having been a teacher at The Felician School for Exceptional Children and in the Harrison Board of Education for 7+ years, Gabriella has made strong bonds with members of the New Jersey DDD program. Gabriella also has family members who are enrolled in the DDD program and it has become her life goal to make sure that everyone is given the time, care and effort that they deserve. As a devoted family and community member, Gabriella is always there to help. It is with open arms and the warmest of hearts that the owner of The Caring Community Center welcomes all of you.

## ❖ Support Coordinators on staff

All of our support coordinators are highly knowledgeable with many years of experience, are educated with a minimum Bachelor Degree requirement and have obtained certification in person centered planning.

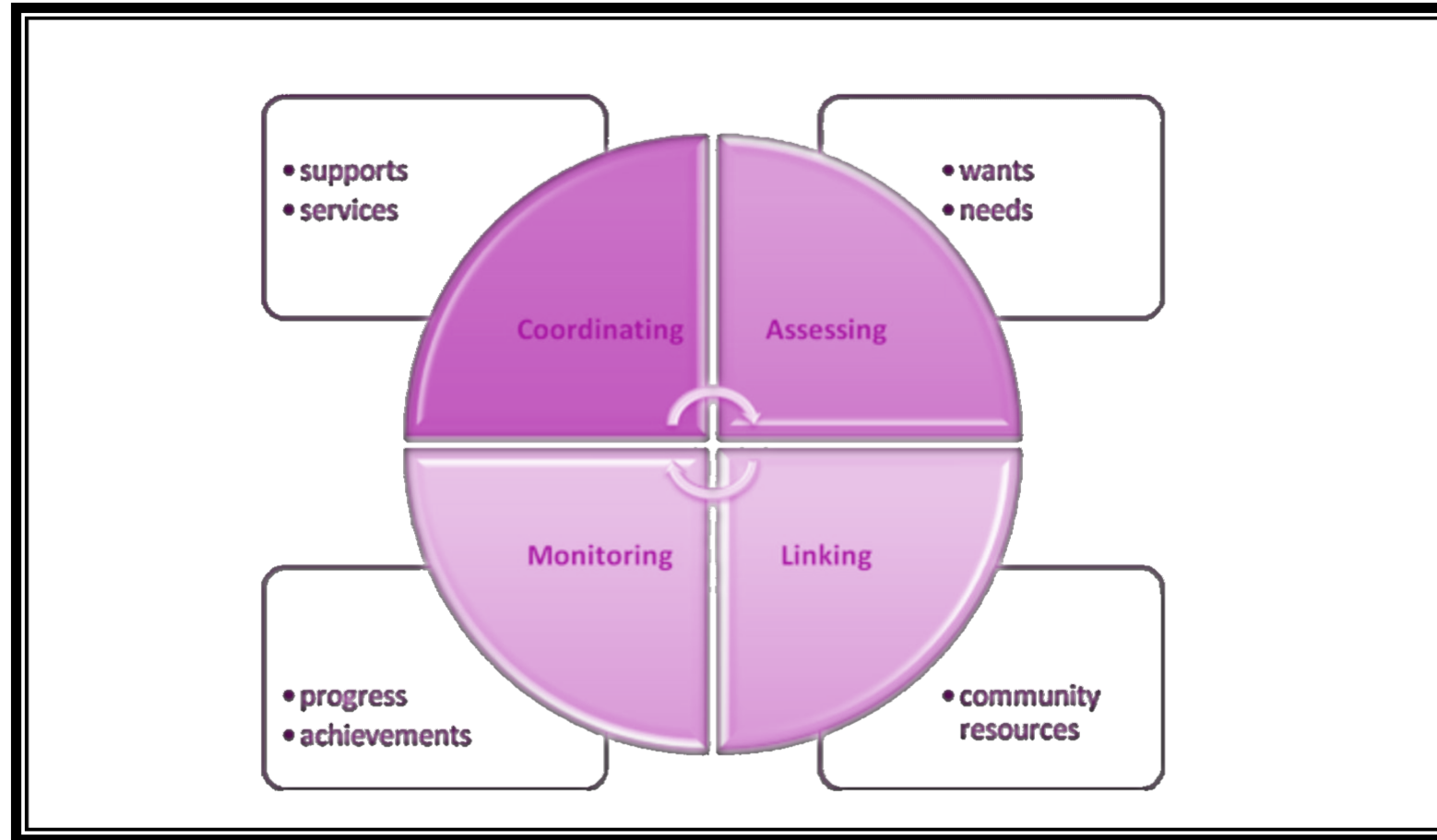




# What we do at the Caring Community Center...

- ✓ We provide support coordination (case management) to adults 21+ with developmental/intellectual disabilities
- ✓ We are located in Essex County, but serve individuals in 8 counties through New Jersey – Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset and Union.
- ✓ We have support coordinators who are able to communicate in American Sign Language, English, and Spanish.
- ✓ We create detailed individualized service plans (ISP) specifically developed for your needs and interests. We approve our own plans which allows us to add, revise or remove services quickly without any delays.

We guide and support you in all areas of life!





# Services

## Community Connect

- We assess your wants, needs and interests to seek appropriate services for you in your community and link you to them
- Support coordinators will provide ongoing monitoring of your progress and achievements
- New services can be accessed at any time

## Individualized budgeting

- We manage the specific annual budget you're given from the state of New Jersey
- We help you seek services that fit within your budget for the plan year
- We ensure that you utilize your budget to the fullest

\*Note: Your DDD budget will pay for most services that you are interested in.\*

## Employment

- We connect you with job matching services to help you find successful and sustainable employment (DDD approved agencies, DVRS, etc.)
- We can match you with a compatible job coach to assist you on the job
- We can help you find employment that aligns with your interests



# Services Continued

## Home Care

- ❑ We guide you to hire family or friends to be paid caregivers
- ❑ We assist in finding experienced and professional in-home caregivers
- ❑ We analyze your budget to determine the exact amount of hours of care you are eligible for
