



Dear Colleague,

This email has two sections: Information about NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid and a free hotline from Mental Health Cares

NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid

We distributed information in March 2020, to let you know that NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid will *not* terminate health care services during the COVID-19 public health emergency. We want to be clear on the types of Medicaid notices that may be received:

1 . **Notification that Medicaid will terminate quickly.** For example: Receiving a letter in June that says Medicaid will terminate on June 30th. *If you receive that type of Medicaid termination letter, please contact me immediately at broberts@arcnj.org. In contacting me by email, please include a scan or a photo of the letter from NJ Medicaid, if possible. Please contact me also if Medicaid services were terminated in March, April, or May 2020.*

2 . **Medicaid renewals.** If you receive a notice to submit paperwork for an annual Medicaid renewal, please complete the necessary paperwork as soon as you can. The parent or other caregiver should *not* wait for the public health emergency to end to respond to that type of notice.

3. **Notification that Medicaid will terminate in four months** because a son/daughter with I/DD is starting to collect Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) on the parent's work record. This notification would usually be sent when a parent is starting to collect Social Security retirement benefits; or if a parent is collecting their own disability benefit; or if a parent has passed away. *The parent or other caregiver should apply for Medicaid for their son/daughter quickly and not wait for the public health emergency to end.* If the individual with I/DD has a DDD support coordinator, please contact that person with any questions on applying for Medicaid. Or you can contact me at broberts@arcnj.org if you have questions on completing a Medicaid application.

Mental Health Cares hotline:

Recognizing the enormous amount of stress and anxiety that has resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, New Jersey's Mental Health Cares has established a free hotline, 7 days a week from 8 am to 8 pm. **The phone number is 866-202-HELP (4357).** The hotline staff can provide emotional support to callers regarding COVID-19 concerns and other mental health issues. They can also be reached by email: help@mentalhealthcares.org

Please note that this hotline was developed for the general public and is not specific to helping persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

This is one of many emails that The Arc of New Jersey is distributing in an effort to help individuals with I/DD, their families, and staff to be safe and healthy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. To see other emails that The Arc of New Jersey has distributed on this topic, please go to <https://www.arcnj.org/information/covid-19-updates-information.html>

Thank you.

Bev

**Beverly Roberts
Director, Mainstreaming Medical Care
The Arc of New Jersey**

985 Livingston Avenue
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
Direct line and fax: 732.246.2567
www.mainstreamingmedicalcare.org