

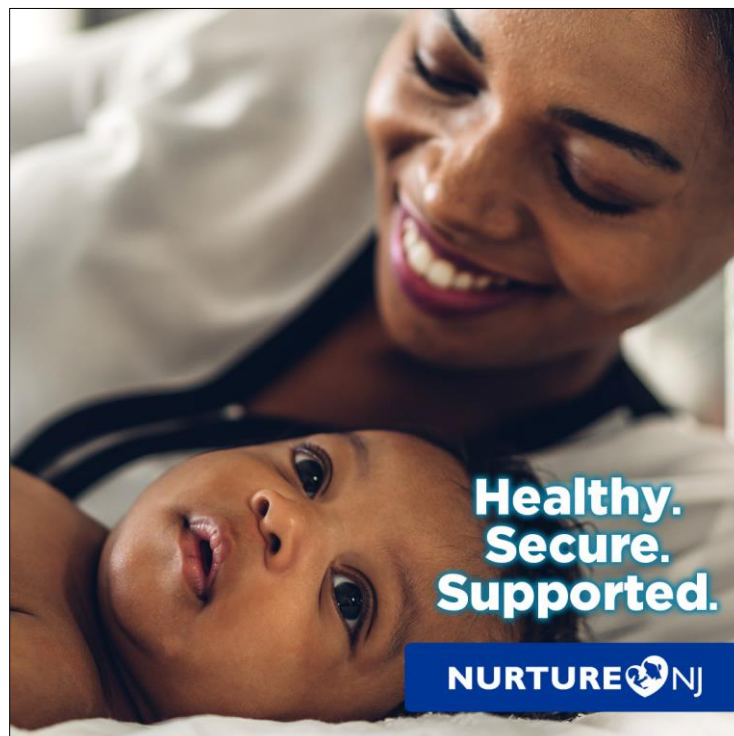


NEW JERSEY HUMAN SERVICES



NJ HUMAN SERVICES | August 2022

NJ FamilyCare Launches a Pilot Program Promoting Effective Perinatal Care as Part of First Lady's Nurture NJ Campaign



As part of New Jersey's continued commitment to making New Jersey the safest and most equitable state in the nation to deliver and raise a baby, First Lady Tammy Murphy and Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman announced a new NJ FamilyCare pilot program promoting high quality perinatal care.

NJ FamilyCare's [Perinatal Episode of Care](#) program is a three-year pilot to test a new alternative payment model for prenatal, labor, and postpartum services statewide.

The pilot's goal is to improve maternity care by encouraging NJ FamilyCare obstetrical providers to broadly engage in all aspects of their patient's care beyond direct obstetrical care, from pregnancy through the postpartum period, including emergency room visits and newborn pediatric care. Clinicians who choose to participate in the program are financially incentivized to take on comprehensive responsibility for the quality and cost of their patients' care.

In addition to becoming eligible for financial incentives, providers who participate in the pilot will receive detailed personalized feedback on their performance and will undertake specific quality improvement activities.

New Jersey is one of the first states in the nation to develop a perinatal episode of care and incorporate groundbreaking focus on high-quality maternity care and equitable health outcomes.

"The NJ FamilyCare pilot program, launched in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Human Services, will bring us one step closer to reaching Nurture NJ's goal of reducing our state's maternal mortality by 50 percent

over five years and eliminating racial disparities in birth outcomes,” First Lady Murphy said. “Coordinating and ensuring effective, quality perinatal care is vital to ensuring a safe and healthy pregnancy, labor and delivery for a mother and her baby. This groundbreaking program is a welcome addition to the many ongoing efforts we have in place to make New Jersey the safest, most equitable state in the nation to deliver and raise a baby.”

“In New Jersey and across the nation we will not improve systemic inequities in maternal and child health care and outcomes by doing the same things we always have. This pilot program provides clinicians with additional data and financial incentives that will allow them to provide more innovative approaches in care,” Commissioner Adelman said. “We are excited about the providers participating in this program and we look forward to seeing the results of the pilot.”

Clinicians who volunteered to participate in the program are eligible to share in savings from more efficient perinatal care delivery. Also, the program will send additional incentive payments to providers who hit milestones on critical cost, quality and other metrics.

[NJ FamilyCare](#) is New Jersey’s Medicaid and CHIP program, and it covers approximately 30,000 New Jersey births each year.

