

Business As Usual



Summer 2005

From the NJ APSE Board President

By Jill Ehrhardt



Happy New Year! No, I'm not crazy. I know it's the middle of the summer, but it's the beginning of the New Year for NJ APSE. We have a few new Board members, a few new officers on the Steering Committee, a new telephone number, a new website about to be launched, an upcoming name

change for our newsletter from "Business As Usual" to something that is more reflective of what NJ APSE stands for, and a new structure for NJ APSE committees. The new Board members and officers took on their new roles at the NJ APSE "Facing the Future XIII Conference" in May. It is the Board's hope that all these changes will appeal to and better support our members as we face the future of Supported and Integrated Employment.

I want to officially welcome our

new board members, Rose Shaw, Dan Baker, and Jared Deppeler. I also want to welcome Rebecca Shulman, who joined the board in the middle of the year. Our Steering Committee is comprised of Jennifer Joyce and Glori Bine-Callagy as the new Vice-Presidents, Pat Gutowski as the Immediate Past President, and Frank Adu and Faith McCalla, who have retained their positions as treasurer and secretary, respectively.

In an effort to become more efficient and productive, the Board decided to streamline from several "committees", some comprised of only one member, with many overlapping objectives, to 3 "divisions". As a result, we now have the following 3 divisions: Training & Education, Governmental Affairs, and Communication & Outreach. Also, to better define the role of the Board officers, we have changed the name of the "Executive Committee", a group that's concerned with the administration or management of an organization, to the "Steering Committee", a group that organizes and directs the content and order of business to move toward the vision of the organization. Our priority has shifted from managing the administrative part of NJ APSE to focusing on the vision of Supported Employment and overcoming the barriers that impact that vision, such as the economy and the government.

As I come to a close, I would be remiss if I didn't recognize some key people involved with NJ APSE. Lucinda Gabri has done an excellent job as the NJ APSE conference coordinator for many years but has decided to step down in order to pursue other interests. On behalf of NJ APSE, and all the folks who attended the conferences over the years, we thank you, we'll miss you, and we wish you luck. I want to thank Pat Gutowski

for her past two years as President of NJ APSE. Pat has worked tirelessly to promote NJ APSE, is the liaison to National APSE, and was also co-chair of the NJ APSE Conference. It was under her leadership that the previously mentioned exciting changes were set into motion. Luckily for us, Pat will now serve on the Steering Committee as the Immediate Past President. Ellen Ball-Nalven has been on the NJ APSE Board since its inception and has held several positions on the Executive Committee. Although she will continue to serve on the Board and as co-chair of the Governmental Affairs Division, Ellen has made the difficult decision to step down from the Steering Committee, where she most recently served as Vice-President. Thanks, Ellen, for all your years of service.

Business As Usual is produced by the Communication/Outreach Division of NJ APSE.

Communication/Outreach Division:

Jennifer Joyce – Co-chair, Editor
 Glori Bine-Callagy – Co-chair
 Jared Deppeler
 John Rose
 Rebecca Shulman

If you are interested in joining this division contact Jennifer at (732) 246-2525 ext. 32 or Glori at (908) 685-1444 ext 225.

Inside this issue:

<i>SE Funding in Danger of Being Reduced</i>	2
<i>Board of Directors</i>	2
<i>NJ APSE Extreme Makeover</i>	2
<i>Upcoming Training/Events</i>	3
<i>Get Involved</i>	3
<i>Training/Education Announcement</i>	4
<i>Successful Conference</i>	4

NJ APSE Board of Directors



Jill Ehrhardt, President

(732) 257-6662

jehrhart@nj.easterseals.com

Jennifer Joyce, Vice-President

(732) 246-2525 ext. 32

jjoyce@arcnj.org

Co-Chair, Communication/Outreach

Glori Bine-Callagy, Vice-President

(908) 685-1444 ext. 225

gbine@alternativesinc.org

Co-Chair, Communication/Outreach

Faith McCalla, Secretary

(973) 571-4100 ext. 131

fmccalla@mhanj.org

Training/Education

Frank Adu, Treasurer

(732) 247-8155

fadu@arc-middlesex.org

Pat Gutowski, Immediate Past President

(732) 541-4400

poohg1220@aol.com

Co-Chair, Training/Education

Dan Baker

(732) 235-9312

dan.baker@umdnj.edu

Training/Education

Ellen Ball-Nalven

(908) 575-8300

plannjebnalven@cs.com

Co-Chair, Governmental Affairs

Jared Deppeler

(732) 493-5900 ext. 2107

jared.deppeler@LADACIN.org

Communication/Outreach

Meg Grifo-Dolan

(908) 464-8008

mgrifodolan@hotmail.com

Governmental Affairs

Krystal Odell

(609) 689-0136

krystal.odell@alliesnj.org

Training/Education

Michael Prendergast

(732) 246-2525 Ext. 18

mprendergast@arcnj.org

Co-Chair, Governmental Affairs

Rose Shaw

(973) 395-1000 ext. 401

RShaw@mhaessex.org

Governmental Affairs

Rebecca Shulman

(609) 292-5987

rebecca.shulman@dol.state.nj.us

Communication/Outreach

Verna Wallace

(732) 235-9316

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT FUNDING IN DANGER OF BEING REDUCED

