



## GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

### Advocacy to Increase DSP Wages Continues



Throughout the month of May, The Arc of New Jersey met one-on-one with legislators, attended hearings and promoted action alerts in our continued advocacy to increase wages for Direct Support Professionals in the FY19 Budget. As Chair of the Coalition for a DSP Living Wage, The Arc of New Jersey and fellow members of the Coalition filled the Senate and Assembly Budget Rooms when Department of Human Services Commissioner Carole Johnson testified and answered questions about the Department's spending plan. A strong showing of people helped to illustrate to lawmakers and decision-makers that the DSP issue is incredibly important and must be addressed in the budget. To continue reading,

[click here.](#)

### Medical Care Conference Attracts Hundreds

More than 325 people attended the 29th Annual Conference on Medical Care for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities on Friday, June 1. The event, which was held at the Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village, provides up-to-date healthcare information pertaining to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The conference began with introductory remarks from Department of Human Services Commissioner Carole Johnson and a keynote presentation from Matthew Holder, MD, MBA. The

keynote was entitled, "Addressing the Healthcare Crisis for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities" and it focused on equitable health outcomes for people with I/DD. In addition, attendees participated in a variety of workshop sessions and received updates from Meghan Davey, Director of the New Jersey Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, Jonathan Seifried, Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities, and Paul Aronsohn, Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and their Families.



## Executive Director Honored at Spring Gala Luncheon



The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto was presented with the Golden Rose Award at The Rose House's Spring Gala Luncheon on May 4th. The event, which took place at the Brooklake Country Club in Florham Park, was an opportunity to highlight individuals and businesses who work to improve the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We congratulate Tom on this outstanding honor!



## Chapters Step Up For The Arc 2018

Step Up For The Arc is 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. To find out more about an upcoming Step Up event in your county, [click here](#).

Pictured left is The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, The Arc of Union County's Executive Director Frank Carragher and The Arc of Union County's Board President Beth Eckenrode at the Chapter's 5K Run & 1-Mile Walk. The event took place on Saturday, May 12th at the Oak Ridge Park in Clark.



The Arc of Camden's Walkathon at Lindenwood Memorial Park



SCARC's 2018 Gordon Shelton Memorial Walk-a-thon



The Arc of Burlington's Walkathon on May 20th

## Video Explains the Many Ways The Arc of NJ Family Institute Can Help

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute understands that navigating the system can be difficult and confusing. That is why they recently created this short video, highlighting some of the different ways they can help. For families with questions, The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute can point you in the right direction and provide you with the necessary tools and resources often needed when navigating a new topic. Every individual has unique challenges and the Institute can help create a path of care that fits your loved one's need. Please watch this video and share with others who may need assistance. Please watch this [video](#) and share





## *NJSAP Team Teaches Healthy Lifestyles, Serves as Resource*



As part of the Healthy Lifestyles Project (HLP), which is a program of The Arc of New Jersey that receives funding through a grant awarded by The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, Self-Advocates learned in May about adaptive yoga. Starting this month, and running through the end of August, the New Jersey Just Self-Advocacy Project will host Watchung Wednesdays. These events are a social and recreational program aimed at providing adults with developmental disabilities with functional education about health and wellness. If you're interested in attending, [click here](#) for more information.



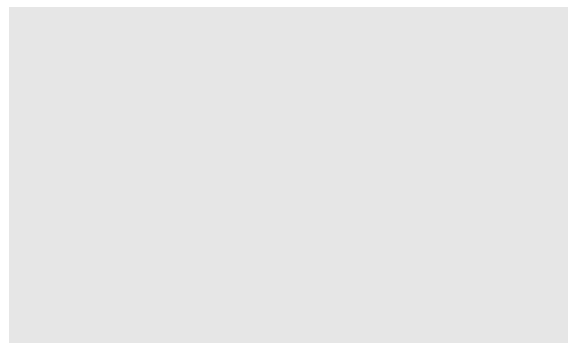
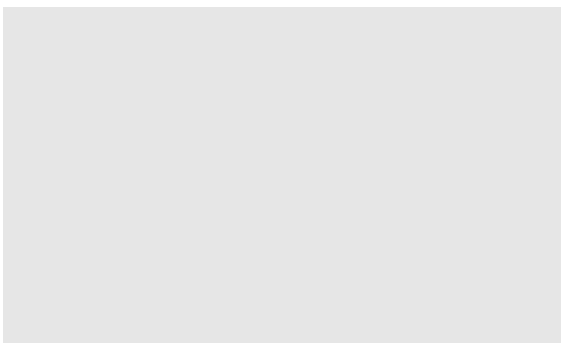
The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project staff members were on hand to answer questions, provide resources and talk to attendees at the annual Abilities Expo. The Expo was held May 4-6th at the New Jersey Convention Center in Edison. The event exposes people to new technologies, informative workshops, and the ability to learn more about products and resources that may benefit people with disabilities. More than 5,500 people attended the Abilities Expo over the course of the weekend.

## *MonArc Awards Celebrate People with I/DD*



The Arc of Atlantic County hosted their annual MonArc Awards on Thursday, May 17th at the Golden Nugget Casino Hotel in Atlantic City. The event's theme this year was "Dream. Believe. Achieve." The MonArc Awards highlight The Arc of Atlantic County's mission, and celebrates the individuals, businesses and community partners who provide a key role in supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families in Atlantic County. To view additional photos from the event, click [here](#).

## *The Arc Assists Families through Sibshops, Presentations*





On Saturday, May 12 and Saturday, May 19, The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute held two regional Sibshops. Sibshops provide brothers and sisters of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities opportunities to share and connect with peers who “get it.” To view additional photos, [click here](#). Want more information about how The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute is supporting and assisting siblings? [Click here](#) to learn more.



Mainstreaming Medical Care Director Beverly Roberts presented at the Community Health Law Project's Law and Disability Issues Conference on May 8. Beverly spoke, as part of a panel, about the importance of SSI and Medicaid for DDD Services. The event took place at the New Jersey Law Center. Have questions about SSI and Medicaid? Email the Mainstreaming Medical Care Program at [Jlynch@arcnj.org](mailto:Jlynch@arcnj.org).

## Check Out This Upcoming Webinar

### Equal Justice Talks Webinar Series: Legal-Medical Partnerships Thursday, June 28 at 1 pm

This hour long webinar on Legal-Medical Partnerships with speaker Erika Kerber, Esq., Director of Litigation, Community Health Law Project, will provide an overview of an effective model of cooperation between medical and legal professionals who serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



## 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)

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