The pilot addresses a major recommendation in the [Nurture NJ Maternal and Infant Health Strategic Plan](#), a roadmap to make New Jersey the safest and most equitable place in the nation to deliver and raise a baby. The recommendation was for DHS to institute a perinatal episode of care (EOC) to ensure coordination of services in the months prior to and after delivery to link families to the tools and resources they need to carry out recommended care plans.

Compared to similar programs in other state Medicaid programs, New Jersey’s perinatal episode-of-care is focused specifically on supporting high-quality maternity care with a focus on addressing health disparities. Obstetrical practices who chose to participate in this voluntary pilot program will receive data on the quality of care their patients receive broken down by the NJ FamilyCare member’s race and ethnicity.

“A perinatal episode of care pilot that promotes high-quality, equitable, accessible and efficient maternity care for NJ FamilyCare members represents yet another step toward our shared goal of helping New Jersey families thrive,” Deputy Commissioner of Health Services Lisa Asare said.

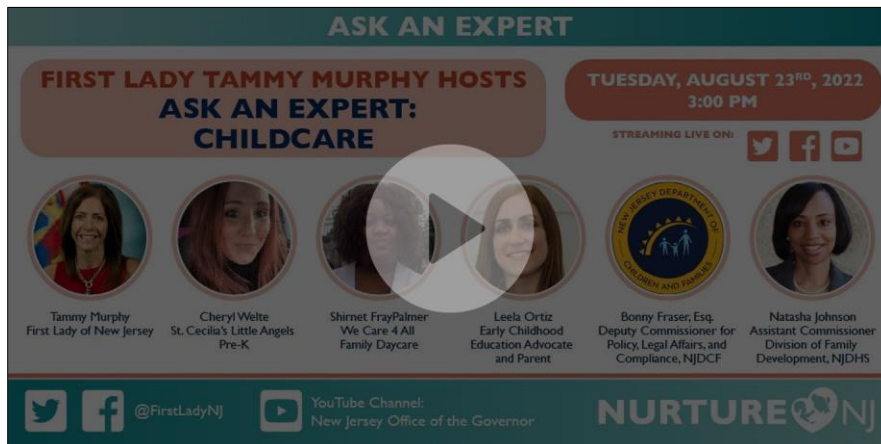
“This pilot program represents a joint effort to bring together the perspectives of state agencies, doctors, midwives, hospitals, managed care plans, advocacy groups, and national experts to advance our shared goals of high quality and equitable maternity care” said Gregory Woods, Chief Innovation Officer for the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services. “As the program evolves and grows in future years, we intend to continue with this collaborative approach.”

“Though strides have been made in health care accessibility and treatment for pregnant women and new mothers in New Jersey, there is no doubt we must continue to improve maternity care across the board,” said Senator Nellie Pou. “I was proud to be prime sponsor of legislation implementing a three-year perinatal episode of care pilot program in Medicaid, and want to thank Governor Murphy and First Lady Murphy for also remaining engaged on this issue. With a still significant number of New Jersey births being paid for by Medicaid, we must do all we can to improve the efficiency of services as well as the ability to boost incentives for the best care possible.”

“Building on our efforts to support expecting mothers by improving perinatal health outcomes, this pilot program will help many new parents access quality, affordable postpartum and pediatric care,” said Assemblywoman Gabriela Mosquera. “Prioritizing the health and well-being of women and newborn babies is critical. This program will help us deliver on our commitment to make New Jersey the best place to start and raise a family.”

[Read more](#)

Assistant Commissioner Johnson Joins First Lady Murphy's Ask an Expert



Assistant Commissioner Natasha Johnson, who directs the [Division of Family Development](#), joined First Lady Murphy's "Ask an Expert: Childcare" virtual discussion on August 23. Visit [childcare.nj.gov](#) for more information on New Jersey's child care program.

NJ Human Services Delivers Additional Pandemic Food Assistance Benefits for Eligible Children



P-EBT Food Assistance for Children

The Department from July 30 to August 12 delivered Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) food assistance benefits to children under age 6 and will be sending benefits to school-age children in September.

P-EBT helps families purchase food for children under age 6 who are receiving Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program ([SNAP](#)) benefits, and school-age children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

"Families are feeling the pinch every time they go grocery shopping," Commissioner Adelman said. "We're glad we can provide additional food benefits to eligible families to help with this essential expense and ensure that children continue to have access to healthy foods."

