

Issue 04	
CFG Health Network	1
Birdsall Services Group	1
County and Municipal Consumer Agencies of NJ	2
Executive Director's Desk	4

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES

County Government with a Unified Voice

Business Associates Monthly

WELCOME NEW BUSINESS ASSOCIATE

SunPower Corporation, Systems - The global leader in developing high-efficiency solar solutions for homes, businesses, commercial buildings and utilities.



Innovative Ways to Initiate AntiBullying Campaigns in School Systems

By: Jeanine Miles, Director Of Business Development & Marketing

The most effective programs to reduce bullying starts with training and takes a comprehensive approach involving collaboration between students, parents, the school (educators) and the community. The only way to make this positive change in culture and climate is when all parties become involved stakeholders and take personal responsibility for standing up, speaking out and eliminating bullying.

No longer can parents count on seeing the tell-tale signs of bullying (black eye, bloody lip, torn clothes). The damage done by cyber bullies is no less real and can be infinitely more painful. In this age of technology we must foster and maintain channels where students can directly communicate with counselors, parents, teachers and community members.

Bullying peaks in middle school but starts as early as preschool with children using relational aggression. Research states the devastating effects of bullying are long term and far reaching, not just for the child who has been a target of bullying but for the bystanders and person who bullies as well.

Most bullying occurs when adults are not present, making it even more difficult for the victims to defend themselves or to report the incidents. Students should feel comfortable reporting a bullying incident as no child wants to be labeled a snitch or rat. Children need to know reported incidents will be handled properly and confidentially. Everyone needs to be educated and trained to accomplish this. Training should include administrators, teachers, parents, students, bus drivers and anyone else who is in contact with children.

Bullying is no longer about the big kid picking on the weak kid in the schoolyard. Physical assault has been replaced by 24/7 online bashing. Students are using instant messaging, emails, chat rooms and web sites they create to humiliate a peer.

What better way to rapidly engage students
Continued on Page 3

SAVE THE DATE!
NJAC Foundation Annual Golf Outing September 26, 2011 at Mercer Oaks West Golf Course



Saving Taxpayer Money through Energy Programs

By: Daniel Swayze, P.E. President - Energy and Sustainability Division

Through the use of renewable energy, third party energy procurement, energy efficiency and shared services, New Jersey Counties are positioned to save taxpayers money through reduced operating costs. Counties can benefit from an advantageous renewable energy market, energy deregulation, installation of energy efficient equipment, and most of all, leveraging the programs and incentives to pay for such improvements. Through programs such as the NJ BPU Local Government Energy Audit Program, Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP), or the use of Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds or Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants (EECBG),

counties are implementing ways to save money at little or no cost.

Renewable energy programs in New Jersey are already saving money for counties and their member municipalities. New Jersey's Renewables Portfolio Standard, in conjunction with existing Federal incentives and low cost financing, gave birth to aggregated county solar programs where counties serve as the lead agency to implement a shared services power purchase agreement (PPA) solar program with no upfront costs to member municipalities and school boards. Morris County was the first to implement such a
Continued on Page 2

Birdsall Services Group - Continued from Page 1

program. Completed in early 2011, multiple counties are now implementing programs with solid results. Somerset County is completing their first program and starting their second. These two programs combined are positioned to generate their taxpayers approximately \$30.9M of net savings over fifteen years. Union County is currently implementing a similar program saving \$4.7M over fifteen years.

Currently BSG, either directly or through a strategic partner, is working with Sussex, Morris, Passaic, Union, Hudson, Somerset, Mercer, Cumberland, Camden and Monmouth counties to implement similar shared services programs for their member municipalities and school boards. Counties are also implementing individual renewable energy projects through PPAs or using EECBG funds. A great example is the recently unveiled Bergen County Parking Deck and Prosecutor's Office which will generate significant savings for Bergen County taxpayers. Through energy deregulation in New Jersey, BSG has helped devise and administer multiple County electric and gas procurement aggregation groups to save money via third party energy suppliers.

