

Sailing Through July

Workplace Readiness: Extended Employment



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🌟 Staff Updates & Warm Welcomes! 🌟

We've got some exciting changes happening around here! Please join us in giving a big CEA welcome to **Camille Gray**, our new **Transition Coordinator for Workplace Readiness and Community Evaluations**! We're thrilled to have her on board and can't wait for you to meet her.

Also, a huge **congratulations to Chuck Weikel**, who has officially stepped into the role of **CEO**! We're excited for this next chapter under his leadership. And don't worry! **Mike** isn't going far! He'll still be with us, offering his wisdom and experience in a new **Advisory role** during this transition. Here's to new beginnings and continued success! 🌟🌟

July is here and it's sizzling! 🌟 Whether you're soaking up the sun, waving sparklers, or just enjoying some well-earned rest, this month brings a spark of joy, reflection, and celebration. Let's dive into everything July has to offer! 🌟🌟🌟

Here's what's heating up this month: 🔥

🇺🇸 Independence Day – July 4th

Cue the fireworks! 🌟 This day marks America's birthday and a celebration of freedom. Whether you're headed to a BBQ, watching a parade, or just enjoying a red-white-and-blue treat, we hope your day is full of fun, safety, and sunshine! 🍰🌟🌟

♿ Disability Pride Month

July is all about celebrating the strength, uniqueness, and contributions of people with disabilities. This month we recognize the importance of accessibility, inclusion, and advocacy. Shine on and be proud of who you are! 🌟♿❤️

👤 BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental health matters for *everyone*. This month focuses on the mental health needs and experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities. Let's continue to create safe spaces for understanding, healing, and connection. 🌟🌟🌟🌟

🍦 National Ice Cream Month

Need an excuse for a sweet treat? Didn't think so! 🍦 Whether it's classic vanilla, rocky road, or dairy-free deliciousness—July is the perfect time to chill out and indulge a little. 🍦 😊

Hot News, Cool Vibes! 🥵🕶️



😊 Cindy is Smiling At CEA!

This month Cindy has been working on labeling products that will be packaged here at CEA and sold at local dollar stores!



📦 Sarah Has Got Those Boxes!

This month Sarah has been working on breaking down boxes like a pro!



Erica and Jenn, Working Hard! 😊😊😊

👉👉 Here are Jenn and Erica working side by side to package beauty products for the dollar store! 👉👉

☀️🌧️ July Weather Reminder 🌧️☀️

Whew — July in New Jersey isn't messing around! Between the blazing sun, surprise heatwaves, and the occasional summer storm, the weather's keeping us on our toes. ☀️🌧️

🧴 **Sunscreen is your friend!** Protect your skin during outdoor activities.

👓 **Grab those shades and a hat** — UV rays don't play!

🥤 **Stay hydrated** with lots of water (bring a bottle with you!)

🌳 **Take breaks in the shade or AC** when it gets too hot

👟 **Wear comfy shoes** — hot pavement and sandals don't always mix!

And don't forget:

☁️ **Pop-up storms happen!** Keep an umbrella or light rain jacket handy, just in case.

Let's beat the heat together and enjoy everything this sunny season brings! 🌞💬💕

And remember: if you're ever unsure whether we're open due to weather, give us a call at **908-782-1480, Extension 8 for the latest updates!**

📄 Paperwork Shoutout & Reminder! 📄

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who has already brought in their paperwork! We appreciate you! ✔️
You're all set!

Just a quick reminder:

We **still need the Participant Health Form signed by your physician** 🤝 if you haven't submitted it

yet. This form is required, so please make sure to get it filled out and returned ASAP!

Also, a huge thank you to the parents and guardians who participated in our **annual 511 meetings!**

📄 Paperwork have been sent home for review and signature, if you haven't already, please sign and return them to us as soon as possible.

📞 Need a new copy of any form? Just let us know. We're happy to help!

Let's keep things running smoothly together. Thank you for your support! 🗣️

Join Our Extended Employment Program!

Our Workplace Readiness Extended Employment Program is growing, and we're looking for new Extended Employees to join the team! 🌟 If you know someone who's ready to gain work skills, build confidence, and be part of something great, we'd love to hear from them!

Have them reach out to me, Kyra Horn, Director of Workplace Readiness and Adult Transition to learn more.

- 📞 Office: 908-782-1480 x282
- 📱 Cell: 848-333-2985
- ✉️ Email: khorn@cea-nj.org



Yearly Paperwork 2025.pdf

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1.2 MB

⚠️ Important Update: Proposed Changes Could Impact Extended Employment Programs in NJ

Governor Murphy's administration is considering major funding changes to the Extended Employment Programs in New Jersey.

If these changes go into effect, here's what it could mean:

🚫 Reduced Support for Sheltered Employment

The state may shift funding and focus away from Extended Employment programs and exclusively support competitive, integrated employment. While community integrated employment is a great option for many, it's not the right fit for *everyone*.

🏠 Fewer Choices for Families

These proposed changes could severely limit options for families and guardians who know their loved ones thrive in safe, supportive work environments like CEA. Removing these programs takes away choice, security, and individualized planning.

🗣️ Concerns from Parents & Guardians

Many families have expressed concerns that pushing individuals too quickly into community-based jobs could lead to stress, job loss, or even safety issues. Not everyone is ready, and not everyone *wants* to leave a workshop setting that gives them stability, purpose, and community.

🏠 We're Advocating for You

Myself and Michael, our CEO, have been making continuous efforts to represent CEA and our

extended employee families at the State level. We've been meeting with legislators in Trenton and speaking out about how these changes could negatively affect our participants.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share your story. Your voice matters. 

What You Can Do

Stay informed. Keep speaking up. Contact your local legislators and tell them how vital Extended Employment is to your loved one. These programs are not just jobs, they are *community, consistency, and dignity.*

CEA NEWSLETTER

[Contact](#)