"Access to healthy food is important for all families," Deputy Commissioner for Social Services Elisa Neira said. "This latest round of food assistance benefits continues the Department's work to support families and provide access to nutritious food as part of the Murphy Administration's efforts to make life more affordable for New Jersey residents."

"We encourage residents who need food assistance to visit and apply for SNAP online at www.NJHelps.org," Assistant Commissioner Johnson said.

[Learn more](#)

Naloxone Distribution at Trenton Thunder's Addiction Awareness Night





The [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) helped people save lives by distributing free packs of the overdose antidote naloxone during the Trenton Thunder's August 13 Addiction Awareness Night. Staff distributed naloxone no questions asked on the concourse in partnership with City of Angels. Deputy Commissioner of Health Services Asare took time to talk to [News 12](#) New Jersey about the Department's ongoing efforts to get life-saving naloxone into as many hands as possible.

Save the Date: Virtual Opioid Summit 2022

Opioid Summit - September 21, 2022
The Evolving Opioid Crisis: A Collaborative Approach

- All-day Conference
- CME and CEU Credits Available
- Panels
- Workshops
- **Keynote: Dan Schneider of "The Pharmacist"**

 **Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services**
wellness • recovery • prevention

 **NJ**
Human Services

Click [here](#) to register.

NJ Human Services Announces Opioid Addiction Treatment Booklet Now Available in American Sign Language



Human Services has translated the [American Society of Addiction Medicine \(ASAM\) Opioid Addiction Treatment booklet](#) into American Sign Language (ASL).

This video resource is available to the deaf and hard of hearing community across the nation.

“Written medical information is not always accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing community, so at Human Services we have translated this critical medical information in order to reach deaf and hard of hearing individuals with substance use disorder in our state and across our nation,” Commissioner Adelman said. “We look forward to the positive impact this ASL video will have in the deaf and hard of hearing community and hope it becomes a model for disseminating other important healthcare information.”

“The creation of this ASL translated booklet video removes language barriers and ensures that those within the deaf and hard of hearing community who struggle with addiction have access to key medical information that can help them not only understand their addiction but start the journey of recovery,” Deputy Commissioner Neira said. “All deserve the chance to begin this journey.”

This initiative comes from a collaboration between ASAM, Human Services’ [Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) and Human Services’ [Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#).

“This collaboration highlights the importance of working together towards a common goal to benefit the many, both in New Jersey and beyond,” Deputy Commissioner of Health Services Asare said. “Increasing the accessibility of a critical medical resource for the deaf and hard of hearing community is key to ensuring more of our residents have access to a resource that will help inform key medical decisions and start the path toward treatment.”

The video resource is available [here](#) on the Department’s YouTube page.

“The disease of addiction does not discriminate. Substance use disorder (SUD) can impact the deaf and hard of hearing, their friends, families and loved ones,” said Assistant Commissioner Valerie Mielke, who directs Human Services’ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. “We all benefit when everyone has access to the potentially life-saving resources they need.”

“We have worked together to translate a key document from the leading medical society for addiction treatment to increase accessibility for the deaf and hard of hearing community,” Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Executive Director Elizabeth Hill said. “It is important to widen the reach of such an important resource for those with SUD and include all New Jerseyans, including those who are deaf and hard of hearing.”

[Read more](#)

Congratulations to Commissioner Adelman



Commissioner Adelman was ceremonially sworn-in during an August 15 ceremony at the Governor's Office. The Commissioner was sworn-in by Judge Glenn A. Grant with Governor Murphy and the First Lady in attendance. [Stated](#) Governor Murphy: "Commissioner Adelman's dedication to New Jerseyans, extensive knowledge of the Department & leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic will no doubt continue to benefit the Garden State."

Listening Session on Hunger, Nutrition and Health



Deputy Commissioner Neira joined an August 11 listening session hosted by [U.S. Senator Cory Booker](#) and [Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin](#) at Rutgers University to hear from New Jersey stakeholders in advance of the [White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#). Watch [here](#).

Human Services Helps Celebrate National Health Center Week



From left to right, Dr. Kerri Powell, CEO of Neighborhood Health Services Corporation; Deborah Hartel, Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Health; Dennis E. Gonzalez, Acting Regional Director and Executive Officer of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and Deputy Commissioner of Health Services Asare mark National Health Center Week.

Deputy Commissioner of Health Services Asare on August 8 joined the Neighborhood Health Services Corporation, the New Jersey Primary Care Association and many others to celebrate National Health Center Week, an annual celebration to raise awareness about the mission and accomplishments of America's Federally Qualified Health Centers.

