



Self-Advocates Celebrate ADA Anniversary



Fifty self-advocates headed to the Point Pleasant Boardwalk in July to celebrate the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and to recognize the tremendous impact the ADA has had on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Self-Advocates set up an information table and spoke with beachgoers. They distributed materials to educate others about the importance of the law and promoted the [R-word pledge](#) which asks people to pledge to stop saying the R-word as a starting point toward creating more accepting attitudes and communities for all people. To view more photos, [click here](#).

Directors Share Insights at Leadership Institute

Two Project Directors from The Arc of New Jersey traveled to Philadelphia in July to present workshops at the Summer Leadership Institute. Each year The Arc and NCE hold a two-and-a-half-day Summer Leadership Institute for senior leaders and staff from across the disability and public service sector. This was a great opportunity to showcase the unique work we are doing here at The Arc of New Jersey. Family Institute Director Lisa Ford delivered a workshop entitled: ["Making The Arc The 'Go To' Place for Families Caring for a Loved One with I/DD"](#) and Criminal Justice Advocacy Program Director Jessica Oppenheim delivered a workshop entitled: ["Are You Effectively Serving Clients with Criminal Justice Involvement: Overview of a Best Practice Program in New Jersey."](#)



NEW LOCATION!

Self-Advocates Plan 35th Annual Fall Conference

Each year The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project and the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network come together to host the annual New Jersey Self-Advocacy Network Fall Conference for an all-day event of advocacy, education, socializing, and networking. This year's conference will take place on Saturday, Sept. 29th, at a **new location: The Westin Princeton.**

The event will include workshops on a variety of issues including: transportation, supported employment, healthy relationships and dating,

support coordination and independent living skills and emergency preparedness. The registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 7th, so [click here](#) to reserve your spot! Questions? Contact Frankie Bayak at fbayak@arcnj.org or call (732) 749-8514.



Warren and Essex Chapters Host Events, Celebrate



On July 14, The Arc of Warren County hosted a [sprint triathlon](#) in Liberty, New Jersey. The event included a 0.5 swim, a 15 mile bike and a 3 mile run. Proceeds will support The Arc of Warren County and their service to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto attended this wonderful event and is pictured above.

On Thursday, June 28th, The Arc of Essex County hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony and donor recognition event to unveil the recreational improvements made to the Camp Hope grounds as part of the Create Play Capital Campaign.

More than 50 individual and foundation donors, Arc Board and staff, government officials, and families attended. The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto was on hand to celebrate this great event. [Click here](#) for more details.



Chapters Step Up For The Arc 2018

The Step Up For The Arc walks are 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. Make sure to [check out this page](#) for details about an upcoming walk near you!

The Arc of Ocean, pictured above at their 2016 walk, will hold their event on Saturday, Oct. 13 at FirstEnergy Park in Lakewood. The Arc of Hunterdon will host their walk on Sept. 15 and The Arc of Atlantic will host their walk on Oct. 20th. [Click here](#) for locations and start times.

Check Out this Upcoming Webinar

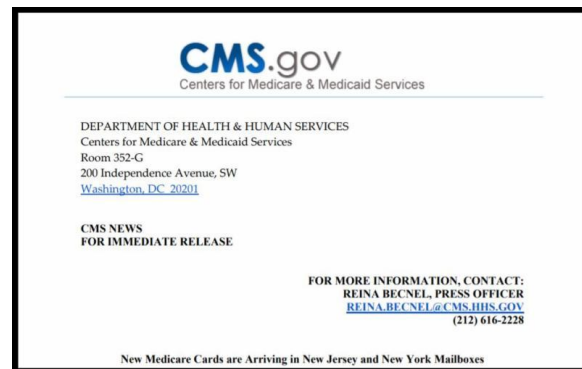
Equal Justice Talks Webinar Series #1 - Creating Pathways to Justice for People with I/DD in 2018 and Beyond
Thursday, September 20 at 2 pm

Leigh Ann Davis, of the National Center on Criminal Justice and Developmental Disabilities, will provide an update of the resource available through the National Center, an overview of training initiatives being implemented by the Center and its partners, as well as a "state of the nation" review of issues important to this population.



New Medicare Cards are Arriving in NJ Mailboxes

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is mailing new Medicare cards to protect the safety and security of people with Medicare benefits. The new Medicare cards no longer contain a person's Social Security number, but rather a unique, randomly-assigned Medicare number that protects the identities of people with Medicare reduces fraud and offers better safeguards of important health and financial information. "Removing Social Security numbers from Medicare cards is one of the many ways CMS is committed to putting patients first and improving the consumer healthcare experience," said Regional Administrator Ray Hurd. "This change not only protects Medicare patients from fraud, but also safeguards taxpayer dollars by making it harder for criminals to use Social Security numbers to falsely bill Medicare for care services and benefits that were never performed." [Click here](#) to keep reading.



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

STAY CONNECTED

DONATE NOW!

