



The Arc Welcomes Joanne Bergin as New Pres



The Arc of New Jersey is excited to welcome Joanne Bergin as the new board president, effective July 1, 2017. Prior to this role, Joanne served as our first vice-president and as President of The Arc of Ocean County. We look forward to continuing our advocacy under her direction and we encourage you to reach out to Joanne at jbergin@arcnj.org with questions or feedback.

In addition, we are pleased to announce the following individuals will serve as our organization's Executive Committee:

Kevin Sturges, First Vice President
Karen Murphy, Second Vice President
Elsbeth Corrigan Moore, Secretary
Pamela Corrigan, Treasurer

In addition, Members-at-Large include: Carolyn Hayer, Kevin Walsh, Bruce Humphreys, Bruce Bird, Paul Prior, James Gallagher and Robert Hage as Immediate Past President.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

DSP Coalition Secures \$20M in FY18 Budget

On July 4th, Governor Christie signed the FY18 Budget and it includes \$20 million for increased wages for DSPs. We worked tirelessly these past 12 months as Chair of the Coalition for a DSP Living Wage to secure this funding, and we are very pleased to have obtained this victory in year one of our campaign. We thank everyone who supported the Coalition this past year, as we know this outcome would not have been possible without you. We are grateful to everyone who participated in our action alerts, forwarded our materials, came out to our lobbying day in Trenton and shared our posts on social media. This is wonderful news for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families who rely on DSPs for services. Stay tuned for more info in the coming weeks about plans for the FY19 Budget!



The Arc Stands with US Senator Against Medicaid Cuts

The Arc of New Jersey and The Arc of Essex County participated in a press conference with Senator Bob Menendez last month to highlight the threats to Medicaid in the Senate's version of the American Health Care Act. Eileen Stuart, whose daughter Laurie has lived in an Arc Essex group

home for more than 20 years, told the Senator that Laurie has complex medical needs, including seizures, and that she will always require long-term supports and services. She explained that Laurie can't afford to lose the supports she receives or the home she shares with other individuals with I/DD, and that she worries about what will happen to Laurie after she's gone if Medicaid is slashed the way the Senate is proposing. She also told the Senator that it's only because of Medicaid that Laurie is able to live an integrated life in the community. Following the event, Eileen spoke to multiple reporters about the importance of Medicaid and the impact per capita caps and related cuts would have on her daughter and thousands like her with I/DD living in New Jersey.



Presentation for Families, Healthy Lifestyle tips for Self-Advocates



Mainstreaming Medical Care Director Beverly Roberts and The Arc of NJ Family Institute Coordinator Cheryl Crick presented on SSI & Medicaid in Bergen County last month. The event was an opportunity to educate families on a variety of topics, including: what happens to SSI and Medicaid when the parent of an individual with I/DD retires, or if they become disabled, ABLE Accounts, and how can these accounts can be helpful, and PPP services and what the process is for accessing those services. Missed the presentation but have questions about these topics? Call **732-828-2022** for additional information.



Self-Advocates enjoyed an adaptive Yoga session last month as part of the Healthy Lifestyles Project, a program of The Arc of New Jersey that receives funding through a grant from the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey. The program's goal is to provide people with I/DD with a functional education about the importance of health choices related to diet, exercise and stress management.

Chapters Host "Step Up For The Arc 2017"

Step Up For The Arc is an annual statewide initiative of The Arc of New Jersey, with walkathons held locally by every county chapter.

It's a fun, healthy and easy way to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Walks will resume in the fall so be sure to check out our [Step Up for The Arc web site](#) for additional photos from recent walks, as well as dates and info for upcoming events.



SCARC Celebrates with Annual Awards Dinner

Congratulations to SCARC on their 2017 Awards Dinner held at Perona Farms last month. Pictured left to right: The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, The Arc of NJ's Board President Joanne Bergin, SCARC first vice chairperson Andy Sharick and SCARC President and CEO Richard Lecher.



Check Out These Upcoming Events, Webinars



Webinar: Support Coordination - What Families Need to Know

[Tuesday, July 18 at 12 pm](#)

Join us as we discuss support coordination, the process for choosing a support coordination agency and what you can do to make certain that the agency is the "right fit" for your family.

Annual ADA Awareness Event on Point Pleasant Board Walk

[Friday, July 14 from 10 am to 2 pm](#)

Self Advocates from the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network will promote and raise awareness about the importance of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Signed into law on July 26, 1990, The ADA,

is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in all areas of public life, including employment, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public.

Need help or more information? Want to become active in our advocacy network?

Visit our [website](#) to access lots of great information that can help you navigate service systems, find resources and keep you informed as to the important issues facing children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Join our [advocacy network](#) to add your voice to the thousands who are working hard to promote and protect the quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Visit our website

Join an Advocacy Network

The Arc of New Jersey | 732.246.2525 | info@arcnj.org | www.arcnj.org

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