



At the Capital, The Arc Advocates on NJ Transit, Special Education Issues

In January, The Arc of New Jersey attended Governor Murphy's State of the State Address and then had the pleasure of speaking with the Governor at an invitation-only reception following the speech.

(Executive Director Tom Baffuto is pictured right with Governor Phil Murphy.) The reception was a very important opportunity to interact with the Governor and other key representatives serving in his cabinet. Also last month,

representatives from The Arc of New Jersey met with Department of Education Commissioner Dr. Lamont Repollet and members of his team to discuss a variety of special education issues impacting students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We used this opportunity to raise a number of critical matters that students and their families face as they navigate the special education system and related services. Additionally, The Arc of New Jersey was among a select group of invited guests who testified before the Senate Select Committee on NJ Transit. The hearing, spearheaded by Senate President Steve Sweeney, was convened in order to find ways to make NJ Transit services more accessible to people with disabilities. To continue reading, [click here](#).



The Arc of New Jersey met with the Department of Education (DOE) on January 22, in Trenton. Pictured from left to right: DOE Director Dominic Rota, The Arc of NJ's Associate Executive Director Celine Fortin, DOE Commissioner Dr. Lamont Repollet, DOE Assistant Commissioner Peggy McDonald, First Vice President at The Arc of NJ Kevin Sturges, The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto and Governmental Affairs Director Sharon Levine.



Self-Advocates and disability organizations, including The Arc of New Jersey, are pictured at the State House before the Senate Select Committee on NJ Transit on January 16th. Pictured top: Senators Corrado and Senator Kean with advocates. Pictured bottom: Senate President Sweeney with advocates.

The Arc of NJ to Host Three Big Spring Events

Partners in Justice Law and Law Enforcement Summit
Preventing Sexual Abuse and Harassment of
Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Monday, March 2, 2020

New Jersey Law Center
One Constitution Square
New Brunswick, NJ 08901 [Click here to register](#)

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Continental Breakfast & Registration

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Opening Keynote Speaker
Providing a National Overview: Proactive Responses to Sexual Violence and Harassment. **Speaker: Leigh Ann Davis, Director, National Center for Criminal Justice and Disability, The Arc of the United States.**

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM Break

10:45 AM - 12:30 PM Morning Panel
Communications between Individuals with IDD and Law Enforcement. Effective Interview and Communication Techniques: Improving Victim-Witness Relations for People with IDD. **Speakers: Robert Leavitt, Esq., Chair, New Jersey Clergy Abuse Task Force, Former Acting Essex County Prosecutor; Leone Murphy, APH, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner; Administrator, S-CORE Program, Trinity Regional Medical Center; Chairperson, The Arc of New Jersey, Mainstreaming Medical Care Advisory Board.**

12:30 PM - 1:15 PM Lunch

1:15 PM - 4:00 PM Afternoon Panel
Guardianship and Sexual Consent: The Changing Face of Guardianship and The Impact on Consent including People with Developmental Disabilities in the Nation's Discussion about Understanding Sexual Consent. **Speakers: Elizabeth Shea, Esq., Former Assistant Commissioner, Department of Human Services, NJ Division of Developmental Disability; Michael R. Brower, Esq., Supervising Attorney, Disability Rights New Jersey; Ashley Brumpton, Esq., Program Associate, Center on Victimization and Safety, Vera Institute of Justice.**

This Summit is made possible by funding from the NJ State Fund for the New Jersey State Bar Foundation.

Click above for details and registration information on the [Partners in Justice Law and Law Enforcement Summit](#).

The 15th Annual
Spring Into Action Luncheon
will take place on

**Saturday,
April 18th, 2020
10:00AM - 2:00PM**

LOCATION:
The Imperia
1714 Easton Ave.,
Somerset, NJ 08873

Register online at www.njselfadvocacyproject.org
OR
Register by filling out the form on the reverse side

NJSAP@ArcNJ.org / 732-749-8514 / www.njselfadvocacyproject.org
The event is hosted by:

**New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project
&
Statewide Self-Advocacy Network**
committed to be the voice and face of
Promoting Advocacy and Independence for People
with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Click above for details and registration information on the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project's [Spring Into Action Luncheon](#).

Save the Date

The Arc of New Jersey's
31st Annual Conference on Medical and Dental Care
For Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village
Princeton, NJ

Friday, May 29, 2020

Conference brochures will be available
in March 2020!

Exhibitor and Contributor opportunities available!

This conference provides an excellent opportunity
to publicize your health-related products or services
for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For further information, please contact Jennifer Lynch at:
conference@arcnj.org / 732.796.4397

Contact with us
[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

Click above for details and registration information on the 31st annual Conference on Medical and Dental Care for Persons with I/DD.

