



June 2016

UPDATE FROM THE STATE HOUSE

Gov Signs FY17 Budget, Priority Legislation Passes

On Thursday, June 30, Governor Christie signed a \$34.5 billion State Budget that includes \$79 million in growth to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in New Jersey. The funding outlined in the final document represents a big commitment to community living by way of a significant increase in the number of housing vouchers as well as funding to address the Waiting List. These were both high-priority items in The Arc of New Jersey's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget campaign. Overall, the State Budget is very much in-line with our top advocacy areas.



Board President Robert Hage, left, and Executive Director Tom Baffuto, right, testify before the Assembly Human Services Committee in June.

The Budget also includes monies to assist people moving out of developmental centers, to address the needs of students as they age out of their educational entitlement, and to respond to emergencies. Additionally, the FY17 Budget includes funding for community providers as they transition to fee-for-service. Unfortunately, a line item of \$20 million added by the Legislature for direct support professionals was vetoed by the Governor.

We are thankful to all of the families, self-advocates, local County Chapters of The Arc and community partners who unified behind our budget message, participated in our action alerts and supported our work. To continue reading, [click here](#).

Mainstreaming Medical Care hosts 27th Annual Conference



MMC Chair Leone Murphy, Executive Director Tom Baffuto, MMC Director Beverly Roberts, DHS Commissioner Connolly and Board President Robert Hage spoke at last month's annual conference.

The Arc of New Jersey's Mainstreaming Medical Care (MMC) Program hosted their 27th annual conference at the Westin Hotel in Princeton, New Jersey on Friday, June 3. The event was attended by more than 330 people and included a number of high-profile speakers, two outstanding keynote sessions and a variety of workshops. The conference was an important opportunity for attendees to learn more about providing quality health care to



Self-Advocates Will Celebrate, Recognize ADA Anniversary



Pictured Above: Self-Advocates celebrate the importance of the Americans with Disabilities Act at last year's awareness event in Point Pleasant, New Jersey.

The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project team, along with members from the regional Councils of the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network, will be at the Point Pleasant Beach Boardwalk on Friday, July 8, 2016 to celebrate Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness Month. This important legislation, signed into law in July 1990, was a big step forward for people with I/DD because it prohibits discrimination based on a person having a disability. The Self-Advocacy Project will set up an information table between 10 am and 2 pm and will speak with people about the significance of this law as well the importance of person-first language and the elimination of the R-word. If you're a Self-Advocate and you're interested in attending, contact Dennis at dtonatelli@arcnj.org or 732-743-8345.

The Arc Celebrates Long-Time Staff Members at Luncheon

The Arc of New Jersey had the pleasure of honoring two of our longest-serving staff members last month at our annual spring luncheon. Congratulations to Project Hire Job Developer Marge



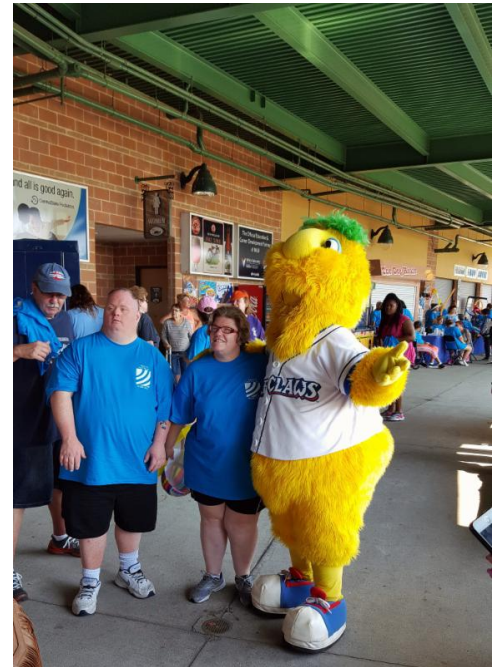
individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Speakers included DHS Commissioner Connolly, DDD Assistant Commissioner Shea, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services Director Davey, as well as keynote speaker Dr. Rick Rader. To view additional photos, click [here](#).



Morning Keynote Speaker Dr Rick Rader.

Supporters 'Step Up' for Local County Walkathons across NJ

Step Up For The Arc is an annual statewide initiative of The Arc of New Jersey, with walkathons held locally by every county Chapter. Spring Walks are now complete but don't worry - Walks will resume in September, so be sure to check out this [site](#) for more details and upcoming dates. Looking to make a donation in the meantime? Contact the local county Chapter in your area by visiting this [site](#).



Buster, the Lakewood BlueClaws mascot, greets supporters and attendees at The Arc of Ocean County Walkathon.

