



## UPDATE FROM TRENTON

### Families Celebrate Caregivers Month in Trenton



Family members celebrated National Family Caregiver Month at the State House in November by speaking with their elected officials about their day-to-day experiences of supporting a loved one with I/DD. This annual event, hosted by The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute, gives families the chance to meet and speak to their elected officials and talk about the issues they care about. This included the important role of Direct Support Professionals and caring for a loved one at home. Senate President Sweeney, members of the Senate and Assembly Budget...(to continue reading [click here](#))

Assemblywoman Carol Murphy, pictured above, presented families with a resolution recognizing November as National Family Caregiver Month.



Assemblyman Raj Mukherji visits with families at the State House.



Senate President Sweeney stops by The Arc of NJ's National Family Caregiver Month event.

### The Arc, Chapters Head to Nashville for Conference

Representatives from The Arc of New Jersey and local County Chapters of



The Arc were in Nashville last month for The Arc National Convention. The Convention is an annual gathering of families, advocates, and professionals in the disability community. For three days, attendees from all across the country have the chance to learn from and with each other, and expand their knowledge on a variety of topics. Workshops covered a broad range of topics, including: advocacy, supports & services, housing, employment, and Direct Support Professionals.

## Executive Director Named Advocate of the Year

Executive Director Tom Baffuto was honored to receive the 2018 Advocate of the Year Award from the New Jersey Association of Community Providers at their 35th Annual Conference on November 16. Tom received the award in recognition of his outstanding leadership as Chairperson of the Coalition for a DSP Living Wage. In that role, Tom did tremendous work to raise the visibility of the Direct Support Professional workforce crisis. He worked tirelessly to highlight this critical matter with policymakers, advocates and members of the press. Under his leadership, the FY18 and FY19 Budget included funds to start to address this issue.



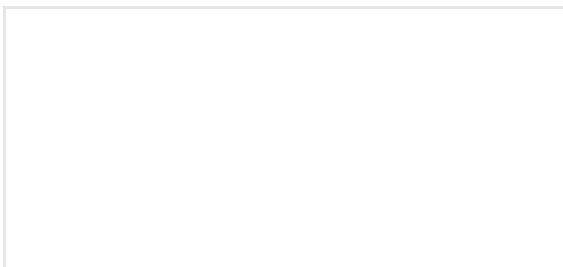
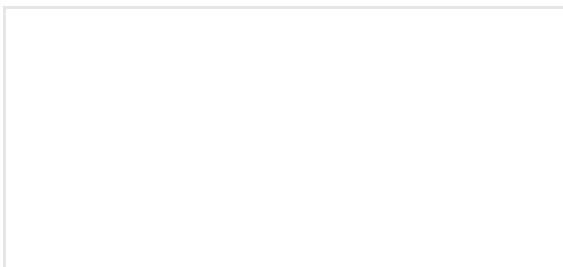
Executive Director Tom Baffuto accepts the 2018 Advocate of the Year Award at the NJACP Conference at Bally's in Atlantic City.



Representatives from The Arc of New Jersey and local County Chapters of The Arc attended the NJACP luncheon to celebrate Tom receiving this award.

## Self-Advocacy Project Presents at NJACP Event

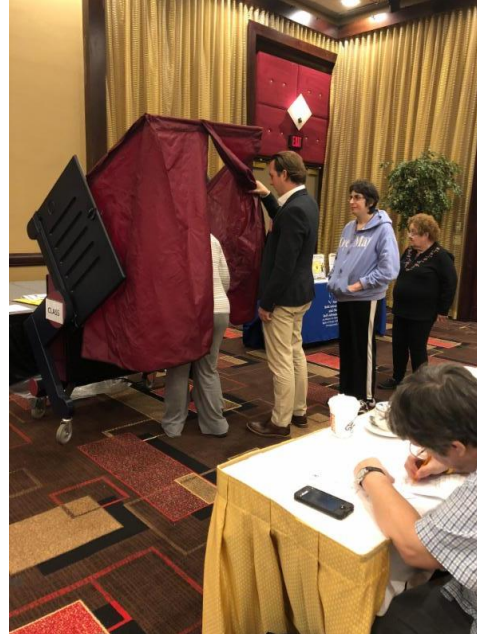
Members of the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project presented two sessions as part of a Self-Advocacy Track at the New Jersey Association of Community Providers Conference in Atlantic City last month. The first session, entitled "Forming Self-Advocacy Groups" focused on the roles and responsibilities of group members, elected officers, and group advisors. The presentation gave an outline for not only starting a group, but building and maintaining one, for those with I/DD and those who support them (DSPs, family, friends). The second session was about the Governmental Affairs Ambassador Program (GAAP), a program of the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project to provide Self-Advocates and DSPs with education about effectively impacting legislation and policy decisions. This workshop focused on New Jersey's state government and how individuals can make their voices heard. It also functioned as a guide to reaching one's potential as an advocate as well as emphasizing the role DSPs play in empowering the people they support.







New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project Outreach & Communications Coordinator Daniel Pearson presents about the Governmental Affairs Ambassador Program at the conference.



New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator Michael Pearson Jr. explains the voting process to Self-Advocates at the conference.

