



May 2016

UPDATE FROM THE STATE HOUSE

The Arc of NJ Visits Reps in DC, Advocates on State Budget



Pictured Above: Representatives from The Arc of New Jersey and the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities met with US Senator Cory Booker about federal issues impacting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Arc of New Jersey attended the annual Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, DC last month and then visited with members of New Jersey's congressional delegation. The informational sessions at the Seminar focused on threats to the lifeline programs which people with I/DD depend upon, as well as newly proposed provisions to the ABLE Act and special education issues. During our meetings with legislators, we advocated for their support against any potential cuts to Medicaid/Social

Security, and to garner support and co-sponsorship for a number of bills making their way through the legislative process. We were joined by a number of fantastic advocates from The Arc of Mercer, The Arc of Warren and The Arc of Monmouth as well as our Board President Robert Hage. To continue reading, click [here](#).

Approximately 300 People Attend Self-Advocacy Event



Pictured Above: Members of the NJ Statewide Self-Advocacy Network Advisory Board celebrate at the 11th Annual Spring into Action Luncheon.

The New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network bestowed honors upon this year's award winners and recognized outstanding achievements from 2015/2016 at the 11th Annual Spring Into Action Luncheon at the Imperia in Somerset. Approximately 300 self-advocates from across the State attended the event and representatives from each Council delivered reports about the work their groups are doing. To view photos from this outstanding event, be sure to visit our [Facebook page](#).

The Arc of NJ to Host Sprout Film Festival

Asst. Comm Shea Talks Fee-for-Service with Self-Advocates



Pictured Above: DDD Assistant Commissioner Liz Shea, center, attended the April NJ Statewide Self-Advocacy Network Advisory Board meeting.

The New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network Advisory Board welcomed DDD Assistant Commissioner Liz Shea to their April Advisory Board meeting to learn more about the upcoming shifts to the service delivery system. This was an important opportunity for Self-Advocates to ask questions and learn more about how the new system will impact their lives in the community. The Assistant Commissioner provided the Advisory Board with an update and then answered questions. The visit was another great opportunity to communicate with the Division as changes are implemented.

'Step Up' for 2016 Walkathons

Spring is here and that means it's time to grab your favorite pair of sneakers and Step Up for The Arc 2016! Step Up For The Arc is an annual statewide initiative of The Arc of New Jersey, with walkathons held



Pictured Above: Walkers participated in



The Arc of New Jersey is thrilled to announce that we are hosting our first **Sprout Film Festival** on Saturday, June 4th in Piscataway, New Jersey. The Sprout Film Festival offers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to be on screen and behind the scenes in a wide range of video projects. Each film has a varied run-time and

the genres can alternate from comedy and drama to documentary-style. The goal of the Festival is to break down stereotypes and offer accurate portrayals of people with disabilities. The event will take place on the **Busch Campus at Rutgers University** and the auditorium is accessible for people with disabilities. There will be two showings, one at 11:15 am and the second at 2:15 pm. Doors open 15 minutes prior to each showing. **Tickets are on sale NOW** at www.sproutnj.org and you can view the trailer by clicking [here](#). You can also contact Celine Fortin at Cfortin@arcnj.org with any relevant questions. We hope to see you there!

VP of the Self-Advocacy Board Receives Honor

Congratulations to Evelyn Ramundo, Vice President of the NJ Statewide Self-Advocacy Network Advisory Board, on receiving the

Colleen Fraser Self-Advocate Award at the Annual Community Building Awards ceremony. This event, hosted by the NJ Council on Developmental



locally by every county Chapter. It's a fun, healthy and easy way to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Walks are scheduled throughout the State so if you want to participate or make a donation at the local county level, be sure to check out the [Step Up web site](#) for additional details and information.

The Arc of Essex County's Building Tomorrow's 5K Run, 2-Mile walk and Family Fun Fest.

Step Up for The Arc Walk 2016 Schedule:


- **May 7 - [The Arc of Gloucester](#)**
- **May 14 - [The Arc of Middlesex](#)**
- **May 15 - [The Arc of Burlington](#)**
- **May 15 - [The Arc of Camden](#)**
- **May 21 - [The Arc of Mercer](#)**
- **May 22 - [SCARC](#)**
- **May 22 - [The Arc of Cumberland](#)**
- **June 4 - [The Arc of Somerset](#)**
- **June 5 - [The Arc of Salem](#)**
- **June 5 - [The Arc of Bergen & Passaic](#)**

IEP Review & Special Edu. Workshops for Families

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute will host one final IEP Review session in May and three Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition (PCAST) workshops in May and June. These events are geared toward helping families with children in special education.