Register Now for Summer Webinars and Workshops

WEBINAR - Supporting Students with Intellectual and Developmental Differences Build Social Skills

This webinar will discuss a variety of avenues that can be explored to assist in building and maintaining social skills for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The presenter will also discuss how to find these opportunities in the community. The presenter, Annette L Becklund, is the director and owner of Annette L Becklund, MSW, LCSW & Associates LLC. Annette's practice specializes in Autism, Asperger's, Developmental Differences and all unique

Lenehan, left, and Associate Executive Director Celine Fortin, right, who are celebrating 25 years with The Arc! That's a tremendous milestone and we are thrilled that Celine and Marge have dedicated their lives to helping people with intellectual and developmental disabilities!



'10 in 10' Podcast Introduces Listeners to Local Chapters

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute wants to connect you with our local County Chapters and the wide array of services and supports that they offer. With that in mind, they recently launched the "10 in 10" podcast series which includes 10 questions in 10 minutes with the executive director or a staff person at the local County Chapter. These conversations will be uploaded to the Family Institute web site and can be streamed or downloaded for your listening preference. The first podcast in this new series was conducted with Peggy Englebert, Executive Director at The Arc Camden.



Peggy Englebert, the Executive Director at The Arc of Camden County, was recently featured on the "10 in 10" podcast series.

[Click here](#) to listen to the first episode of the "10 in 10" podcast series, and be sure to check back often to learn more about the services and supports available through your local County Chapter of The Arc.

PLANNED GIVING CORNER

Learning About Wills, Bequests

Taking control of your estate plans is very important because there are a number of disadvantages to foregoing it. Just to give you an idea...

1. Each State has its own way of distributing assets after the death of a person without a will. If a State steps in, your family and relatives will not be consulted about your intentions and preferences.
2. Most people think their spouse will automatically inherit everything and that is not always true.
3. If you are married and you and your spouse die together, you have no say about who will raise your minor children.
4. The Courts can choose a stranger or someone whom you would not want to serve to handle the settlement of your estate, and it may be expensive to pay someone to do this work.
5. You will not have the opportunity to leave a charitable bequest

in Autism, Asperger's, Developmental Differences and all unique ways of being. Individual therapy, group social skills therapy for adults and kids, family therapy, trauma therapy, special interest clubs, Adult Autism and Asperger's Evaluations, Professional Development programs, Consultations, and more are available.

[Wednesday, July 20 at 12 pm](#)

WORKSHOP - Caring for Yourself: Stress Management and Alternative Options

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 Bayada for a workshop designed to help you, the caregiver, learn different ways to alleviate stress. The presenter will be Dawn Mitten - a parent, licensed massage therapist and Reiki practitioner.

[Thursday, July 21 at 6:30 pm in Mount Laurel NJ](#)

WEBINAR - School Anxiety in Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Starting school, moving and other stressful life events may trigger the onset of school refusal. Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute as we discuss the trigger, symptoms, and ways parents and caregivers can help support the child through their anxiety. The webinar's presenter will be PJ Wenger, LPC, MFT, NCC who has 17 years experience working in the field of mental health. She has spent considerable time in a variety of settings developing her counseling experience. These settings include psychiatric emergency, inpatient treatment with both adults and children, home care for mental health issues, residential treatment, schools and private practice.

[Thursday, August 11 at 6 pm](#)

Project HIRE Records Strong Numbers in FY16

As Project HIRE closed out Fiscal Year 2016, the program reported outstanding data about the volume of supported individuals and services rendered. Here's a quick look:

- In FY16, Project HIRE delivered approximately **36,000** service hours - of which **2,000** were in the CBVI program which was initiated just six months ago to serve people with visual impairments - and approximately **8,000** of the hours delivered were in the School to Work/Transition program.
- Additionally, Project HIRE placed more than **270** individuals into competitive employment.

Congratulations on the great work!



Helping People with I/DD Access Medicaid Services

If you are having difficulties accessing important services from the

to your favorite charity.

6. If you have minor children, money can be tied up in the courts that may be needed for their care.

7. When each child reaches the age of majority (age 18 in New Jersey) he or she receives their inheritance all at once in a lump sum.

8. And, if you do not have a will, the unique needs of a child with a disability could lead to important support services to be impacted.

Getting started on making decisions about your estate can be daunting. Start by [clicking here](#) to request our free "Will and Trust Planning Guide." This guide is a great way to begin the planning process and collect your information in preparation for meeting with an estate planning professional.

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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Medicaid system, The Arc of New Jersey wants to help. **Please download our Medicaid Problem Form [here](#), fill it out and then fax or email the completed form to Jennifer Lynch at 732-784-6397 or JLynch@arcnj.org. Once we receive the form, our office will contact you in the coming days regarding next steps.**

The Medicaid Problem Form was developed as a helpful way to obtain concise information on problems that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) are having in obtaining medically necessary services from the Medicaid system.



In addition to the advocacy we have always provided for Medicaid beneficiaries with I/DD, we are currently seeking to assist any Medicaid beneficiary with I/DD who is having difficulty accessing behavioral health services, including services from a psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse practitioner, psychologist and/or social worker.

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