The Mainstreaming Medical Care Program has an excellent reputation throughout New Jersey for health care advocacy on behalf of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Examples of advocacy issues*:

- A mother wants to apply for DDD services for a son with I/DD who is 20 years old. The father passed away several years ago and the income from the father’s work record is too high for the son to have Medicaid from the County Board of Social Services. The mother is told by school personnel (erroneously) that her son will not be able to have DDD services because he is not Medicaid eligible.

- An individual with I/DD who receives Medicaid needs to have general anesthesia for dental work, but the parents cannot locate a dentist in the network of the Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO).

- An individual who receives DDD services had Medicaid from the NJ WorkAbility program, but it is terminating because the individual is no longer employed. The parents are worried that DDD services will end because Medicaid is ending.

- An adult with I/DD receives both Medicare and Medicaid. The parents voluntarily enrolled their daughter in a Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (D-SNP). Two of the daughter’s doctors do not participate in that Medicare Managed Care Plan, and they want to disenroll.

*NOTE: We will advocate for the best interest of each individual, but there is never a guarantee of a successful outcome.
Mainstreaming Medical Care Program

- Information and advocacy on the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) policy requiring Medicaid eligibility, as well as information on Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Disabled Adult Child (DAC) status, Non-DAC Status, ABLE Accounts and NJ Medicaid.

- Information and advocacy on NJ’s Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who experience a problem in accessing medical, dental, or mental health services from the MCO.

- Information and advocacy for persons who have a dual diagnosis (both a developmental disability and mental health disorder).

- Annual health care conference in the late spring that focuses on the most current and relevant information on medical, dental, and behavioral health care for persons with I/DD. The conference is for health care professionals, provider agency staff, educators, personnel from government agencies, Medicaid managed care organizations, family members, and other caregivers.

- Distribution of Healthy Times - a free, electronic health care newsletter for health care professionals, caregivers, and everyone interested in providing health care for persons with I/DD.

- Fact sheets on a variety of topics, e.g., persons who have both Medicare and Medicaid (the dual eligibles); having Medicaid as a “DAC” or a “Non-DAC”.

- Information on the process for persons with I/DD to continue to receive the parent’s private health insurance after their 26th birthday. Please note: if possible, the parent should start this process a few months before their son/daughter’s 26th birthday.

- Information and advocacy for persons with I/DD who have both Medicare and Medicaid benefits—the “dual eligibles,” including the Medicare managed care program known as FIDE-SNP (Fully Integrated Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans).

To sign up for the Healthy Times newsletter or to download archived copies, please visit our website at: www.MainstreamingMedicalCare.org

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