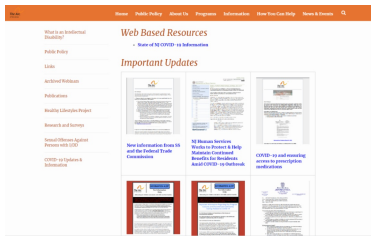




Visit The Arc COVID-19 Updates & Information Web Site



During these extraordinary times, we at The Arc of New Jersey are working diligently to provide support, answers and advocacy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and the community. Please know that our staff are working, some remotely, and will try to help in any way they can. Please call or email us as needed and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Don't forget that valuable information can be accessed through our fact sheets and recorded webinars which you can find [here](#) and [here](#). Also, please be sure to check our [COVID-19](#)

[Updates & Information page](#) for news and resources impacting people with I/DD during this time. This is a challenging period, but our organization is here to support you as best we can in the days and weeks ahead. You can also [click here](#) to download our new infographic detailing the services we offer.

Families, Advocates Testify on FY21 Budget



Above, Executive Director Tom Baffuto and Immediate Past President Bob Hage testify before the Senate Budget Committee on March 19.



Self-Advocates from the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Network meet in Trenton with Department of Human Services Commissioner Johnson and senior level members of her team on March 11.

In March, The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto and Immediate Past President Bob Hage testified before the Senate Budget Committee at Rowan University to support the Governor's proposals for Direct Support Professional wage increases and additional funding for day program services. We also advocated for the Legislature to include rate increases for Early Intervention Services which have not gone up in 15 years. Bob spoke about his family's experience with the Early Intervention System and how critical those supports are to babies and toddlers with developmental delays. Members of the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Network also testified before the Senate Budget Committee at the Newark hearing. Due to COVID-19, the Assembly Budget Committee canceled their in-person hearings scheduled for March, but The Arc of New Jersey still weighed in by submitting testimony electronically. To continue reading, [click here](#).

Summit Focuses on Preventing Sexual Abuse



On March 2, The Arc of New Jersey hosted a Partners in Justice Law and Law Enforcement Summit entitled, "Preventing Sexual Abuse and Harassment of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities." The event, held at the New Jersey Law Center, included an opening keynote highlighting national efforts on this topic, a morning panel on communications between individuals with I/DD and law enforcement, and an afternoon panel which focused on guardianship and sexual consent. This project is co-sponsored by the NJ State Bar Association, The NJ Institute of Continuing Legal Education and the NJ State Bar Foundation, and made possible through funding from the IOLTA Fund of the NJ State Bar. We would like to

thank our speakers, sponsors, attendees and funders for helping make this event happen.

The Arc Adds Asst. Dir of Children's Advocacy

In recognition of the issues impacting children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, The Arc of New Jersey created a new Assistant Director of Children's Advocacy position to assist individuals as they navigate early intervention, special education and the Children's Systems of Care. Toward that end, we'd like to welcome Michael Pearson Jr. to this new role and find out more about what his goals are as he takes on this exciting new position. Michael previously worked as a Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator with The Arc of New Jersey's Self-Advocacy Project.

1. How long were you with the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project and what will you bring with you from that role as you take on children's advocacy?

I was with NJSAP two weeks shy of 3 years. My experience with NJSAP has allowed me to become very familiar with disability-related legislation and how the state legislative process functions.

I have learned a variety of advocacy styles, and how to implement certain strategies for outreach and awareness.

To continue reading a Q&A with Michael Pearson Jr., [click here](#).



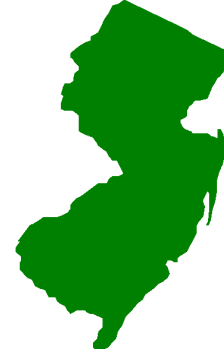
The Arc of NJ Postpones Spring Events

To ensure the health and safety of attendees, the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project is postponing their Spring Into Action Awards Luncheon to Saturday, June 20, 2020. Those interested in attending must register by May 20. The event will take place, as originally planned, at the Imperia in Somerset at 10 am. Click [here](#) for additional information and to register for the event. The Mainstreaming Medical Care Conference, which was scheduled for May 29, 2020, will now take place on September 21, 2020. Keep a look out for additional information in the weeks to come.



