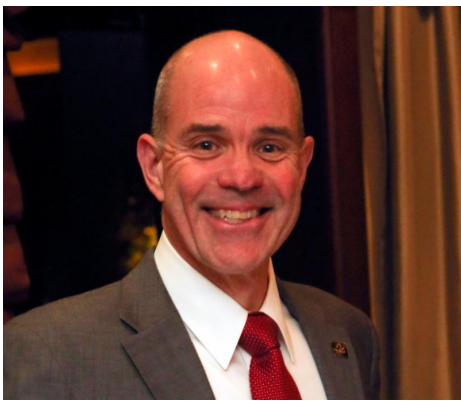




The Arc Thanks Exiting Board President Bob Hage



The Arc of New Jersey would like to take this opportunity to thank Board President Bob Hage, who is finishing up his second, two-year term at the end of June. Bob has led The Arc of New Jersey with integrity, compassion and wisdom. He has rightfully earned the respect of families, self-advocates, staff, and volunteers. Legislators and officials actively seek out his opinions and welcome his ideas. Bob welcomes everyone to the table and then engages them with warmth and good humor, ensuring that every voice is heard. His term of office was full of enormous challenges on the local, state and federal levels yet he never backed down, always meeting every challenge head on, with confidence. Under his leadership we have accomplished many great things, and we thank him for his commitment to our organization and his dedication to people with I/DD.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

During Roundtable Discussion, The Arc of NJ Urges US Senator to Protect Medicaid



Board President Bob Hage and incoming Board Member and The Arc Bergen & Passaic Chairperson Carolyn Hayer spoke with US Senator Bob Menendez and Congressman Bill Pascrell about the American Health Care Act and the devastating impacts of both the legislation and the Medicaid cuts for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Bob and Carolyn talked about their children and the ways Medicaid touches their lives. They explained how Medicaid



Bob and Carolyn were also interviewed by multiple state and national news organizations.

provides for critical long-term supports in the community and they urged the Senator and the Congressman to do everything they can to prevent the AHCA from becoming law as it would have far-reaching and shattering impacts on individuals with I/DD and their families living in New Jersey.

We need your help to "Protect the Lifeline"! Click [here](#) for additional info and resources.

DSP Coalition Comes Out in Force for Wage Increase



More than 50 members of the Coalition for a DSP Living Wage, dressed in green Coalition t-shirts, swarmed the halls of the State House on June 1 to urge legislators to increase wages for Direct Support Professionals in the FY18 Budget. The group, comprised of families, self-advocates, providers and DSPs, spoke with at least 50 elected officials, including the Senate President, members of both Budget Committees, and Senators and Assembly people from across the State. Representatives from the Coalition moved throughout the State House, sought out legislators, provided them with literature on this issue, and impressed upon them the critical need to take action.



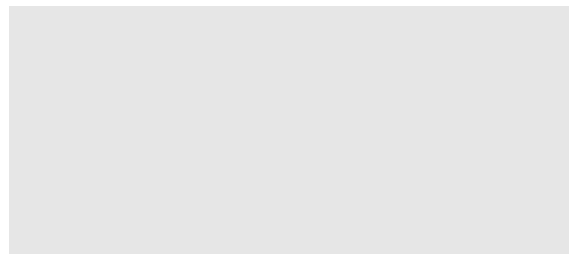
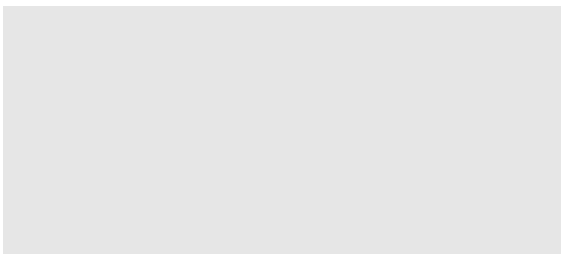
In May, the Coalition filled the Committee rooms for the Department of Human Services budget testimony. This illustrated the importance of DSPs and the critical need for an increase in the FY18 Budget to members of the Administration and legislators. The Arc of New Jersey, as chair of the Coalition, continues to meet one-on-one with budget members throughout the State on this important matter. View more photos on the [Coalition Facebook page](#).

