

Equal Justice Journal

January 2025



"Advocating for equal justice for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities"

Welcome to 2025! Meet the CJAP Team!





Robyn Holt

As the Director of the Criminal Justice Advocacy Program, Robyn has worked closely with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families and services providers within the criminal justice system. Her work is focused on advocacy, ensuring that individuals with IDD receive the proper support and services they need. Robyn is also dedicated to providing training programs across New Jersey, equipping professionals with the knowledge and skills to effectively work with individuals with IDD in the legal system. Robyn has a Master's in Counseling Psychology and a Master's in Social Work. Her contact information is RHolt@arcnj.org.



Hannah Noel

Hannah Noel has been a case manager with The Arc of New Jersey's Criminal Justice Advocacy Program for a couple of years. She has a background in Sociology and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Social Work from Rutgers University. She is passionate about exploring how intellectual and developmental disabilities and trauma intersect to influence involvement in the criminal justice system. Hannah is committed to advocating for individuals with IDD, ensuring they receive the support and accommodations necessary to navigate the challenges they face within the criminal justice system. Her contact information is HNoel@arcnj.org.



Karlee Salus

Karlee has been with The Arc of New Jersey's Criminal Justice Advocacy



Jennifer Catalano

Jennifer has been a case manager with The Criminal Justice Advocacy Program for over

Program as a case manager for two years. With a background in criminal justice, she is currently pursuing her Master's in Social Work at Rutgers University. Karlee is passionate about reentry services and is dedicated to helping individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) navigate through the criminal justice system. She ensures these individuals access the support and resources they need. Her contact information is KSalus@arcnj.org.

a year. Her educational background includes a Master's in Forensic Psychology from Purdue University and ongoing doctoral studies in Criminology and Justice Studies at the University of Arizona, Jennifer has committed her career to advocating for vulnerable populations within the criminal justice system. Her expertise includes resource development, training delivery, and building partnerships to promote fair treatment and access to community-based services. Her contact information is JCatalano@arcnj.org.

Lindsay Pili works as the program assistant for the Criminal Justice Advocacy Program and is responsible for managing the intake process as well as works with other programs at The Arc of NJ. Lindsay worked with people with IDD for 12 years prior to joining the team at The Arc of NJ. Over the past two years, she has utilized her skills in creating educational games and materials, as well as designing ad journals and marketing materials for The Arc of New Jersey's events. If you have any questions please reach out to lpili@arcnj.org.

Spotlight: National Mental Health Wellness Month

January is National Mental Health Wellness Month, a time to prioritize your emotional well-being and create habits that support a balanced and healthy mindset. As the new year begins, it's an opportunity to reflect on practices that reduce stress, foster self-care, and build resilience. Whether it's setting realistic goals, staying connected with loved ones, or seeking professional support when needed, small steps can make a big difference. Let's use this month to raise awareness, encourage one another, and commit to nurturing our mental health for a brighter, more balanced year ahead. If you or someone you know needs support, visit mentalhealth.gov for resources and help.



Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)

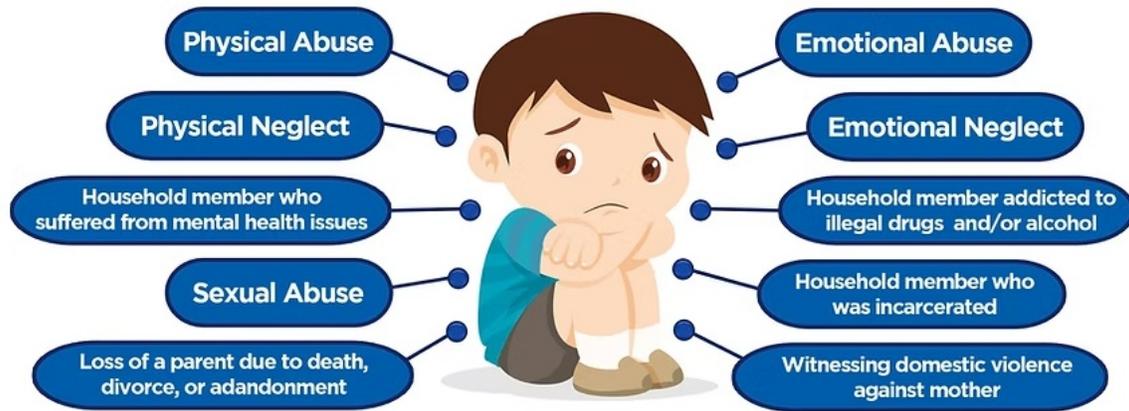
Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is a specialized police response program that trains officers to effectively manage encounters with individuals experiencing mental health crises. The goal is to de-escalate situations, connect individuals with mental health services, and reduce unnecessary arrests or use of force.

If you are law enforcement staff or court personnel interested in coordinating a presentation in your county, please contact rholt@arcnj.org.



Juvenile Justice Corner

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES INCLUDE:



ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES HAVE BEEN LINKED TO:



Adverse Childhood Experiences and Neurodevelopmental Outcomes in US Children

This research article investigates the correlation between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and various neurodevelopmental and behavioral health conditions in U.S. children.

Using data from the National Survey of Children's Health, the study quantifies the association between household challenge ACEs (excluding child maltreatment) and fifteen conditions. The findings reveal a significant, dose-dependent relationship between the number of ACEs and the likelihood of developing several conditions, particularly behavior/conduct problems, depression, and substance abuse. However, conditions like Down syndrome showed no such association, suggesting varying etiological influences.

The study emphasizes the cumulative impact of ACEs and calls for trauma-informed interventions. Read more [here](#).

Equal Justice Talks Webinar Series



From Classroom to Cell: Understanding and Addressing the School-to-Prison Pipeline for Individuals with IDD

Upcoming Webinar: "Interdisciplinary Treatment Approaches"

for Youth with IDD and Co-occurring Mental Health Conditions"

Join us on February 27th for an insightful and practical webinar focusing on the critical topic of interdisciplinary treatment approaches for youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and co-occurring mental health conditions. This session will provide valuable strategies for professionals working across various disciplines to address the unique needs of this population. [Register here.](#)



Dr. Ashley Greenwald is a leading expert in behavior analysis and interdisciplinary support for children with disabilities. As Project Director of the Nevada Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Technical Assistance Center, she manages statewide projects, overseeing a \$2 million annual budget and supporting nearly 200 organizations.

Dr. Greenwald's research focuses on parent training, behavioral systems change, and integrating behavioral medicine with disability support. She has secured over \$19 million in grants, impacting approximately 175,000 individuals annually in Nevada.



Past Webinar: "Human Trafficking and Individuals with Disabilities: Understanding, Identifying, and Addressing Vulnerabilities"

This webinar provided an in-depth exploration of human trafficking with a special focus on individuals with disabilities, a population uniquely vulnerable to exploitation. Participants gained insights into what human trafficking is, why it thrives, and the legal frameworks in place to combat it. Using real-world case examples, the session highlighted the intersections between disability and trafficking, offering practical tools for identifying and addressing these cases.

[Visit our Webinar Archive](#)

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The Arc of New Jersey Criminal Justice Advocacy Program

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