



values *into* action

Supporting People with Disabilities and Their Families Since 2007

Be in the Know: Newsreel November 20th, 2020

Greetings Valued Partners!

We hope that this email finds you healthy and happy today!

Please feel free to share the content and resources in this communication that we have curated from the community.

Our team is pleased to share that **we are open state-wide for Support Coordination services!** If you are interested in being supported by Values Into Action, please submit the [Support Coordination Agency Selection Form](#) to DDD (address provided on form).

In Service & Support,
Your Team at Values Into Action



You Are Invited!

Values Responds: Staying Connected, Reducing the Distance

The remaining dates for our Thursday, 4 PM Zoom meetings are as follows:

December 10th

Our Values Responds meetings are open to the community! Come hang out with us!

We request that you [register](#) once for our Thursday 4 PM Zoominars. Once you are registered, please save the link to your calendar.

Values Into Action NJ was Honored to Host Rebecca "Becky" Thomas

Director, PPP State Program Office, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services

for a presentation on

Personal Preference Program 101

Becky Thomas, Director of the Personal Preference Program (PPP) within the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) provided an overview of the PPP self-direction option. This presentation was designed to provide you with the basics when self-directing your Personal Care Assistance services - from requesting a PCA assessment and receiving options counseling to how a monthly budget is calculated and a walk-through of the program enrollment process.

Click image to access recording.

Personal Preference Program

Values into Action

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

9:30 am – 11:00 am

Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services
Rebecca Thomas, Director, PPP State Program Office



Zinke's Corner

EVV News

EVV, or Electronic Visit Verification, is a web-based system that verifies when provider visits occur and documents the precise time services begin and end. It ensures that people receive their authorized services. This new technology is now required by federal law for certain services provided through NJ FamilyCare/HCBS.

The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) intends to implement an EVV system that meets state and federal requirements with broad public support and a strong and enthusiastic stakeholder process.

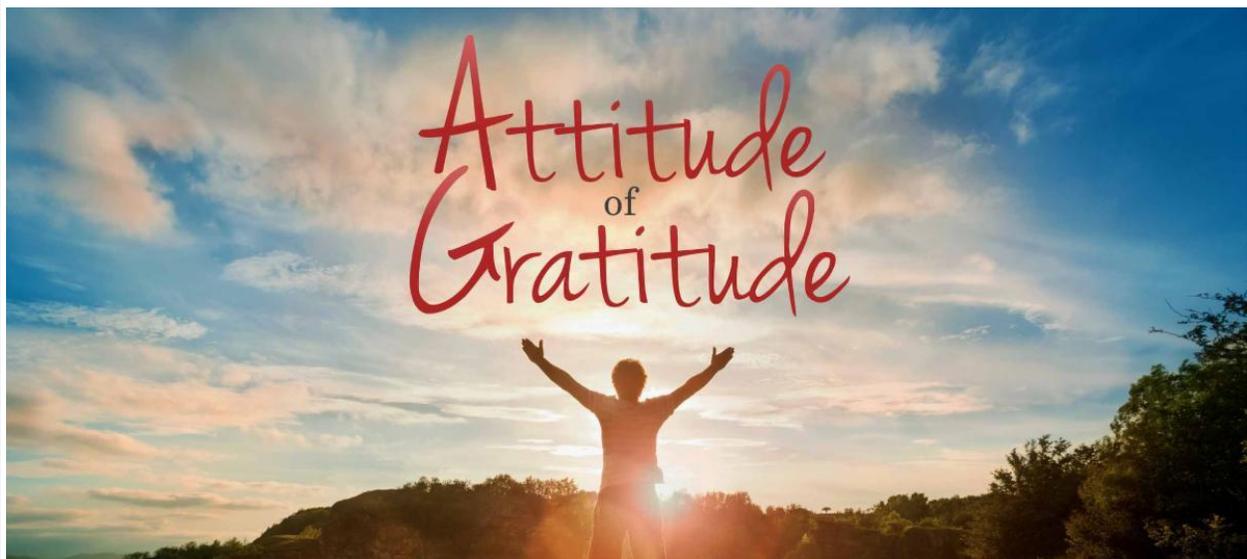
The Center for Health Care Strategies along with DMAHS is co-facilitating the EVV Steering Committee and the three workgroups; Provider, Family & Members and Self Direction. The EVV Steering Committee meets monthly to review progress, obtain feedback, and make decisions as needed. The charge of the three workgroups is to identify issues, suggest solutions, and report back to the Steering Committee. Currently, the groups are in the process of updating the EVV FAQs (on DMAHS website), refining a communications plan, considering a potential hotline, as well as DMAHS being available for updates and discussion during DDD Webinars. DMAHS is in the process of clarifying the process with federal guidance.