An IEP Review with the Attorneys of Hinkle, Fingles, Prior & Fischer is a session for families who may have questions or concerns about their

PCAST - Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition:
For Families, Students and Educators



Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute as we host 3 regional PCAST Workshops with Michael Steinbruck.

Ensuring a student's IEP is person centered is a critical component in planning for a student's transition from school to adult life. During this hands-on workshop, participants will learn fundamental skills, tools and processes to implement person centered approaches in schools. These include methods for gathering, organizing and presenting person-centered information, and implementing strategies designed to improve post school outcomes for students.

Presenter: Michael Steinbruck, MA is the PCAST Program Coordinator at The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities.

This workshop is funded by the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

Register at: bit.ly/pcast_registration

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Dates and Location

May 24th The Arc of Essex 123 Nayton Avenue Livingston, 07039 973.535.1181	May 26th The Arc of Mercer 190 Evingville Road Ewing, 08639 609.406.0181	June 14th Camp Sun 'N Run The Sunshine Inn 1036 North Tuckahoe Road Williamstown, 08994 856.848.8648
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For Questions Call:
The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute—732.246.2525 x38 or x24

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute
483 Langston Avenue North Brunswick, NJ 08902
732.246.2525 (Toll-Free) 732.246.2525 (NJ) www.thearcnj.org

Disabilities, took place at the Camden Aquarium on April 27. Evelyn

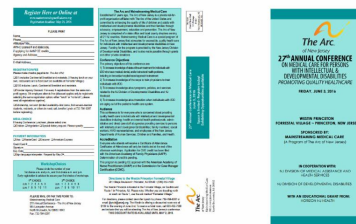
Pictured Above from Left to Right: Dennis Donatelli, Erin Caprara, Evelyn Ramundo, Tom Baffuto, & Beverly Roberts.

was recognized for her tireless advocacy work on the state and local level. Evelyn is a strong and frequent voice at legislative hearings, awareness campaigns and local events. We applaud her hard work and this wonderful recognition.

Fill Your Calendar with these Upcoming Events

Do you like to plan ahead? If so, here are a number of upcoming events happening at The Arc of New Jersey that you can add to your calendar. Also, check out our [website's calendar](#) for additional news and events.

- **Friday June 3, 2016** - Registration is now open for The Arc of New Jersey's 27th Annual Conference on Medical Care for People with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities. This conference is for everyone who is concerned about providing quality health care to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities including: health and mental health professionals; administrative and direct care staff at agencies providing services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities; family members; social workers; HMO representatives; and employees of the New Jersey Departments of Human Services, Children and Families, and Health. The event will be held at the Westin Hotel in Princeton, New Jersey. For registration information and to view the conference brochure, be sure to visit this [web site](#). Please keep in mind that **the final date to register is Friday, May 20**. Contact Jenn Lynch, at 732-784-6397, if you have any questions.



- There are just two remaining **Planning for Adult Life Opportunity Expos** happening this spring so if you haven't done so already, be sure to sign up for one of the remaining sessions. During the Expos, you will hear from experienced parents and professionals on the following topics: support coordination, the continuum of community services, financial planning, eligibility requirements, and where to find help. The Opportunity Expos will also feature a variety of exhibitors that will include state and county government entities, community service providers, service coordinators, local health care support and recreation providers, and additional information and referral

child's plan. Families will have an opportunity to sit down with an attorney from [Hinkle, Fingles, Prior, & Fischer](#) to review their child's IEP, ask questions and discuss any concerns they may have about their school district. Space is limited and registration is required to attend. Contact Kristina Tosti at (609) 896-4200 to reserve your time slot.

- **Wednesday, May 4 - The Arc of Monmouth County**
1158 Wayside Road,
Tinton Falls, NJ 07712
(Please note: Families registered for the May 4 event will receive an hour long review session.)

Later in the month and into June, The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute will host 3 regional PCAST Workshops with Michael Steinbruck. Ensuring a student's IEP is person-centered is a critical component in planning for a student's transition from school to adult life. During this hands-on workshop, participants will learn fundamental skills, tools and processes to implement person-centered approaches in schools. These include methods for gathering, organizing and presenting person-centered information, and implementing strategies designed to improve post-school outcomes for students. This workshop is funded by the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

All of the workshops run from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. To register, click on the following links:

- [Tuesday, May 24 - The Arc of Essex County](#)

123 Naylor Avenue,
Livingston, NJ 07039
- [Thursday, May 26 - The Arc of Mercer County](#)

180 Ewingville Road,
Ewing, NJ 08638
- [Tuesday, June 14 - Camp Sun 'N Fun](#)

The Sunshine Inn
1036 North Tuckahoe Road,
Williamstown, NJ 08094

PLANNED GIVING CORNER

The Consequences of Dying Without a Will

What will happen to my money and possessions if I die without a will?