Energy efficiency and conservation improvements

are another way many Counties are saving their taxpayers money. Those such as Union and Bergen counties, who have completed audits and have applied for the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants, as well as State programs through the BPU, are reaping economic and environmental benefits.

The new ESIP legislation which allows counties to use ESCO-type financing to implement energy projects, either through traditional ESCOs or using an innovative do-it-yourself approach potentially utilizing low cost Improvement Authority funds, is another avenue to facilitate projects.

Cogeneration, the simultaneous production of two or more forms of energy from one fuel source, is another technology that has applicability to many county facilities, particularly prisons and nursing homes. If New Jersey is successful in building new natural gas pipeline infrastructure from Pennsylvania, this will become an even more attractive option.

These programs all align with the recently released goals of the New Jersey Energy Master Plan while generating significant savings for taxpayers.

County and Municipal Consumer Agencies of New Jersey

Local Consumer Protection Offices Prepare for 2012

By: Harold H. Spence Jr., President - County and Municipal Consumer Agencies of NJ

The County and Municipal Consumer Agencies of New Jersey (CAMCA) recently released their goals for 2012 as many counties and municipalities organize next year's budgets.

The foremost goal for many offices is to maintain their current level of staffing and attempt to mediate more consumer complaints within their home jurisdictions with more input from the courts. Quoting Susan Grant, Director of Consumer Protection at the Consumer Federation of America in a July 2011 press release "Much of what state and local consumer protection agencies do, from preventing rip-offs to mediating individual complaints, goes unheralded". Ms. Grant goes on to say that "they provide essential public services, like firefighters and police, and deserve the same support".

Many of the complaints handled by local consumer protection agencies are those that may not rise to the level of immediate police intervention, or can be so time consuming, other agencies do not have the manpower or the legislative power to pursue the complaint. The New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act is thought very highly of by other states and is emulated and allows local offices to enforce all aspects of the act.

Additionally, county and municipal offices receive support and guidance from the State Office of Consumer Affairs in Newark and work together on many task forces; including unregistered Home Improvement Contractors, sales of certain banned products, used car sales, pet sales and others. Under the leadership of newly appointed State Director of Consumer Affairs Thomas Calcagni, local and county consumer affairs offices have been enhanced and work more closely with their counterparts in Newark.

In many counties, an office can handle 300-500 complaints a year and in one county, over \$300,000.00 was returned to consumers in direct refunds or money value of a product or exchange. CAMCA feels that without a vigilant regulator, scammers and those looking to perpetrate fraud on our residents, would do so without their vigorous oversight.

Harold H. Spence, Jr. – Director
Gloucester County Consumer Protection
President – County and Municipal Consumer
Agencies of New Jersey

CFG Health Systems - Continued from Page 1

than meeting them, where they are, in today's technological world with computers, iPhones, iPads and blackberries, etc. Utilizing virtual reality platforms (gaming technology) to teach important anti-bullying messages. InWorld Solutions provides a unique environment that promotes meaningful interactions in a safe environment. It offers realistic avatars and virtual environments, specially-designed controls and views that allow instructors to easily lead their students, features and content tailored to training, privacy and security, record and play-back capabilities so sessions can be saved and reviewed later, (very important for bullying bystanders) and private in-ear coaching which allows a group leader to privately speak to one group member without the rest of the group hearing. InWorld Solutions is a leading-edge behavioral health tool that has been successfully used in a variety of settings.