Job Opportunities for DSPs

The Arc of New Jersey is proud to represent 20 local county Chapters of The Arc who serve people with I/DD and their families in every region of the state. Many of these Chapters are currently looking to hire Direct Support Professionals during this critical time. If you, or someone you know, is interested in working with people with I/DD, please [click here](#) to view a list of local County Chapters as well as their



Learn More About the 2020 Census



The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project is presenting a brand [new training on the Census](#). Every 10 years, everyone in the United States is counted through the census. It is important that everyone is counted because the census data impacts many key things like how much money state and local governments get for Medicaid, housing vouchers, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and education programs. Census data is also used to determine how many representatives each state gets in the House of Representatives. Check out our [census page here](#).

Upcoming Webinars!

Register today for one of the many events hosted by The Arc of New Jersey. Looking for more? Check out our [calendar](#).



Webinar: Supported Employment for People with I/DD and Criminal Histories

Wednesday, April 8 at 2 pm

Jessica Oppenheim, Director, Criminal Justice Advocacy Program, The Arc of New Jersey and Wesley Anderson, Director, Training & Consultation Services, The Arc of New Jersey, will provide a one hour webinar giving an overview of how criminal histories can impact on a supported employment specialist's efforts to assist a person with I/DD and a criminal history in obtaining employment. This webinar will provide an overview of the legal issues, employment issues, and provide direction to overcome the obstacles.

[Register here!](#)

Webinar: Sibling Rivals: Conflict Resolution for Children with I/DD and their Siblings

Thursday, April 9 at 6 pm

For this webinar, Kara Kushnir will discuss the uniqueness of the relationship between typical siblings and their brother/sister(s) with I/DD, including how siblings may perceive their sibling, how conflicts between siblings may be the same and different among them compared to typical sibling relationships, and ways families can respond in an effective manner. Specific responses to various situations will be discussed, including how parents can assess the size of the conflict and, thus, the most effective way to respond. Best practices, practical solutions and safety for siblings will be discussed.

[Register here!](#)

PFAL Webinar Wednesday Series: Creating a Transition Plan: Why it is Important for Your Student's Future

Wednesday, April 15 at 3 pm

The transition planning process includes evaluating the student's skills, abilities, strengths, challenges, and preferences to envision their life after leaving school. Planning involves setting goals for the student to strive toward and identifying the need for supports. Carrying out the transition plan can begin and should be a part of the student's Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). Students and families must be actively involved in the transition planning process as early as possible and keep it moving forward. This presentation discusses the importance of planning, the steps necessary to plan, and provides hands-on tools to put a plan in place.

[Register here!](#)

Webinar: Preparing for Next Steps While Still in School

Wednesday, April 15 at 12 pm

Each year, multitudes of students prepare to leave school in search of the perfect job, place to live,

relationships, and lifestyle. For a person without a disability, this change from the secure world of school to the uncertainty of adulthood can be stressful and challenging. Join us as we discuss how to tackle a transition plan and what steps you can take to make sure that your child is ready to transition into adult life.

[Register here!](#)

Webinar: Sexual Rights, Autonomy and Disability Part 2

Thursday, April 16 at 2 pm

Please join us for the second half of a two part webinar, with guest speakers Professor Jasmine Harris, University of California at Davis and Professor Natalie Chin, City University of New York School of Law and Co-Director of the Disability and Aging Justice Clinic, who will be discussing issues around sexual autonomy and sexual rights as civil rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

[Register here!](#)

PFAL Webinar Wednesday Series: Yes, Your Child Can Work: Exploring the World of Work Wednesday, April 29 at 3 pm

For many people, a job is something that helps define who they are. It gives us a meaningful place to go everyday, a way to explore our interests, a means of earning money, and a way to be a part of our community. This workshop will discuss different employment options available to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and hands-on tools for preparing students for employment.

[Register here!](#)

Use Your Amazon App to Support The Arc of New Jersey

If you are an AmazonSmile customer, you can now support The Arc of New Jersey, Inc. in the Amazon shopping app on your Android device! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

1. If you have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping App, open the App on your Android device.
2. View Settings and select AmazonSmile.
3. Follow the in-App instructions to complete the process.

If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon shopping App, update your App. Click [here](#) for instructions.



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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