If you die without a will, what happens to your assets will be determined by the state in which you reside. Every state has intestacy laws in place that parcel out property and assets to a

services. For the specific dates and times, and to register for an Opportunity Expo, [click here](#).

Register now for May webinars

Important information sessions will be held throughout the month:

Webinar Wednesday Series: Exploring Housing for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities can live in a variety of places in the community. It is important to determine the level of support needed by the person when exploring housing options. One size does not fit all, so it's never too early to get started on understanding the different housing options in your community. This webinar will give an overview of housing options available and what to keep in mind when identifying the best fit for the person with I/DD. It is geared for students 14-21, their families, and professionals in the field.

[Wednesday, May 11 at 6 pm](#)

Equal Justice Talks - Autism Spectrum Disorder and the Criminal Law: Handling Child Pornography and Other Sexual Offense Cases

Please join us to hear attorney Mark J. Mahoney, Esq., with the law firm of Harrington and Mahoney, provide an overview of issues concerning people on the Autism Spectrum and sexual offenses, particularly charges related to internet child pornography. Mr. Mahoney, a criminal defense attorney in Buffalo, NY, became involved in the defense of a young man with Asperger's Syndrome charged federally with child pornography and, as a result of handling this matter, he has become an expert, conducting extensive research in the field, working with experts in ASD and has written an exhaustive article on the issues surrounding the involvement of people with autism spectrum diagnoses and the criminal law.

[Thursday, May 19 at 1 pm](#)

An Overview of the New Jersey Early Intervention System

What do you do when you are concerned about the ongoing development of an infant or toddler? We want you to know about the statewide system of supports and services for infants & toddlers with developmental delays called the New Jersey Early Intervention System. An Early Intervention evaluation may be the first step in determining a child's developmental strengths and needs. This assessment can measure whether a child is losing previously acquired skills or if he/she is not keeping up with typical development timelines. The goal of Early Intervention is to partner with families and "coach" them on ways to support their child's development during their everyday activities.

[Wednesday, May 25 at 6 pm](#)

Upcoming DDD Webinars

deceased person's closest relatives when there's no will or trust. Keep in mind these laws vary from state to state. A good resource to help you find out how your state works is About.com's Wills and Estate Planning site, which provides a state-by-state breakdown of how your estate would be distributed if you die without a will. See StateIntestacyLaws.com for a direct link to this page.

In the meantime, here is a general (not state specific) breakdown of what can happen to a person's assets, depending on whom they leave behind.



Married with children: When a married person with children dies without a will, all property, investments and financial accounts that are "jointly owned" automatically go to the surviving co-owner (typically the spouse or child), without going through probate, which is the legal process that distributes a deceased person's assets.

For all other separately owned property or individual financial accounts, the laws of most states award one-third to one-half to the surviving spouse, while the rest goes to the children. (To continue reading, click [here](#). Want more information about planned giving? Click [here](#).)

The Division is offering a new webinar entitled, "DDD's Commitment to Employment: Services and Supports to Help All People Work." The webinar will discuss expanded employment services and supports available in the Medicaid-based, fee-for-service system. All Division stakeholders are invited and welcome to attend either webinar version. You can register by clicking the registration links below.

DDD's Commitment to Employment: Services & Supports to Help All People Work - Supported Employment Provider Focused

Tuesday, May 3, at 10 am

DDD's Commitment to Employment: Services & Supports to Help All People Work - Individual/Family Focused

Tuesday, May 3, at 6:30 pm

Help Us Keep The Arc of NJ Strong!

The Arc of New Jersey relies on charitable contributions to continue our strong advocacy. Please help keep our efforts moving forward by making a donation to The Arc of New Jersey.

There are several ways you can help us:

1. Make a donation at www.arcnj.org.
2. If your company has a matching gift program, be sure to register your gift so you can double your contribution.
3. Make your donation count all year long by becoming a monthly Sustainer. All you have to do is note on your online donation that you would like it to be a monthly contribution.
4. Donate a vehicle by calling (877) 272-2270.
5. Shop through Amazon Smile. Simply select The Arc of New Jersey from the charities at [Amazon Smile](#), and shop like you always do at Amazon.

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