



Advocacy Focuses on FY21 Budget, Bills

The Legislature recently passed four pieces of legislation impacting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) that now await action by the Governor. These bills include:

- **A4608/S3099** which provides for the regulation and licensing of applied behavior analysts
- **S4139/A5751** which allocates \$250,000 to the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine to help address the shortage of special-needs dentists who serve patients with physical disabilities and behavioral challenges.
- **A2705/S484** which revises the State's newborn screening program and establishes a Newborn Screening Advisory Review Committee which would be authorized to make recommendations on the disorders to be screened for by the Department of Health, as well as on screening technologies, treatment options, and educational and follow-up procedures, to be used in the State's newborn screening program.
- **S4141/A6011** which authorizes a parent or guardian to request the use of an individualized health care plan for a student with epilepsy or a seizure disorder.

[Click here to continue reading.](#)



Senate President Steve Sweeney visits The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones School in Roseland, New Jersey.



Senate President Steve Sweeney visits The Arc Mercer's Annual Bowling Party.

Mutual of America Supports The Arc of NJ

The Arc of New Jersey thanks Mutual of America for their support of our 70th Anniversary Dinner and for being a Silver Sponsor of our celebration event! Also, a BIG thank you to Thomas Moller and Michael Scott for stopping by our office last month and presenting the sponsorship check to Executive Director Tom Baffuto!



Save the Date for Annual Medical Care Conference

Mark your calendars! The Arc of New Jersey's 31st Annual Conference on Medical and Dental Care For Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities will take place on Friday, May 29, 2020 at The Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village in Princeton, New Jersey. Please click the image, right, for the Save the Date pdf which includes additional information. Questions about the conference or interested in exhibitor or contributor opportunities? Email Jenn at conference@arcnj.org.



Chapters Close Out 2019 with Holiday Events



The Arc of Monmouth held their annual Winter Glow event at Branches in Long Branch last month. The wonderful celebration included cocktails, dinner, a live band and dancing, a casino, games, raffles and a silent auction. Pictured above from left to right: Tom Baffuto, Executive Director for The Arc of New Jersey, Assemblywoman Serena DiMasio, Lauren Zalepka, The Arc Monmouth's Board of Directors Vice President, Dani Zalepka, and Senator Declan O'Scanlon.



The Arc of Bergen & Passaic Counties held their annual Holiday Dinner at The Venetian in Garfield. Close to 400 people attended this great event. Pictured above from left to right: Tom Baffuto, Executive Director, The Arc of New Jersey, Andy Gatto, President of The Arc of Bergen & Passaic Foundation Board of Trustees, Carolyn Hayer, Immediate Past Chair of the Board of The Arc of Bergen & Passaic, Kathy Walsh President/CEO of The Arc of Bergen & Passaic, Maria Fischer, President of The Arc Mercer and Paul Prior, Board Member of The Arc of New Jersey.

Take a College Tour With Us!



Calling all students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families!

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute invites you and your student to tour the different college programs offered throughout the state for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Friday, January 10, 2020:

Turning Point Program, Bergen Community College
11am-1pm
Piklin Education Building, Room C-321, Parking lot B

These events are **FREE** but you need to register to attend. [Click here](#) for more information and registration instructions.

Upcoming Webinars & Events

Register today for one of the many events hosted by The Arc of New Jersey. Looking for more? Check out our [calendar](#).



Webinar: Private School Option: What Parents of Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Need to Know

Tuesday, January 7 at 12 pm

Most students with disabilities can and should learn alongside typical peers at their local public school. In order to succeed, these students should receive all necessary services, supports, modifications and accommodations to help them learn and meet their IEP goals. In some situations, however, public schools are simply not able to do this. That is why the federal law requires your local school district to consider a full range of options – including private schools – when determining a child’s placement. Join us as Gerard Thiers talks about some of these options with us.

[Register here!](#)

Webinar: What Every Family Needs to Know About Special Needs Trusts for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (Part 1 of 2)

Tuesday, January 14 at 6 pm

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute is pleased to announce two webinars on the important topic of Special Needs Trusts: On January 14th at 6 pm, Paul Prior, Esq. from Hinkle, Prior and Fischer will discuss what a Special Needs Trust is and how trusts aren't all the same. On February 3rd at 6 pm, Maria Fischer, Esq. from Hinkle, Prior and Fischer will explain what families need to know about purchasing necessary items for their son/daughter with I/DD with money from the SNT. She will discuss which types of expenditures are allowable, and which are not, in accordance with NJ Medicaid rules and regulations. She will also explain the importance of keeping receipts for all expenditures from the SNT and what to do when the individual with I/DD needs an expensive item costing \$5,000 or more.

[Register here!](#)

Webinar: An Overview of the Basics of Social Security Disability

Thursday, January 16 at 2 pm

Join us for a one-hour webinar with Laurie Egeth, Supervising Paralegal Advocate from Community Health Law Project, who will provide an overview of the Basics of Social Security Disability including the impact of incarceration on benefits.

[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](#)

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