Recognizing National Family Caregivers Month

On November 30, family caregivers from The Arc of New Jersey spoke to dignitaries and decision-makers about the challenges they face and their priorities for the service delivery system and policy that will impact their loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The virtual event included Department of Human Services Assistant Commissioner Jon Seifried, Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assemblyman Dan Benson (pictured above). Families discussed a wide-range of issues including employment, the Direct Support Professional workforce, funding needs for next year's budget and access to behavioral supports. We thank all of our honored guests who helped us acknowledge this important occasion. If you are a family caregiver in need of support or assistance navigating the service delivery system, please visit The Arc of NJ's Family Institute website here or email the director at Lford@arcnj.org. To read our Family Caregivers Month special edition newsletter click here.

Meet The Arc of NJ's New CJAP Dir. Robyn Holt

The Arc of New Jersey is pleased to introduce Robyn Holt as our organization's new Criminal Justice Advocacy Program Director. Robyn started with The Arc in September. She has experience as a clinician and program director for Medallion Healthcare, Catholic Charities and St. Joseph's Health. Here we take a few minutes to learn more about what led Robyn to The Arc of New Jersey and what her plans are for the Criminal Justice Advocacy Program.

1. Where did you work prior to The Arc of NJ and what attracted you to the Criminal Justice Advocacy program?
Much of my experience leading up to my work with the Criminal Justice Advocacy Program was dedicated to working with individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. After supervising at a partial care center, my journey led me to supervising a Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT). During this time, I gained invaluable experience working with individuals with psychiatric illness and co-occurring disorders. My time with PACT allowed me the initial glimpse into working with individuals that have become involved in the criminal justice system. Although somewhat unexperienced in the realm, I learned through trial and error and networking with those in the justice system on how to best assist the consumers in navigating what can be an extremely overwhelming and complex system. To continue reading our Q&A with Robyn, click here.
Senate President Steve Sweeney, who was not re-elected last month in the third district, has done incredible work throughout his tenure in office on behalf of people with IDD and their families. As he finishes his final weeks as Senate President before the new legislative session begins in January, The Arc of New Jersey wanted the opportunity to thank him for all his many accomplishments which will continue to have long-lasting impacts on those we represent.

To read Executive Director Tom Baffuto's letter to the editor about Senate President Sweeney, which was printed in the Star Ledger last month, [click here](https://www.starledger.com/article). (Pictured left, Senate President Steve Sweeney with Self-Advocate Barbara Coppens at the State House in Trenton)

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**The Arc Mercer Celebrates Honorees with Galathon**

The Arc of New Jersey congratulates The Arc Mercer on their outstanding 2021 Galathon which took place on November 19 at the Nottingham Ballroom. The event, which included a 70s theme, recognized a number of wonderful award recipients. This included Department of Human Services Assistant Commissioner Jon Seifried (pictured above, center) who was honored with the 2021 Community Partner Award. Also pictured above is The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto (left) and The Arc Mercer's Executive Director Steve Cook (right).

**ASAH Bestows Legacy of Caring Award to Beverly Roberts**

The Arc of New Jersey congratulates Beverly Roberts, Director of the Mainstreaming Medical Care Program, for receiving the Legacy of Caring Award from ASAH. ASAH is a not-for-profit organization of private schools and agencies which provide specialized services to infants, children and young adults with disabilities. Beverly was recognized for her incredible advocacy and assistance for families as it relates to health care, Medicaid, SSI, SSDI, and more. This is a well-deserved honor for all of Beverly's great work.

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**Sephora Includes NJ Self-Advocate in #GivingTuesday Video**

In honor of #GivingTuesday, Sephora partnered with 12 organizations to take over their Rewards Bazaar. This meant people could use the points they earn from purchases at Sephora to donate money to organizations they care about. To help promote this initiative, Sephora released the following video which included Self-Advocate Barbara Coppens. Some of the footage from the video took place in The Arc of New Jersey's North
Tell Your Senators: Pass the Build Back Better Act

On Friday, November 19th, the House of Representatives passed the Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376) by a vote of 220-213. The House version includes many of The Arc’s policy priorities including historic funding for home and community-based services, paid leave, reforms to Supplemental Security Income, education, housing, and much more. We need you to act now! Tell the Senate to Pass the Build Back Better Act. Click here to take action.

News You Can Use!

1. The New Jersey Legislature passed a law that requires the NJ Department of Human Services to study social isolation among four groups: seniors age 65 and older, individuals with disabilities, individuals with mental illness, and those who have served or currently serve in the military. All individuals in these groups are welcome to complete the survey, regardless of whether they consider themselves socially isolated. If you identify with one or more of these groups, please consider completing the survey. If you care for or communicate with people in one or more these groups, please provide individuals with the Survey Monkey link and consider assisting them with completion of the survey. The survey can be accessed at http://tiny.cc/njsocialisolation and will be open until February 28, 2022.

2. COVID-19 booster doses are now available for all adults, age 18 or older as long as it has been at least six months after their last Pfizer or Moderna shot or at least 2 months after their one-dose Johnson & Johnson shot. For more information, click here.

Upcoming Virtual Events!

Click below to register for one of our many upcoming virtual events/webinars. And be sure to check out our calendar for other future events.

The Family Institute Fireside Chat (NEW: A series of chats with experts in their field as it relates to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities)
- December 15 at 6 pm: With Beverly Roberts

Webinars:
- December 8 at 6 pm: Navigating PerformCare and the Children’s System of Care
- December 14 at 6 pm: Yes! Your Child Can Work
A Message from The Arc of New Jersey

Thank you to all our generous donors who, over the past number of months, have made donations to support us. These critical funds will help us in our efforts to assist individuals with I/DD and their families, as well as our local county chapters, through the COVID19 crisis. To put your donation to work for individuals with I/DD and their families, click here. If you have questions or need assistance, our staff is here to help. Click here to access information about our Programs.

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  
DONATE NOW!

STAY CONNECTED

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