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# Hudson County Department of Health and Human Services

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## FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER

Issue 7

### A Message from the Director, Darice Toon



Exciting things are happening at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). During the past several months, we have provided Hudson County residents and professionals with opportunities to gain valuable information about available services and resources. This was accomplished by hosting our annual Community Resources Fair, partnering with Act Now Foundation on the annual Brain Health and Wellness Fair and partnering with Hudson County Community College to host the Jean Krauss Youth Leadership and Career Development Forum for the first time in Hudson County. Additionally, the Department hosted its inaugural World TB Day Seminar to raise awareness about Tuberculosis.

We recognize the value of partnerships. Therefore, we worked collaboratively with key stakeholders in Hudson County to bring vital information and services to our residents. Just as we continue to build collaborations outside of DHHS, we have made strategic changes within the Department to improve collaborations. See the announcement on page 3 about our Office of Children and Youth Services.

While we work diligently to serve Hudson County residents, we are committed to taking time to recognize those within the County who have made the ultimate sacrifice. In observance of this past Memorial Day, we displayed Hudson County Heroes in two (2) locations in the County. The heroes displayed were from the municipalities within Hudson County.

We thank our partners for their commitment to serving Hudson County residents. We look forward to building on existing partnerships and establishing new collaborations.

*Darice Toon*

## SPOTLIGHT



*Cary Lopez and Kristine Allen*

Since 2012, the **Act Now Foundation** has worked to raise awareness, advocate and educate New Jersey residents about Alzheimer's disease, prevention, and early detection. Inspired by their own experience caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease, President Kristine Allen co-founded this grass roots not-for profit with Executive Director Cary Lopez in order to improve the lives of those living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias by providing much needed support services to those individuals and their families. In 2015, Act Now Foundation established the first Alzheimer Resource Center in New Jersey in Jersey City. Since its inception Act Now has expanded to two (2) additional offices, including a new headquarters in North Bergen and an office in Hackensack, and is now offering services outside of Hudson County. Act Now's four (4) staff members and volunteer team serve 1,800 families a year, with free, bilingual services including support groups, crisis management, cognitive assessments, resource referrals and advocacy and education for seniors, families and professionals. In addition to funding Act Now's vital programming, DHHS has partnered with the organization on annual Brain Health and Wellness Fairs, the most recent of which took place June 26th in Lincoln Park, Jersey City. Individuals wishing to learn more about Act Now's services can visit the website at [www.actnowfoundation.org](http://www.actnowfoundation.org) or call (201)-721-6721.

## Hudson County 2019 Community Resources Fair

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Hudson County DHHS held its third annual **Community Resources Fair** at the Hudson County Schools of Technology at 525 Montgomery Avenue in Jersey City. Over three hundred fifty (350) residents attended the event, which featured eighty five 85 human services vendors, free health screenings and workshops.



## Hudson County World TB Day Seminar

Hudson County is home to one of the six regional Tuberculosis (TB) specialty clinics in New Jersey funded by the New Jersey Department of Health. **The Hudson County Department of Health & Human Services Chest Clinic (HCCC)** is located at 257 Cornelison Ave, Jersey City, NJ and is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm to provide screening, medications and treatment. In addition to providing direct services,



Clinic leadership educates the public about the disease. On March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the County commemorated World Tuberculosis (TB) Day to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of

TB, and to step up efforts to end the global epidemic. The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease. Sixty (60) people attended the Hudson County World TB Day event. Panelists included representatives from the New Jersey Department of Health and Rutgers University Global Tuberculosis Institute and HCCC professionals who spoke on topics including TB Management, Diagnosis and Treatment, Nurse Case Management and Pediatric TB.



TB is caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis and is spread from person to person through the air. It typically affects the lungs but can affect the brain, kidney and spine. These bacteria become active when a person's immune system can't stop the bacteria from spreading and multiplying. Babies, young adults, the elderly, those with HIV and those with weakened immune systems are at increased risk of contracting TB.