Students will be given an opportunity to create their own Avatar (virtual representation of themselves) and participate in various activities in coordination with the anti-bullying lesson. Then the avatars will role play out specific scenarios as directed by the instructor. The environment can be manipulated by the instructor to obtain the desired outcome. The students are more likely to feel secure in the virtual environment enabling them to express their thoughts and feelings that are otherwise too difficult to discuss. Utilizing Virtual Reality Therapy to foster positive relationships as a trigger for a broader

empowerment process giving the students perceived control (includes beliefs about authority, decision-making skills, availability of resources, and autonomy) and perceived competence (this reflects role-mastery, and successful coping with non-routine role-related situations)

As stated above it is imperative that all individuals having contact with the students should be involved in this process to make the anti-bullying campaign a success in your school. Therefore the teachers and parents are involved in this process through online participation either from the school or from home. For example on Tuesday nights at 7pm their may be a virtual parent meeting to discuss the lessons taught at school. Parents and teachers will also have their own Avatars and can participate in large discussion groups in the virtual world.

InWorld Solutions is an innovative leader in the application of virtual environments to healthcare and behavioral medicine. The InWorld virtual environment platform incorporates a wide range of avatars, content, and features specifically designed to facilitate clinical and educational applications. The company is a member of the CFG Health Network, a comprehensive medical and behavioral health care provider dedicated to transforming access to cost-effective quality behavioral health care. For more information please call Jeanine Miles at 856-797-4805 or email jmiles@cfgpc.com.

THE NJAC FOUNDATION
AND THE

NATIONAL GUARD STATE FAMILY READINESS COUNCIL

PROUDLY INVITES YOU TO

MERCER OAKS WEST

*An 18 hole championship golf course conveniently
 located in Mercer County*

725 Village Road West
 Princeton Junction, New Jersey

September 26th, 2011

Mission Statement

NJAC is committed to advocating for legislation, regulations, and policy directives that empower county governments to operate more effectively and efficiently. As a non-partisan organization that represents the only true regional form of government in the State with a unified and proactive voice, NJAC is dedicated to advancing innovative programs and initiatives for the sole purpose of saving valuable taxpayer dollars.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26 NJAC Foundation Golf Outing	27	28	29	30 Union County Hayrides and campfires
3	4 Hunterdon County Car Seat Safety Check.	5 Camden County Senior Health Fair	6 Legislative Committees	7
10	11	12	13 Legislative Committees	14
17 Monmouth County Flu Vaccines	18	19	20	21 Mercer County Corn Maze
24	25 Bergen County October Movie Series	26	27	28 Atlantic County Halloween Party

From the Executive Director's Desk

The NJAC Foundation's charitable golf outing is fast approaching, so don't miss the opportunity to play golf, sponsor a tee, or donate a prize on September 26th. As you know, we plan on dedicating 50% of the proceeds from this event to the National Guard State Family Readiness Council (NGSFRF). NGSFRF is a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing significant assistance to deployed military personnel and their families. The NJAC Foundation is 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization affiliated with the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) and is committed to providing aid to educational, social, and governmental institutions in the furtherance of their stated goals.

The NJAC Foundation is also pleased to announce that it recently approved \$25,000.00 in scholarships from grants awarded by Verizon and Wells Fargo for county vocational school graduates who plan to continue their education at a county or State college. Verizon awarded the Foundation a grant of \$15,000.00 and the Foundation is in the process of distributing one \$675.00 scholarship in each county. Wells Fargo awarded the Foundation a grant of \$10,000 and the Foundation is in the process of distributing one \$450.00 scholarship in each county as well. Students may use these monies to offset tuition costs.

Earlier this year, the Foundation awarded an additional \$24,000.00 in scholarships from grants awarded by Investors Bank and PSEG. Investors Bank awarded the Foundation a grant of \$14,000.00 and the Foundation distributed two \$500.00 scholarships in each county where Investors Bank conducts business. Through its Green Scholarship Program, PSEG awarded the Foundation a grant of \$10,000.00 and the Foundation distributed one \$550.00 grant in each county where PSEG maintains a service territory or generation facility.

The NJAC Foundation commends these outstanding New Jersey based organizations for their commitment and generosity to the communities in which they serve; and, is grateful for the opportunity to provide some much needed financial assistance to an impressive group of hardworking students. Please do not hesitate to contact us for additional details about the NJAC Foundation.