By Michael Prendergast

New Jersey APSE has been working for the past several months to advocate for improved funding for supported employment services in New Jersey. Over the past months NJ APSE members have presented testimony at Senate and Assembly budget hearings, and at the State Rehabilitation Council forum. NJ APSE has again joined forces with the Disability Budget Coalition and have sent out numerous action alerts to our members on the issue of State and Federal funding for supported employment in NJ.

Even with the advocacy efforts of NJ APSE and our members we are still seeing a threat to the Federal funding for supported employment. The President has recommended in his FY 2006 budget that the funding for the Supported Employment State Grant program be eliminated fully (eliminates \$37.68M in supported employment funds earmarked for people with significant disabilities) and collapses the program into the Title I (State VR) program.

NJ APSE has advocated that this funding remain a separate line item in the budget and remain at the previous years funding level. The House of Representatives and Senate subcommittees have put forth budgets calling for the continuation of a separate line item in the federal budget, but with a 20% reduction in the funding. This, if approved will result in a \$7.68 M reduction in the Supported Employment State Grant line item, or approximately a \$260,000 reduction for New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

NJ APSE's Governmental Affairs Division will be meeting to discuss our next step in advocating for the funding to be returned to its previous level. We will also be contacting other advocacy organizations to see if we can collaborate with them on this issue. Please be on the lookout for future Action Alerts on this issue and be ready to act.

The scene on the State level is not much better. Even though we are not seeing cuts to supported employment funding and have seen the governor increase supported employment funding for individuals with mental illness by \$1M in the FY 2006 budget, we are not seeing any significant increases in other services that provide supported employment throughout the state. For example the funding for supported employment long-term follow-along services through DVRS has remained stagnant and remains capped for agencies providing this service.

Starting in August 2005, the NJ APSE Governmental Affairs Division will be strategizing for the FY 2007 budget year and will continue to advocate for the much needed services.

If you would like to become a part of the Governmental Affairs Division please email Michael Prendergast at mprendergast@arcnj.org.

NJ APSE Extreme Makeover!

The NJ APSE Board of Directors has spent the last 6 months on a new look for NJ APSE. We are pleased to announce the following changes:

New Name

NJ APSE: The Network on Employment

New Phone Number

(732) 831-1114

New Address

32 Ford Ave., Suite 2
Milltown, NJ 08850

New Website

<http://www.njapse.org>

New Newsletter

A new title will be selected from *YOUR* votes (see enclosed ballot)

New Divisions

Governmental Affairs Division
Communication/Outreach Division
Training/Education Division

Upcoming Training Events in New Jersey
August – November 2005

RRCEP II

For information:

(716) 829-3934

<http://www.rcep2.buffalo.edu/>**Location – Goodwill Industries, Maple Shade**9/14 *Orientation to Supported Employment*10/18-10/19 *Job Coach I*10/25 *Documentation & Record Keeping*11/16-11/17 *Job Coach II***Location – Goodwill Industries, Harrison**9/29-9/30 *Functional & Situational Assessment*10/20 *Training Techniques in Community Settings*11/14 *Job Development***The Boggs Center**

For information:

(732) 235-9325

<http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter>**Location – The Boggs Center, New Brunswick**8/11 *Management II: Leadership Skills for Managers in Community Supports*8/23 *Positive Behavioral Supports*9/7 *Management III: Personal Skills for Managers*9/28 *Developing Behavior Support Plans in Community Support Agencies*9/29-9/30 *Essential Lifestyle Planning: ELP I: Foundational Person Centered Thinking Skills*10/18-10/19 *Essential Lifestyle Planning: ELP II: Process Facilitation and Plan Writing***Location – The Arc of Essex, Livingston**8/15 *Management I: Survival Skills for Managers in Community Supports*8/18-8/19 *Employment Specialist: Advanced Level*9/8 *Management II: Leadership Skills for Managers in Community Supports***Location – DDD Office, West Orange**9/16 *Management I: Survival Skills for Managers in Community Supports***Location – Community Access, Elizabeth**9/29-9/30 *Employment Specialist: Introductory Level***Location – UMDNJ, Scotch Plains**8/16-8/17 *Essential Lifestyle Planning: ELP I: Foundational Person Centered Thinking Skills***Location – Gloucester County Office of Education, Sewell**9/14-9/15 *Essential Lifestyle Planning: ELP I: Foundational Person Centered Thinking Skills***Conferences**9/15 *NJ SSI Alliance Conference – NJ Law Center, New Brunswick – (609) 392-4900*9/19 *Connections and Directions 2005 – Bally's, Atlantic City – (201) 217-7180*10/14 *Our House, Inc. Transition Conference – Kean University – (908) 464-8008*10/20 *NJ APSE Membership Meeting – (732) 831-1114 – www.njapse.org*11/3-11/4 *2005 National Caregivers Conference – Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City – (732) 528-8080*<http://www.NationalCaregiversConference.org>11/4 *ASAH "There's More to Me Than What You See" Conference – Atlantic City Convention Center*(609) 890-1400— www.asah.org11/4-11/5 *NJPRA Conference – Sheraton Edison Hotel Raritan Center – (908) 757-8170 - <http://www.njpra.org/index.html>*11/10-11/12 *NJEA Convention – Atlantic City Convention Center – (609) 599-4561 – www.njea.org***Get Involved!**

NJ APSE has 3 newly formed divisions in need of your creativity, ideas, passion, and expertise. If you are interested in contributing to the vision of NJ APSE, please contact one of the following division chairs:

Communication/Outreach

Glori Bine-Callagy (908) 685-1444 ext. 225

Gbine@Alternatives.org

Jennifer Joyce (732) 246-2525 ext. 32

jjoyce@arcnj.org

Governmental Affairs

Ellen Ball-Nalven (908) 575-8300

plannjebnalven@cs.com

Michael Prendergast (732) 246-2525 ext. 18

mprendergast@arcnj.org

Training/Education

Pat Gutowski (732) 541-4400

poohg1220@aol.com

Verna Wallace (732) 235-9316

verna.e.wallace@umdnj.edu

NJ APSE
32 Ford Ave., Suite 2
Milltown, NJ 08850
Phone: (732) 831-1114



ANNOUNCEMENT

TRAINING AND EDUCATION DIVISION NEW JERSEY APSE

Verna Wallace & Pat Gutowski,
Chairpersons

Hello, everybody. In the fall, we will be asking you to complete a brief survey that lets us know what your training and education needs are. NJ APSE's Training and Education Division has the mission of enhancing the knowledge base of the membership, so we want to hear from you regarding training opportunities that interest you and ways to get the training to you. Some of the topics we might suggest are transition, positive behavior support, job development, and handling issues of disclosure to employers. What else might be useful? Keep an eye out for the survey, which will be on our website and will arrive via regular mail and e-mail.

Submit Articles:

If you have articles, information, or upcoming events to add to the newsletter, please e-mail them to Jennifer Joyce at jjoyce@arcnj.org

Successful Conference

By Jennifer Joyce

On May 9-10, 2005 hundreds of professionals in New Jersey gathered at the Trenton Marriott at Lafayette Yard to celebrate, learn, network, and share ideas about supported employment. This year's thirteenth annual NJ APSE Facing the Future Conference was entitled **CHOICES** (Connections Hope Opportunities Integration Collaboration Excellence Supports), and that theme rang clear throughout the 2 days.

Tom Jennings, DVRS Director, Carol Grant, DDD Director, Barbara Gantwerk, OSEP Director, and Alan Kaufman, DMHS Director, made the choice to attend the conference and speak to the attendees about the importance of supported employment.

The opening keynote, Professor and Director of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Workplace Supports at Virginia Commonwealth University, Paul Wehman kicked things off by inviting New Jersey Supported Employment professionals to make the choice to take supported employment services to the next level by setting statewide goals for employment.

Participants had a choice between 18 informative workshops on topics that met the needs of people new to the

field as well as those who have been involved for years.

Four individuals and one business were presented with awards celebrating their choice to inspire, lead, advocate, guide, and commit to ensuring that all people with disabilities have the necessary supports to fulfill their goal to work in an integrated setting. Congratulations to the following award recipients: Daphne Gregory, who was presented with the Rebecca McDonald Leadership Award; Leslie Long, who received the Special Tribute Award; Kathy Van Lew,



Paul Wehman

who was named Employment Specialist of the Year; Pat Gutowski, who was honored with the Transition Educator of the Year Award; and Cosimos Pizza, which received the Employer of the Year Award. The conference came to a close with a panel of presenters sharing how their experiences with mental illness affected their choice to work and how they were able to get the supports they needed to remain successfully employed.

It was great to see everyone at this year's conference, and we look forward to next year's event.