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Acting Governor Guadagno Recognizes Autism Awareness Month at Second Annual Autism New Jersey Transition Conference

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Autism New Jersey Sponsors Conference To Identify Potential Problems, Solutions for Individuals with Autism Entering Adulthood

Trenton, NJ – This morning, Acting Governor Kim Guadagno continued the Administration's commemoration of April as Autism Awareness Month by addressing the 2nd Annual Transition Conference hosted by Autism New Jersey. According to the CDC, autism is estimated to impact 1 in 45 children in New Jersey.

"We've taken huge strides to support our residents with autism but we couldn't have made this progress without your work and the work of all our fine partners throughout New Jersey," said Acting Governor Guadagno. "We must do more, especially for those individuals who are transitioning to adult life. We will continue to work tirelessly to do our part, to listen and to build upon our considerable record of progress."

The Transition Conference focuses exclusively on the transition to adulthood for residents with autism and features speakers addressing legal, educational and service concerns for adolescents with autism and the changes that come with the end of the high school years.

"There are tens of thousands of young adults and teens with autism in New Jersey who have difficulty navigating and accessing appropriate services. Autism New Jersey is hard at work on a range of initiatives to increase access to services, build capacity, and shape public policies in collaboration with the Administration to meet the growing needs," said Autism New Jersey Executive Director Dr. Suzanne Buchanan. "We are grateful for our partnership with the Administration and are honored to have Acting Governor Guadagno join us at our signature event for adolescents and adults with autism."

Autism New Jersey is a nonprofit agency committed to ensuring safe and fulfilling lives for individuals with autism, their families and the professionals who support them. The largest statewide network of parents and professionals dedicated to improving lives of individuals with autism spectrum disorders, Autism New Jersey works to increase recognition of the autism community's many contributions to society. 2015 marks the organization's 50th anniversary.

New Jersey has one of the best systems in the nation for identifying, diagnosing and documenting children with autism spectrum disorders and is one of only eight states with an Autism Registry that requires reporting by neurologists, pediatricians, nurses and other autism providers so children can be referred for resources and services. More information is available at: http://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/sch/autism_registry.shtml.

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