Annual Medical Care Conference Draws Hundreds

More than 330 people and 32 exhibitors filled the Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village for the 28th Annual Conference on Medical Care for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities on Friday, June 2. The conference is geared toward those interested in providing quality healthcare to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The event included opening remarks from DHS Commissioner Elizabeth Connolly, an update from Meghan Davey, Director of the NJ Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, and Darlene Yannetta, Director of Provider and Constituent Relations for the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities, a morning and afternoon keynote presentation, and a number workshops covering a broad range of healthcare topics.



Self-Advocates Get Fit with Hike, Attend Workshop





In May, Self-Advocates participated in Watchung Wednesdays, a new initiative of the Healthy Lifestyles Project, a program generously funded by The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey and developed by the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project team. Watchung Wednesdays is a social and recreational program aimed at providing adults with I/DD with functional education about health and wellness in a community-based setting. During the events, the group discusses topics like stress management, pedestrian safety, healthy snacking, as well as stretching and breathing techniques.



Earlier this month, Michael Pearson, Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator, provided a workshop for Advisors and Officers. During the event, held at The Arc of Ocean County, Michael discussed the role of the group advisor, and the responsibilities of each officer position. He explained the importance of developing leadership within the group, and ways to share skills and experiences. After the presentation, there was an open discussion about DSP wages, the fee-for-service transition, and ways to get more involved in decision-making at the state level. Self-advocates who may have missed the event can attend an upcoming workshop at The Arc of Bergen and Passaic Counties on [Wednesday, June 14](#).

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.

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.



The Arc Gloucester Celebrates 60th Anniversary with Gala

Congratulations to The Arc of Gloucester which celebrated 60 years of service to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities at their Anniversary Gala on April 29. Senate President Steve Sweeney served as the keynote speaker and the event included live entertainment, a silent auction and dancing.



Check Out These Upcoming Events, Webinars

- **SSI & Medicaid Workshop: Bergen County**

Tuesday, June 6 at 6:30 pm

This presentation will begin with a brief overview of The Arc of New Jersey and its programs and services. We will then address many important SSI and Medicaid issues that families may not be aware of, such as:

- What happens to SSI and Medicaid when the parent of an individual with I/DD retires, or if they become disabled, or pass away?
- What are the exceptions to DDD's requirement on having Medicaid?
- What are ABLE Accounts, and how can these accounts be helpful?
- What are PPP services and what is the process to access those services?
- What can families do if they are unable to locate a physician, dentist, or behavioral health provider within their son/daughter's Medicaid HMO network?
- What is a D-SNP and is it helpful for your son/daughter who has both Medicare and Medicaid?



- **Webinar: Preparing for a Fee-for-Service System - A How-to Guide for Families**

Tuesday, June 13 at 12 pm

The New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) has begun transitioning adult services (ages 21+) from a contract reimbursement system to a fee-for-service system. This change will dramatically affect the way individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities access services through DDD. This presentation will help families understand the new system and learn ways in which they can start to prepare.

- **Equal Justice Talks Webinar: Promoting Personal Safety for People with I/DD: Policy, Procedures and Planning Options for Agencies and Families**

Wednesday, June 14 at 1 pm

During this hour long webinar our presenters: Shelly Dacres, Training and Consultation Specialist, the Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities; Melissa Keys DiGioia, CSE, Director of Education, Finding Your Individuality; Tracy A. Higgins, LPC, Finding Your Individuality, will discuss how and why people with I/DD are at a heightened risk for abuse across their lifespan. Having the necessary information, skills, opportunities, and supports is essential in reducing the risk of abuse and exploitation. In this webinar, the presenters will explore the personal safety needs of people with I/DD. They will also discuss the importance of establishing person centered policy, procedure, and programming that promotes personal safety for people with I/DD receiving services in the community.

- **Caring for YOU! Stress Management and Alternative Options - Middlesex County**

Friday, June 23 at 6 pm

Caring for a loved one can put a strain on even the most resilient person. If you're a caregiver, you must take steps to preserve your own health and well-being. Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute and The Arc Middlesex for a workshop designed to help you, the caregiver, learn different ways to alleviate stress. **Respite care is available upon request during this workshop. Contact Sharon Buntin at 732 821-1199 x 141 to RSVP for respite.**

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

STAY CONNECTED