- ❑ We will contact your insurance carrier to provide you with PPP/PCA services (additional care hours)

## Social Roles

- We help you find opportunities in the community to develop valued and meaningful relationships
- We will connect you with local recreational outings (evenings/weekends), Day Program, Respite, Gym memberships, Classes (Art, Music, Swim, Horse back riding, etc.)
- Anything that you are interested in, let us know and we will find it for you!

## Technology/Modifications

- We assist in finding an assistive technology item, piece of equipment, or product system, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of participants.
- We coordinate adaptations to the private residence of the participant or the participant's family, based on assessment and as required by the participant's Service Plan, that are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the participant or that enable the participant to function with greater independence in the home.

Thank you for your time!



The Caring Community Center

[www.caringcommunitycenter.com](http://www.caringcommunitycenter.com)

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram!

Contact information:

Gabriella Kellish

973-489-7884

[gabriellaperrone@caringcommunitycenter.com](mailto:gabriellaperrone@caringcommunitycenter.com)

A photograph of two women outdoors. The woman on the left is wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat and a white top, holding a black DSLR camera. The woman on the right is wearing a red and white striped shirt and is smiling. The background is a blurred green landscape.

# New Jersey Support Coordination

*Serving those with Intellectual and Developmental  
Disabilities*

**Presenters:  
Julian MacNeill  
Pamela Stephens**



# Support Coordination

## Welcome! A little about The Columbus Organization?

- The Columbus Organization Provides Support Coordination services for those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Providing services since 1984
- Self -Approving SCA, quality service, person centered planning
- Relationships with providers across the care spectrum
- Empowering individuals, meaningful life, goals, milestones, education, enrichment



## Support Coordination Benefits of The Columbus Organization

- Low case loads. Full time coordinators carry 35-40 cases.
- Over 1,500 individuals served making Columbus the largest SCA in NJ.
- Bilingual SCs available that speak Spanish, Italian or Hindi.
- Large infrastructure of support for each SC ensures quality services and that there is always someone available to talk to.
- Person centered and focused on empowering choice in care.
- The Columbus Organization provides Care Coordination in 8 states

