

Contacts: Hope Arvanitis, Director of Communications
Jessica Alloway, Coordinator of Communications

Phone: 609.883.8100

E-mail: hope.arvanitis@njcosac.org
jessica.alloway@njcosac.org

Website: www.njcosac.org



To: Assignment Editor and News Director

MEDIA ADVISORY

**STATE HOUSE PRESS CONFERENCE CONCERNING
THE CRITICAL NEEDS OF ADULTS WITH AUTISM**

WHO: The New Jersey Center for Outreach & Services for the Autism Community (**COSAC**), NJ Senators Ellen Karcher (D-District 12) and Loretta Weinberg (D-District 37), Acting NJ Department of Human Services Commissioner Clarke Bruno and Chairman of the Autism Society of America's Professional Advisory Board Dr. James Ball.

WHAT: A press conference to release a White Paper, "*Meeting the Needs of Adults with Autism: A Blueprint for the Future*," which offers findings and specific recommendations to the New Jersey service delivery system to better respond to the critical need of adults with autism.

WHEN: Thursday, December 14, 2006 at 11:30 AM.

WHERE: State House, 125 West State Street, Trenton, NJ, 08608, Room L-103 (across from Senate Chambers).

WHY: To raise awareness of the growing scope and needs of adults with autism, a lifelong developmental disability, and because the service system for adults with autism in New Jersey is in crisis. Immediate and proactive steps must be taken to create more opportunities for services and resources, employment and residential options. With this report, leaders in government and the greater autism community can move the service system forward – not only to meet the needs of thousand of adults with autism currently requiring services – but for the tens of thousands of infants, toddlers and children with autism now known to the system who one day will become adults with autism. Autism affects 1 and 166 children; in NJ, 50,000 individuals are affected by an autism spectrum disorder.

DETAILS: For further information, contact Hope Arvanitis, COSAC's Communications Director: (609) 883-8100, extension 12; hope.arvanitis.@njcosac.org.

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COSAC is a nonprofit agency providing information and advocacy, services, family and professional education, and consultation. COSAC encourages responsible basic and applied research that would lead to a lessening of the effects and potential prevention of autism. COSAC is dedicated to ensuring that all people with autism receive appropriate, effective services to maximize their growth potential, and to enhancing the overall awareness of autism in the general public.