Values Into Action's Family Mentor/SHIP Counselor, Zinke McGeady, is an involved participant on two workgroups and the EVV Steering Committee.

To submit questions or concerns about EVV, please email New Jersey's EVV Mailbox at: mahs.evv@dhs.state.nj.us. DMAHS will monitor the mailbox and respond to inquiries.

**Some content from DMAHS EVV Website; 11/17/20.*

[EVV FAQ](#)



Celebrate an Attitude of Gratitude!

Values Into Action NJ wants to hear what you are grateful for!

Share your attitude of gratitude with us and have it featured in our Thanksgiving newsreel.

[Share your Gratitude](#)



Self-Direction Meet-n-Greet with Caroline Signore

Zoom: 3PM ET, Nov. 21



THE ALLIANCE
FOR
CITIZEN DIRECTED SUPPORTS

This Saturday, Nov 21 at 3pm ET, the **Alliance for Citizen Directed Supports**, of which VIANJ is a founding member, is kicking off a new series of webinar meet-n-greets with members of the self-direction community. These meet-n-greets are a chance to ask questions and learn about the many complex aspects of starting, managing, and advocating for self-direction.

Our featured speaker this Saturday is Caroline Signore. Caroline has been self-directing her supports as a disabled, tetraplegic woman for over 15 years. She has a lot of tips and advice to share about managing a team of support staff/caregivers, building friendships and natural supports, and balancing a demanding career. The webinar is free and ASL-interpreted. [Learn more on our website](#), or [register now on Zoom!](#)

Covid-19 News

A Letter from Jonathan Seifried on Day Program Closures

Hello Division Constituents and Community Partners,

As you may know, positivity rates and community spread of COVID-19 in New Jersey have increased in recent weeks. To reduce exposure risk for the individuals we serve, and their families and caregivers, the Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities has made the difficult decision to close all Division-funded in-person congregate day service facilities for a second time.

All Division-funded in-person congregate day service facilities are directed to close again effective close of business November 25, 2020 through at least January 19, 2021.

Please review the Division's [Temporary Closure of Congregate Day Services](#) guidance for answers to frequently asked questions and additional information.

Thank you.

Jonathan Seifried
Assistant Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities

From the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Covid-19 Updates

The Division of Developmental Disabilities conducted a community based virtual meeting on November 13th. This bi-weekly update covered Covid-19 related news that is pertinent to people with disabilities and their families as well as providers.

We will continue to share the DDD's bi-weekly Covid-19 webinars in our newsreel as long as they continue and thank DDD for keeping the community informed on their policies and procedures during this time.

Click image to view Power Point slide deck.

The New Jersey Department of Human Services **Division of Developmental Disabilities**

1

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR FAMILIES AND PROVIDERS

November 13, 2020



From Disability Scoop

Mounting Evidence Points To Serious COVID-19 Risk For Those With IDD

People with developmental disabilities who contract COVID-19 face a higher risk of dying from the virus than just about anyone else, new research indicates.

A review of private health insurance claims data for 467,773 people diagnosed with the coronavirus in the U.S. between April and August finds that individuals with developmental disorders are three times more likely to die compared to others. That's the highest risk of any of the 15 conditions that the study looked at, which included heart failure, chronic kidney disease, liver disease and various types of cancer.

[Read More](#)

Community Based News...