# Support Coordination- what we do..

## Coordinating Care, Assistance for Adults

- Coordinate care for members
- Advocacy
- Establish with providers, services and supports
- Community integration
- Employment, career and education
- Social supports, relationships
- Transportation, programs services
- Housing, supports
- Individualized Service Plans, milestones, life planning,
- Assessments, documents, administrative
- Person centered planning



## Benefits of Support Coordination Early Involvement

- Prevent service gaps
- Attend exit IEP meeting
- Provide continuity
- Relay hopes and dreams forward
- Help navigate new landscape
- Explain new offerings
- Gain a better understanding of the individual
- Knowledgeable of community resources and providers





# Reaching out to the Columbus Organization

**Find out more: <https://www.columbusorg.com/>**

Dr. Tanya Wyant – Executive Director

Phone 908-332-1411

Email [TMWyant@columbusorg.com](mailto:TMWyant@columbusorg.com)

Julian MacNeill – Manager of Member Services and Enrollments

Phone 908-552-8959

Email [JAMacNeill@columbusorg.com](mailto:JAMacNeill@columbusorg.com)

Pamela Stephens – Manager of Support Coordination

Phone [201-275-0602](tel:201-275-0602) ext. 733

Email [PStephens@columbusorg.com](mailto:PStephens@columbusorg.com)



The  
Columbus  
ORGANIZATION

*Because everyone deserves a meaningful life<sup>®</sup>*

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Blue Bell, PA 19422

610.592.0292  
[info@columbusorg.com](mailto:info@columbusorg.com)  
[www.ColumbusOrg.com](http://www.ColumbusOrg.com)



# DDD Support Coordination

William England & Whitney Kammerer  
Disability Services & Advocacy, LLC  
[www.dsausa.net](http://www.dsausa.net)



# Role of the Support Coordination Agency

- SCA Open
- Support for Individual/family
  - Team (SC, Supervisor, Manager, Administration, President)
  - Local Knowledge of Services
  - Create Effective Plans and Revisions
  - Provide Ongoing Support/Education/Communication
- SCA Support for SCs - (Reduce Turnover)
  - Adequate Pay
  - Back-up
  - Initial/Ongoing Training and Updates
  - IT Systems and Supports
- Quality Assurance (reviews/surveys)



# Plans, Outcomes & Services

## *Person Centered Planning Tool (PCPT): focus on who the client is*

- Who Are You?
  - Voting
  - Doctors & Meds
  - Religion
  - Personal Relationships
  - Employment History
  - Important things & places
  - Personality Traits
  - Social
  - Skills
  - Education
  - Leisure Activities
  - Likes & Dislikes
  - Goals
  - Community Interaction
  - Staff Traits
  - Hopes & Dreams

## *Individualized Service Plan (NJISP): focus on what the client needs*

- What do you Need
  - Home Supports
  - Community Supports
  - Work Supports
  - Mobility
  - Cognitive Abilities
  - Communication
  - Social Interactions
  - Self-Direction
  - Self-Care
  - Behaviors
  - Health
  - Adaptive Equipment
  - Hearing / Vision
  - Transportation
  - Financial

## *Outcomes: focus on what client wants to achieve*

- What Services
  - Day Habilitation
  - Assistive Technology
  - Behavioral Supports
  - Transportation
  - Community Based Supports
  - Individual Supports
  - Respite
  - Therapies
  - Goods and Service
  - Supported Employment
  - Community Inclusion
  - Career Planning
  - Interpreter Services
  - PERS
  - Support Brokerage





# Budgets & Service Costs

Tiers	Supports Program	Community Care Program
A	\$23,236	\$52,247
Aa	\$30,321	\$91,116
B	\$34,087	\$96,108
Ba	\$43,072	\$164,661
C	\$39,213	\$142,581
Ca	\$50,387	\$253,035
D	\$58,359	\$203,075
Da	\$74,890	\$358,598
E	\$71,377	\$257,440
Ea	\$93,322	\$458,089