## ANNOUNCEMENT: The Office of Children and Youth Services

The new Office of Children and Youth Services (OCYS) within the DHHS instituted this past spring to enable the County to expand services to children and youth in a more strategic and meaningful way by improving coordination, collaboration and efficiencies across our children and youth serving programs. OCYS is comprised of the following units: the Children's Interagency Coordinating Council; the Human Services Advisory Council; the STOP School Violence and Mental Health Training Program; the Substance Use Navigator Program; the Youth Services Commission; and the Hudson County Youth Council (to be launched in 2020). Samantha Moore is the Administrator of OCYS and is responsible for management and oversight of children and youth programs.

### The Jean Krauss Youth Leadership and Development Forum

In the spring of 2019, the Hudson County Community College (HCCC), in partnership with DHHS, applied for and received funding from the New Jersey Governor's Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Committee, through the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission, to host the **Jean Krauss Youth Leadership and Development Forum** in Hudson County. The focus of the Forum was to increase employment and educational opportunities for young people involved, or at risk of involvement, with the juvenile justice system.

The Forum was held on August 15<sup>th</sup> at the HCCC Culinary Arts Institute in Jersey City and featured motivational speakers as well as information and interactive workshops on apprenticeships, vocational schools and financial aid for college. Two hundred and sixty (260) individuals attended the event.



### Office of Veteran Affairs

#### Hudson County Heroes on Display



In May 2019, Hudson County DHHS Office of Veterans Affairs celebrated Memorial Day by sharing the stories of Hudson County residents who died serving in the United States Armed Forces. The Office requested pictures and biographies of these heroes from the public which were displayed at 830 Bergen Avenue and 567 Pavonia Avenue in Jersey City for the public to view during the month of May and June.

## SAVE THE DATE - UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

- ➔ **OFFICE ON AGING CAREGIVER FORUM**  
Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm  
@ St. Peter's University, 47 Glenwood Avenue, 6th Floor, Jersey City
  
- ➔ **VETERAN OF THE YEAR CEREMONY**  
Thursday November 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am  
@ High Tech High School, 1 High Tech Way, Secaucus

Please see below for a listing of 2019 Department Meetings.  
Call (201) 369-5280 for further information and to confirm meeting details.

MEETING	WHEN	WHERE
Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC)	The fourth Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am.	Hank Gallo Community Center 1 Lincoln Park, Jersey City
Comprehensive Emergency Assistance System (CEAS) Committee	October 16 <sup>th</sup> , November 12 <sup>th</sup> . All meetings begin at 1:30pm.	County Plaza 257 Cornelison Avenue, Jersey City
Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC)	The second Thursday of the month at 10:00 am.	Hank Gallo Community Center 1 Lincoln Park, Jersey City
Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (LACADA)	December 4 <sup>th</sup> at 10am.	Hank Gallo Community Center 1 Lincoln Park, Jersey City
Mental Health Advisory Board	October 17 <sup>th</sup> , November 21 <sup>st</sup> , December 19 <sup>th</sup> . All meetings begin at 5:30pm.	Meadowview Psychiatric Hospital 595 County Avenue, Bldg. 10 First Floor Conference Rm., Secaucus
Municipal Alliance	October 1 <sup>st</sup> , December 4 <sup>th</sup> . All meetings begin at 10am.	Hank Gallo Community Center 1 Lincoln Park, Jersey City
Office on Aging Advisory Board	September 17 <sup>th</sup> , December 13 <sup>th</sup> . All meetings begin at 12pm.	Secaucus Senior Center 101 Centre Ave., Secaucus
Office of Disability Services	September 17 <sup>th</sup> , December 17 <sup>th</sup> . All meetings begin at 5:30pm.	Hank Gallo Community Center 1 Lincoln Park, Jersey City
Office of Veterans Affairs Stakeholder Meetings	September 18 <sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm.	Hank Gallo Community Center 1 Lincoln Park, Jersey City
Professional Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (PACADA)	September 25 <sup>th</sup> , December 4 <sup>th</sup> . All meetings begin at 1pm.	Hank Gallo Community Center 1 Lincoln Park, Jersey City
Youth Services Commission Meetings	October 17 <sup>th</sup> , December 19 <sup>th</sup> All meetings begin at 9:15am.	Hank Gallo Community Center 1 Lincoln Park, Jersey City