

# NEW JERSEY CHAPTER AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Formerly known as American Association on Mental Retardation

August 2006

## Newsletter

### FACT SHEET

#### “Where to New Jersey”

New Jersey sued in class action suit by NJP&A for

- a. 800 People With Mental Health challenges in Psychiatric Institutions, “Pending Placements”
- b. 1500 People With Developmental Disabilities still in NJ institutions who were determined prior to 1998 as being better served if in the community.

New Jersey: A Plan to Eliminate the Waiting List for Community Residential Services by 2008 needs to be updated, adopted by the legislature, funded and implemented.

US Department of Justice and the State of New Jersey reached a settlement agreement November 9, 2005 regarding the conditions and services at the Woodbridge Developmental Center. Elin Howe has been appointed Compliance Monitor. This settlement is virtually identical to the August 2004 settlement regarding conditions at the New Lisbon Developmental Center.

Both settlements require residents to be in the most integrated setting appropriate...and shall provide community based placements.

New Jersey official publications and news releases have wrongfully reported in New Jersey publications and National publications that traditional community-based residential programs cost \$90,000 to \$146,000 per year.

According to the official New Jersey FY '06 Budget

- a. Institutions cost \$121,600 - \$165,099 per person
- b. Private institutions cost \$82,957 per person
- c. Community Residential Placement, such as Group Homes and Supervised Apartments cost \$56,467 per person
- d. Real Life Choices \$29,000 per person
- e. Skill development homes \$17,599
- f. Family Care Homes \$12,459

New Jersey ranks #3 among the states with the most people in the institutions for people with developmental disabilities, only after Texas and California.

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### March 23, 2006 Minutes

1. Motion: Adopt Minutes from 1/26/06 meeting. Passed.
2. AAMR National Meeting: May 2 – 5, 2006
3. AAMR Name Change: Ballot update
4. Declaration On Health For Persons With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Reviewed. Motion: Endorse. Passed.
5. NJ Alliance status was discussed
6. NJAAMR Fact Sheet discussed and adopted by Motion.
7. NJAAMR action plans/positions discussed for following:
  - a. NJ DDD suit
  - b. NJ plan to address the waiting list
  - c. NJ plan for least restrictive supports
  - d. NJ workshops
    - i. Positive Behavior Supports
    - ii. Supports Intensity Scale
    - iii. End of Life Workshop
    - iv. Being A Professional In Changing System
  - e. The budget: Fund balance: \$12,109

## Notices

- ◆ Next meeting of the New Jersey Chapter of AAIDD will be on Thursday, September 21, 2006, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, held at the Community Access Unlimited Board Room, 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ.  
*Go to [www.caunj.org](http://www.caunj.org) for directions*
- ◆ The National AAMR Conference will be May 21 - 24, 2007 in Atlanta, Georgia.
- ◆ Region 9 Conference: Spring 2007

### Results of the Vote on the Name Change

The members of the American Association on mental Retardation have voted to: 1) change the name of the organization, and 2) adopt “American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities” as the new name.

This change will not alter the mission of the organization but will rather bring the name more in line with general usage in the field and with the day to day work of our members.

The Chapter should discuss changing its legal documents to AAIDD.

# Fact Sheet “Where to New Jersey” cont.

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- As of 2004 being one of the worst states serving people in more restrictive residential services in the community.

MENTAL RETARDATION VOLUME 43, NUMBER 4: 307-309 | AUGUST 2005  
Trends & Milestones K. Coucouvanis, R. Prouty, and K. C. Lakin

**Table 1** Persons with ID/DD Receiving Residential Services in Host Family, Own Home, and Small Agency-Operated Settings, June 2004

State	Number of residents by setting type								
	Host family		Own home		Agency operated homes of 1-6 residents		All residents, all settings, all sizes	All residents, all settings, 1-6 residents	All settings of 1-6 as % of all residents
	2004	% of 1-6 residents	2004	% of 1-6 residents	2004	% of 1-6 residents			
NJ	1,529	23.7	789	12.2	4,143	64.1	11,082	6,461	58.3
Total	39,838 <sup>b</sup>	13.5 <sup>a</sup>	107,157	36.4	147,534 <sup>b</sup>	50.1	419,965	294,559 <sup>b</sup>	70.1

- New Jersey is one of seven states which has reduced spending (3%) in community services during 2002-2004 and during that same period increased spending by (10.3%) in 16 plus institutional services for people with disabilities.

MENTAL RETARDATION VOLUME 44, NUMBER 1: 77-80 | FEBRUARY 2006  
Trends & Milestones D. Brodick and R. Hoop

**Table 1** Growth of U.S. Public Spending for Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities 2002-2004

State	Spending in 2002-2004 adjusted for inflation		
	Community services	Public/Private 16+ Institution	Total 20/08
New Jersey	-3.3	10.3	1.8
United States	8.5	-4.3	5.7

- Paul Lerman, Dawn Hall Apgar, and Tameeka Jordan in their research article published in *Mental Retardation*, 2/05, entitled Longitudinal Changes In Adaptive Behaviors Of Movers And Stayers: Findings From A Controlled Research Design which studies 300 New Jersey citizens with disabilities who either stayed or moved out of New Jersey Institutions “provided the state of New Jersey with empirical evidence that failure to accelerate the rate of deinstitutionalization may have a negative impact on those remaining in DD Centers. In addition, remaining institutionalized also denies these individuals an opportunity to improve their self-care skills.”
- New Jersey community providers' experience 10% - 20% vacancy rates; severe under-funding of salaries, insurances, utility costs, capital repairs.
- New Jersey has heavily funded institutions and other state services while starving the community. The community providers have seen little in cost of providing services increases in over seven years.