"This is a powerful opportunity to raise awareness for Federally Qualified Health Centers around the country as well as celebrate their mission, accomplishments, and amazing healthcare heroes" said Kerri Powell, MD, President and CEO of Neighborhood Health and Board Secretary for the New Jersey Primary Care Association.

Annually, the 23 Community Health Centers in New Jersey serve nearly 600,000 patients across all 21 counties.

"New Jersey's Community Health Centers are invaluable centerpieces of service and care in communities throughout New Jersey," Deputy Commissioner of Health Services Asare said. "At Human Services and across

Governor Murphy's Administration, we embrace Community Health Centers for their innovation and dedication to making sure residents have access to preventative and primary health care, especially for underserved populations. While we celebrate our Community Health Centers this week, we value them every day."

[Read more](#)

Able to Save Month



Division of Disability Services Director Peri Nearon highlighted the [NJ ABLE](#) savings program as part of National Able to Save Month. NJ Able helps individuals save while preserving their SSI and Medicaid. [Watch here.](#)

2022 Intern Summit at Rowan



Deputy Commissioner of Operations Andrea Katz participates in intern summit at Rowan University. The summit allowed interns from New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania to meet an array of public policy experts and learn about careers in public policy.

Family and Provider Relations



In an effort to ensure communication and obtain feedback, the [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) interacts regularly with various stakeholders including individuals, guardians, families, advocacy groups and service providers to exchange information. Through this interaction, various subject areas are discussed. One topic communicated to the Division by some families is their experience or fear of retaliation by the service provider toward their loved one if they lodge a complaint about care. The Division convened a small group of families and service providers to discuss this topic. Please see [Family and Provider Relations](#) for more information.

Home and Community Based Services Settings Rule



Human Services released two new resources for service providers to assist in compliance with the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule.

[A Provider's Guide to the Home and Community Based Services Final Settings Rule](#)

- This guide will assist service providers with information, best practices, and examples to assist in HCBS compliance.

[Office of Licensing Bulletin – Privacy in Residential Living Spaces](#)

- This Information Bulletin outlines requirements for licensed community residences. Service Providers must ensure that individuals who reside in provider owned or controlled settings have the means to lock/unlock their homes and bedroom doors so that they have privacy in their residential living spaces.

Additional information on the HCBS Settings Rule can be found at:

- [Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services Website](#)
- [Division of Developmental Disabilities HCBS Website](#)

Visiting The Medical Day Center at Voorhees Pediatric Facility



Thank you to The Medical Day Center at Voorhees Pediatric Facility for hosting Commissioner Adelman, Deputy Commissioner of Health Services Asare, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner Eric Kaufmann and Assembly Majority Leader Lou Greenwald.

Women's Equality Day 2022



WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY 2022



Sarah Adelman
Commissioner



Lisa Asare
Deputy Commissioner
of Health Services



Andrea Katz
Deputy Commissioner
of Operations



Kaylee McGuire
Deputy Commissioner
for Aging and
Disability Services



Elisa Neira
Deputy Commissioner for
Social Services



Johanna Calle
Director
Office of
New Americans



Dr. Bernice Davis
Executive Director
Commission for the Blind
and Visually Impaired



Elizabeth Hill
Executive Director
Division of the Deaf
and
Hard of Hearing



Jennifer Langer Jacobs
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Medical Assistance
and Health Services



Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner
Division of
Family Development



Valerie Mielke
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Mental Health
and Addiction Services



Peri Nearon
Executive Director
Division of
Disability Services



Deborah Robinson
Director
Office of Program
Integrity
and Accountability



Louise Rush
Director
Division of
Aging Services

On Women's Equality Day 2022, we honor & celebrate Human Services' women leaders working to ensure women have health & child care, child support, food assistance and more.

SPOTLIGHTS ON NJ HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS



TAX-FREE SAVINGS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES



Be eligible for public benefits while saving for qualified disability expenses

Access your account easily online, by mail or phone

Lots of investment options to match both your goals and comfort with risk

Earn income on your investments without being taxed



NJ SNAP - [ENGLISH](#) / [SPANISH](#)

NJ FAMILYCARE - [ENGLISH](#) / [SPANISH](#)

NJHELPS - [ENGLISH](#) / [SPANISH](#)

FOLLOW US!



Copyright © NJ Human Services 2022. All rights reserved.