Supports Program Service	Service Description / Tier	Standard Rate per Unit	Billing Unit
Community Based Supports	Base <b>D</b>	\$8.25	15 Minutes
	Acuity Differentiated	\$13.27	15 Minutes
	Self-Directed Employee (SDE)	R&C	15 Minutes
Day Habilitation	Tier A	\$2.96	15 Minutes
	Tier A / Acuity Differentiated	\$4.19	15 Minutes
	Tier B	\$3.77	15 Minutes
	Tier B / Acuity Differentiated	\$5.33	15 Minutes
	Tier C <b>B</b>	\$4.66	15 Minutes
Goods & Services <b>C</b>		R&C	Single
Supported Employment	Individual <b>A</b>	\$17.60	15 Minutes



- # Why Disability Services Advocacy?

- **Experience & Local Focus:** First Agency to Self- Approve plans. Statewide support coordination specialist with regional focus, SCs work from home. Spanish speakers

**Size of Support Team:** Team Approach – SC, SC Managers, Supervisors, MT Approvers, Administration, IT Department, President

- **Selection and Training:** Extensive Initial Training (Job Shadowing), ongoing Training (Monthly Webinars)

**Communication Emphasis:** Team Approach in Supporting Person & Communicating (Individual, Guardian, Family, DSA Team, Providers, DDD and other entities)

- **Strong Controls:** Monthly SC & SCM & President reviews. Management Meetings bi-weekly. Online Accessible Information Platform for SC's and SCM's. Escalation Procedure for Concerns





# Thank You

**William England, President**

848-565-0005

williamsengland@dsausa.net

**Whitney Kammerer, SC Manager**

973-222-7204

whitney.kammerer@dsausa.net

**Disability Services & Advocacy, LLC**

[www.dsausa.net](http://www.dsausa.net)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dsausa.net>

## Our Support Coordinators

- Help you understand “how DDD works”
- Help you understand the ISP process and your budget



- Explain how to add services to your plan
- Explain how you or someone you know can get paid for providing care

**Est.**

**2019**

Our families are our most trustworthy source for information

# EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Want to know more about us?

## Equal Opportunity Support Services



732-641-0660

# Agency Contact Info

## **Bergen County Special Services – CAPE Center**

Website: <https://www.bergen.org/cape>

Email: [linwie@bergen.org](mailto:linwie@bergen.org)

Phone: (201) 343-6000 x4067

## **Abilities First, LLC**

Email: [shawn@abilitiesfirstnj.com](mailto:shawn@abilitiesfirstnj.com)

Phone: (908) 875-0078

## **Advanced Disability Management Services**

Website: <https://www.admsnj.com>

Email: [info@admsnj.com](mailto:info@admsnj.com)

Phone: (201) 357-7378

## **All Heart & Soul**

Website: <https://allheartandsoul.com/>

Email: [info@allheartandsoul.com](mailto:info@allheartandsoul.com)

Phone: (201) 306-4206

## **Amazing Strides**

Website: <http://amazingstrides.com/>

Email: [Info@amazingstrides.com](mailto:Info@amazingstrides.com)

Phone: (862) 230-8014

## **The Caring Community Center**

Website: <http://www.caringcommunitycenter.com/>

Email: [caringcommcenter@aol.com](mailto:caringcommcenter@aol.com)  
[gabriellaperrone@caringcommunitycenter.com](mailto:gabriellaperrone@caringcommunitycenter.com)

Phone: (973) 489-7884

## **Columbus Organization**

Website: <https://www.columbusorg.com/>

Email: [info@columbusorg.com](mailto:info@columbusorg.com)

Phone: (610) 592-0292

## **Disability Services & Advocacy, LLC**

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(973) 222-7204

## **Equal Opportunity Support Services**

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