From Benefits.gov

Updated Guide to Resources & More

One of the longest-serving E-Government initiatives, Benefits.gov was launched by the U.S. Department of Labor in April 2002, creating the U.S. government's official benefits website. Their mission is to increase citizen access to benefit information while reducing the difficulty of interacting with the government.

On Benefits.gov, you can find information on over 1,000 government assistance programs, check your eligibility, and learn how to apply.

[Benefits.gov](#)

CORRECTED INFORMATION

From the Social Security Administration

Update: 2021 Cost-of-Living Adjustment

To help people who receive benefits and payments keep up with the changing cost of living, Social Security beneficiaries often receive an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). Each year Social Security bases the COLA on changes in the Consumer Price Index.

For 2021, Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments will increase by 1.3%. This means that more than 70 million Americans will see a change in their benefit payments.

[Read More](#)

Calls for Action

From the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities

Electronic Monitoring Device Survey

The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) would like your input on the use of electronic monitoring devices (video cameras) in licensed congregate settings (group home or supervised apartment) for individuals receiving services from the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).

[Survey](#)

From the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project

What are Your Tech Needs?

This survey is intended to gather statewide input from self-advocates, family members, and direct staff on the current state of technology access and use by adults with I/DD in New Jersey.

This data will be utilized to inform future advocacy efforts to address this issue and/or develop a funding proposal to secure needed technology

[Survey](#)

Virtual Classes, Workshops & Webinars

- **November Virtual Support Groups MHANJ New Jersey Hope and Healing**
- Nov- March, 2021: **The Richard West Assistive Technology Advocacy Center Webinar Series (ATAC)**
- November 21st: **Self-Direction Webinar with Caroline Signore**
- November 25th: **Breathing Space: Supporting Healthy Advocacy**
- November 30th: **Person-Center Supports for People with Dementia Living in the Community**
- December 3rd: **Challenges and Advances for the Special Needs Community**

Archived Newsreels

If you missed prior weeks' information:

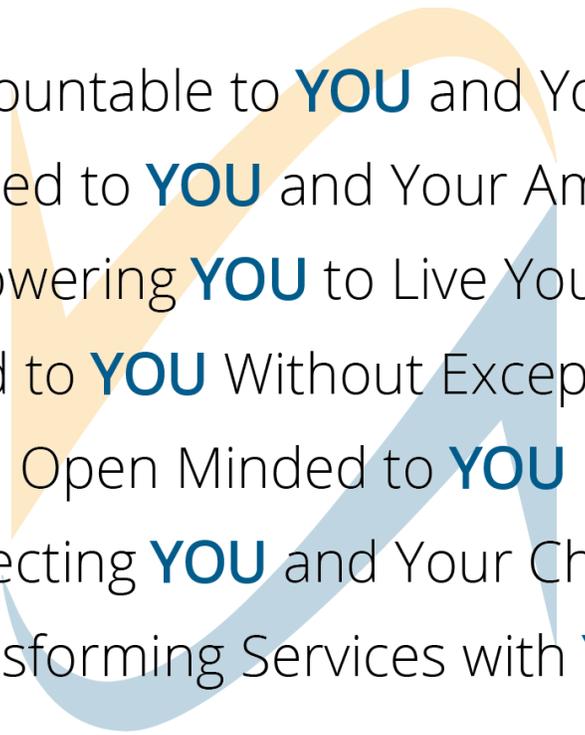
November 13th, 2020

November 6th, 2020

October 30th, 2020

October 23rd, 2020

Our Values



Accountable to **YOU** and Yours
Dedicated to **YOU** and Your Ambitions
Empowering **YOU** to Live Your Life
Kind to **YOU** Without Exception
Open Minded to **YOU**
Respecting **YOU** and Your Choices
Transforming Services with **YOU**

**Our Values Into Action NJ Team is at your service
and always dedicated to your support!**

**Values into Action NJ provides Support Coordination in service
for people with disabilities aged 21+ and their families,
across the state of New Jersey.**

Using a person-directed, family-centered approach, we structure our services to assist individuals through the process of self-direction and empower them to remain in charge of their plans (and their lives).

www.valuesintoaction.org

[SCA Selection Form](#)

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