Spring is closer than you think, and you don't want to miss three of our big events. In March, the Criminal Justice Advocacy Program will host: "Partners in Justice Law and Law Enforcement Summit: Preventing Sexual Abuse and Harassment of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. This event will be held at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick. In April, the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project will hold their annual Spring into Action Luncheon at the Imperia in Somerset. Hundreds of advocates from across the state attend this annual event which includes food, networking and an awards celebration. Finally, the Mainstreaming Medical Care Conference will take place at the end of May at the Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village. The conference is intended for everyone who is concerned about providing quality health care to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Cadets Learn About Firefighting, Meet Volunteers



Cadets participating in the Growth Through Opportunity (GTO) Program had the chance to learn more about being a firefighter when they visited Marlboro First District #1 last month as part of their ongoing experience with the program. Cadets received a tour of the fire house, tried out the equipment and got a first-hand look at the trucks. This was a great opportunity to speak directly to dedicated volunteers who protect our community when an emergency occurs. The GTO Program gives job skills training in law enforcement agencies to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. After completing the training, individuals will have transferable job, life and social skills. Thank you to [Marlboro Fire District #1](#) for hosting the cadets and showing them the ropes.



Chapter Spotlight: The Arc of Warren County

John Whitehead now leads The Arc of Warren County as the Chapter's CEO, but his tenure with the agency actually began in the 1980s as a Direct Support Professional (DSP). His experience as a DSP, and the many roles that followed, helps to inform the work he does today leading the organization which serves hundreds of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families living in Warren County. We wanted to take a moment to spotlight John and the work he's doing as part of our ongoing feature focusing on the wonderful services provided by Chapters of The Arc.

1. When did you start as the Executive Director of The Arc of Warren? I took over as the Interim CEO in April of 2018 and was officially hired as CEO in October of 2018.

2. Tell us a little bit about your background and how you're using your past experiences in your new role? I actually began at The Arc of Warren County in 1983 while I was a student at The College of New Jersey. I worked as a DSP in our first group home. I then worked my way up and became an assistant group home manager, manager, Assistant Director of Residential Services, Director of Community Living Arrangements, Chief Operating Officer, and now Chief Executive Officer. [To continue reading, click here.](#)



The Arc of NJ Announces Grant & Donation Opportunity



We are excited to announce that The Arc of New Jersey has received a \$25,000 grant from Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. The donation, made through The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, will be used to fund the [Healthy Lifestyles Project](#) (HLP). This is the 6th year we have received this funding for this very special



Great news! For the entire month of

project and we are grateful to The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey as these monies will help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities learn how to live a healthy lifestyle through diet, exercise and stress management.

February, when you purchase a \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the **Stop & Shop located at 24 Summerfield Boulevard, Dayton**, \$1 is donated to The Arc of New Jersey. The Community Bags are located on displays around the store and at the checkout. For more information about the program, please visit stopandshop.bags4mycause.com

Self-Advocates Prep for Voting & Census while Family Institute Connects with Caregivers



The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project hosted a voting demonstration last month in Toms River (pictured above). This was an important chance to talk about why voting matters and to see a demonstration of the voting process in advance of November's election. In addition, NJSAP 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](#).



The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute Coordinator Cheryl Crick was on hand in Jersey City on January 11, for the Family Festival, where she had the opportunity to meet and speak with First Lady Tammy Murphy. Approximately 2,100 mothers, fathers, grandparents, and others involved in taking care of a child attended the Family Festival which creates a one-stop shop for state, county, and local resources. Attendees had access to prenatal care and midwives, eye exams, pediatric services, mental health and addiction services, energy assistance programs, child care centers, food and housing assistance programs, and more. Cheryl provided attendees with caregiver information and resources for those supporting a loved one with I/DD.

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: 2020 Census. Shape Your Future. **Wednesday, February 5 at 6 pm**

Every 10 years, the government reports the number of people who live in the U.S. by conducting a count called the Census. This year, the census will begin on April 1. The Census determines how many seats each state receives in the U.S. House of Representatives and state, local and federal governments use Census information for planning and allocating billions in federal funds. Hosted by The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute and presented by Mario Lee, Partnership Specialist for the New York Regional Census Center, this webinar will provide an overview of the census, how to complete it, what data is collected and how that data is used and stored.

[Register here!](#)

Webinar: Sexual Rights, Autonomy and Disability



Thursday, February 20 at 2 pm

Please join us for part one 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. Part two of this webinar will be held on April 16, 2020. A separate registration link will be emailed out in April to register for part two.

[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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[DONATE NOW!](#)