Fiscal Year	State Cola
2000	1.6% entire; 2.0% Direct Care Salary
2001	1.6% entire; \$1/hour Direct Care Salary
2002	2.0%
2003	2.0%
2004	3.5%
2005	1.0%
2006	1.5%
2007	1%

- The Fall of 2005 approximately six community providers were near bankrupt and required additional financial assistance. As of March, 2006 there are over twenty community providers near bankruptcy.
- The proposed NJ FY '07 State budget states that \$211.6 million was realized from retroactive federal match claims. Of that amount, \$111.6

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million will go into the State Treasury, \$50 million will fund FY 2006 institutional expenses, and \$50 million will be used to provide community placements for 180 developmental center residents over three years to address the US Supreme Court's Olmstead decision requiring care in the least-restrictive setting.

13. Twenty-five million dollars were removed from community services within the last three years in order to bolster institutional services. Over 50 group homes remained empty due to this transfer of funds.
14. The self advocacy group consisting of community living people with disabilities, the "SWAT Team", paid to go into the institutions to help residents understand that there are community living alternatives available, has been defunded.

Over the past twenty-five years, the State of New Jersey failed to develop and implement appropriate long term policy regarding people with disabilities.

Eight states and the District of Columbia have no institutions.

Thirteen other states serve 200 or fewer individuals with disabilities in institutions. Many of these will have no institutions within the next ten years.

Over 1,500 people with disabilities have been wrongfully deprived of their rights as citizens, held incarcerated in New Jersey institutions under documented horrific conditions.

This abomination has cost New Jersey tax payers hundred's of millions of dollars, no service to over 7,500 people with disabilities on the Waiting for Service list, and the pending demise of a number of community based not-for-profits; and have caused the New Jersey Protection and Advocacy organization to commence a class action suit against the State of New Jersey.

All stakeholders have had a part in creating the problem. All stakeholders now need to solve the problem.

Where are the outcries and commitment to action?

The New Jersey Chapter of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities calls for:

1. The updating, adoption, by the New Jersey Legislature and Government, and implementation of the Plan to Eliminate the Waiting List for Community Residential Services.
2. The continued monitoring of the Plan by the stakeholders at annual Summits.
3. No more new "reports" are needed; no more "ten year plans."
4. Full funding for family supports
5. Expansion of all self-determination projects
6. Salary parity for direct support professionals
7. A Cost of Living Index Bill

It is always easy to "talk the talk". It is hard to "walk the walk".

The New Jersey Chapter of AAIDD has chosen to speak out and call the stakeholders to act.

The question to all others is: ***"Where to, New Jersey?"***

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# AAMR Membership Application

Send this application and your payment information to AAMR, 444 N Capitol St, NW, #946, Washington, DC 20001-1512 or by fax to (202) 387-2193

Please print/type  Mr.  Ms.  Dr.  Rev.  Sr.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Office  Home Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

## AAMR 2006 MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES & DUES (SELECT ONE)

<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Active Member</b>-For disability professionals who wish to stay current on the latest developments in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. Includes our highly ranked journals <i>Mental Retardation</i> and <i>the American Journal of Mental Retardation</i>; FYI-the Association's monthly electronic newsletter, and access to <i>Washington Watch</i>. Includes member discounts at conferences; discounts on books and other publications; and reduced rates for posting classified advertisements on AAMR's Career Connections, our online career service where resumes are posted for free.</p> <p><b>Active Member Dues \$150</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sustaining Member</b>-For current and future leaders in our field who wish to support research, policy, advocacy, and service the Mission of the Association.</p> <p><b>Sustaining Member Dues \$250</b></p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Associate Member</b>-Special membership for Young Professionals and Direct Support Professionals making less than \$25,000. Includes general Active Member benefits of, and on line access to either <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mental Retardation</i>, OR <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The American Journal on Mental Retardation</i>.</p> <p><b>Associate Member Dues \$75</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Family Member/Self-Advocate Member</b>-For individuals with disabilities and family members who have incomes less than \$25,000 per year.</p> <p><b>Family Member/Self-Advocate Member Dues \$75</b></p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Full Time Student Member</b>-Reduced-price membership for full time students preparing for a disability related career. Requires confirmation of student standing from faculty advisor. Active member benefits.</p> <p><b>Student Member Dues \$50</b></p> <p>I hereby verify that the person making this application is a full-time student (graduate or undergraduate) preparing for a career related to mental retardation.</p> <p>College/University _____ Graduation Date _____ Signature, Faculty Advisor _____ Date _____</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Electronic Member</b>-For electronically savvy disability professionals who wish to access their information by electronic means only.</p> <p><b>E-Member Dues \$150</b></p>

Join the Conference of Professional Interests each division and special interest group is only \$10 each.  
By joining these professional groups you can tailor your membership to benefit your needs.

Administration	Communication Disorders	Community Services	Creative Arts Therapies
Direct Support Professionals	Down Syndrome	Education	Families
General	Genetics	Gerontology	Health Issues
Legal Processes & Advocacy	Leisure & Recreation	Medicine	Mental Health Services
Multicultural Concerns	Nursing	Nutrition & Dietetics	OT & PT
Psychology	Religion & Spirituality	Sexual/Social Concerns	Social Work
Technology	Vocational Rehabilitation		

AAMR 2006 Membership Dues (from one category above)	\$ _____
1. Conference _____ \$10 each	\$ _____
2. Conference _____ \$10 each	\$ _____
3. Conference _____ \$10 each	\$ _____
4. Conference _____ \$10 each	\$ _____
<b>Total Dues Enclosed, Payable to AAMR</b>	\$ _____

Credit Card Information:  Visa  MasterCard  Check enclosed payable to AAMR

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Account \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (202) 387-1968/Toll-Free (800) 424-3688, Fax: (202) 387-2193

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