## DCF Commissioner Seeking Feedback from Families

**Does your child receive services through PerformCare (NJ Department of Children and Families Children's System of Care)?** If so, the Department of Children and Families Commissioner Christine Norbut Beyer wants to hear from you! The Arc of New Jersey is partnering with Family Support Organizations to host Listening Sessions with Commissioner Beyer. **This is your opportunity to share your concerns, ideas and challenges regarding PerformCare and the Children's System of Care.** Click the pictures below to download the flyers.

A flyer for the New Jersey Department of Children and Families' Commissioner's Listening Tour. It features the department's logo at the top, followed by the title "The Commissioner's Listening Tour" in blue. Below this, it states "For Parents &amp; Youths Served within CSOC with Christine Norbut Beyer, M.S.W." and describes the purpose of the tour. The date and time are "Wednesday December 5th 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm" at the "Ocean Partnership for Children, Inc. 36 Washington Street • Toms River NJ". It includes contact information: "732-569-6334 or nina.sonatore@oceanfso.org". Logos for "Ocean County Family Support Organization, Inc." and "The Arc of New Jersey" are at the bottom.

**Wednesday, December 5**

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Ocean Partnership for Children

36 Washington St.

Toms River, NJ 08753

Register by calling or emailing: 732-569-6334 or

[nina.sonatore@oceanfso.org](mailto:nina.sonatore@oceanfso.org)



Family Partners of Morris & Sussex Counties and The Arc are proud to present!

**New Jersey Children's System of Care listening tour!**

Christine Norbut Beyer, M.S.W.  
Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families

is meeting with local Family Support Organization's, their Youth Partnership programs and LOCAL FAMILIES to address their behavioral health needs.

This is an opportunity for The Commissioner to hear from families and youth about their strengths, ideas and challenges.

**December 6, 2018  
from 5:30pm - 7:30pm**

67 Spring Street  
Newton NJ 07860

Registration required  
973-940-3194



**Thursday, December 6**

5:30 - 7:30 pm

Family Partners of Morris & Sussex

67 Spring St

Newton, NJ 07860

Register by calling

973-940-3194

## Chapters Host Galas & Fundraisers in November



The Arc of Somerset County's  
Arc Angel Gala



The Arc of Middlesex County's  
8th Annual Wine and Cheese  
Event



The Arc of Monmouth County's  
Winter Glow Ball

## CJAP Dir. Speaks About Human Trafficking, Disabilities

Criminal Justice Advocacy Program Director Jessica Oppenheim presented at the fall meeting of the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking about Human Trafficking and Disabilities on Thursday, November 15, at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. Many people fall victim to the perils of human trafficking, but individuals often left out of the conversation as being at risk are those with disabilities. The event included discussion on the concerns of the disability community, what can be done to empower them, and how we can all work together to create a safer state. This important presentation, which you can view [here](#), was also live-streamed on Facebook.



## Check Out These Upcoming Webinars & Events

### Webinar: The ABLE Act: A Down Payment on Freedom [Wednesday, December 5 at 6 pm](#)

This webinar will discuss the ABLE Act, a way for people with disabilities to save for qualified disability expenses without losing your eligibility for certain assistance programs, like SSI and Medicaid. Information will include how to open an ABLE account and what it can be used for.



### College Tour: Keep Achieving (kach) at Brookdale [Friday, December 7 at 10 am](#)

Too often students with intellectual and developmental disabilities aren't encouraged to consider college for their future. The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute wants to change that. With the right services and supports in place, many young adults can successfully attend college and graduate with a degree. The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute invites you and your student to tour the below college program offered to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### Free Parent Forum and Opportunity Expo - Tinton Falls

**Saturday, December 8 at 9 am**

These events are held throughout the state and consist of a Parent Forum that includes workshops (45-60 minutes) on specific topics including: support coordination, the continuum of community services, financial planning, eligibility requirements, and where to find help. The Opportunity Expo features a variety of exhibitors including: state and county government entities, community service providers, service coordinators, local health care support, recreation providers, and information & referral services. Families will have the chance to learn more about the resources in their communities and will also have the opportunity to speak with and interview potential service providers.

**Webinar: Understanding State Services for Children (under 21) with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

**Tuesday, December 11 at 6 pm**

Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute for an overview of New Jersey's Children's System of Care (CSOC). Participants will learn about the services and supports CSOC can provide to children under 21 with intellectual and developmental disabilities and how to access them.

**Lunch & Learn Webinar Safety Series: People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Growing Old: Understanding and Supporting Age-Related Health Changes**

**Wednesday, December 12 at 12 pm**

Please join us as Margaret Gilbride, JD, CT, the Director of Transition, Employment, Aging & Disability at The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, discusses how to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) through the aging process. We will discuss ways to improve accessibility at home and in community settings such as day programs, fitness centers, and places of worship.

**Free IEP Reviews with the Attorneys of Hinkle, Fingles, Prior & Fischer, Attorneys at Law**

**Thursday, December 13 at 6 pm**

Navigating through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process can seem overwhelming, but that's where The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute can help. We are offering regional IEP reviews for families who may have questions or concerns about their 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. Families will receive a free 30 minute IEP review. **Contact Kristina Tosti or Elizabeth Piston at (609) 896-4200 to reserve your time slot.**

Agenda: Know Your Rights: An overview 6 - 6:30 pm, 6:30 - 9 pm Individual IEP Review (1:1, 30 minute session)

---

## 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](mailto:info@arcnj.org) | [www.arcnj.org](http://www.arcnj.org)

STAY CONNECTED

DONATE NOW!

