



## UPDATE FROM TRENTON

### DSP Wages are Focus of FY2020 Budget Request

May has been an incredibly busy month of advocacy for The Arc of NJ and our local county chapters. In addition to monitoring and supporting several bills related to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, a great deal of time was spent advocacy on the State FY 2020 budget.

Despite some really inclement weather, the May 13th rally by the Coalition for DSP Living Wage, of which The Arc of NJ is a member, was a great success. Several hundred people turned out, and Tom Baffuto and Barbara Coppens were among the speakers energizing the crowd and calling attention to the DSP workforce crisis. Senate President Stephen Sweeney came out to address the crowd as well and show his support for giving DSPs a living wage. Thank you to everyone who arranged transportation for advocates and families to attend the rally and for everyone who used social media to promote the message of the day. Pictures from the event can be [seen here](#). To read more about The Arc of NJ's advocacy in May, [click here](#).



### *Programs of The Arc of NJ Provide Information/Resources*



Throughout the course of the year, The Arc of NJ and its programs provide a number of educational, advocacy, and Information & referral opportunities for individuals with I/DD, their families and professionals in the field. In May staff exhibited at 12 resource fairs, presented 16 workshops, hosted 3 webinars, and responded to 412 requests for assistance. In addition, numerous events and trainings for individuals with I/DD were hosted by the NJ Self-Advocacy Project and through the [Healthy Lifestyles Project](#), funded by the Horizon Foundation for NJ.



Pictured top: The Arc of NJ's Planning for Adult Life Program hosted a Parent Forum & Opportunity Expo on May 18 at Special Olympics NJ.

Pictured bottom: The Arc of NJ's Criminal Justice Advocacy Program hosted a series of nine webinars in FY 2019.



The Arc of NJ and The Arc of Camden exhibited at the Camden County ResourceNet Fair on May 9th. More than 245 vendors were present to talk with individuals, families and professionals.

Céline Fortin, Associate Executive Director also presented a workshop at the event.

## CJAP Director Presents at Law & Disability Conference



CHLP held their annual Law & Disability Issues Conference at the NJ Law Center in New Brunswick on May 9, 2019. This year's program included sessions about Integrated Care-Behavioral Health, Physical Health and Social Determinants of Health; Addiction and the Opioid Crisis; and Special Education. Jessica Oppenheim, Esq., Director of The Arc of NJ's Criminal Justice Advocacy Program presented on a panel regarding domestic violence.

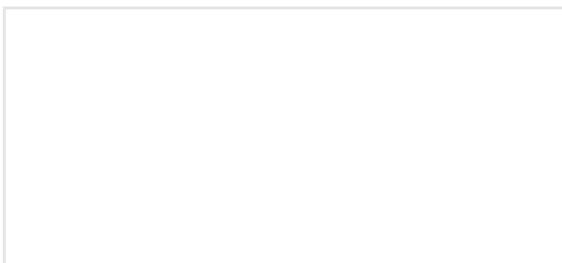
*(Right) Deanna Dyer, NJCEDV; Kristin Bricketto, CHLP; Carrie Liszewski, OCBSS; Jessica Oppenheim, The Arc of NJ*

## Record Attendance for Annual Medical Care Conference

The Arc of NJ's 30th Annual Conference on Medical Care was held on Friday May 31st with a record crowd in attendance. More than 350 individuals and 28 exhibitors were on hand, all focusing on quality medical care for individuals with I/DD. The day began with an opening panel on medical marijuana for individuals with I/DD, and opening remarks from Steven Tunney, DMAHS and Jonathan Seifried, DDD. Attendees were then able to choose from ten informative workshops. A second keynote address on sexual violence against individuals with I/DD, presented by Leigh Ann Davis, Director, The Arc of the US Criminal Justice Initiatives, rounded out the day.



***Pictured above: speakers from the 2019 Mainstreaming Medical Care Conference.***





## NJ Camp Jaycee Open House

Come join us on Sunday, June 2, 2019 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm as NJ Camp Jaycee holds its annual open house. Camp Jaycee is a residential camp for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities located on 185 acres in the beautiful Pocono Mountains. A short distance from the New Jersey border, the centerpiece of camp is a beautiful two-acre spring-fed pond. Nearby, the air-conditioned dining hall is the hub of camp life. A modern, fully staffed infirmary is near the athletic field and basketball courts. The male and female living areas contain clusters of air-conditioned sleeping cabins, each with their own modern bathroom. Campers enjoy games, sports, swimming, boating, crafts, dance and nature.

Lunch buffet will be provided at the open house. Come meet the staff, take tours of the camp and learn more about our program.

RSVP to [ngoodwin@campjaycee.org](mailto:ngoodwin@campjaycee.org)

## The Arc of Atlantic County Holds Annual Event

The Arc of Atlantic held their annual MonArc celebration on May 16th at the Golden Nugget, Atlantic City. An evening of gourmet tastings, great entertainment and auction items helped to celebrate and support the wonderful work of The Arc of Atlantic County.

***Pictured from left to right: The Arc of Atlantic County's CEO Scott Hennis, President Joseph Polisano and The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto***

## Support Chapters of The Arc at Local County Walks

The Step Up For The Arc walks are 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. Make sure to [check out this page](#) for details about an upcoming walk near you!

***Pictured right, from top left: Local chapters hosted five May walkathons in Sussex, Burlington, Middlesex, Camden and Union***

In June, the following Chapters will host Walks and/or Runs:

- [The Arc of Salem County - June 2](#)
- [The Arc of Bergen & Passaic - June 9](#)

After a summer break, join Local Chapters of The Arc for more walkathons in the Fall!



## Check Out These Upcoming Webinars & Events

**Workshop: Understanding SSI, SSDI and Medicaid Eligibility  
Hosted by SCARC**

**Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 12:30pm and again at 6:00pm**

**RSVP to [dphlegar@scarc.org](mailto:dphlegar@scarc.org)**

In New Jersey, Medicaid eligibility is required in order to receive Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) funded services. Becoming Medicaid eligible and maintaining eligibility throughout a person's life is critical to ensuring DDD services continue. This

workshop will discuss different methods to become Medicaid eligible and what happens to a person's Medicaid when a parent retires, becomes disabled or passes away. *Presenters: Beverly Roberts, Director, Mainstreaming Medical Care and Cheryl Crick, Coordinator, The Arc of NJ Family Institute*



### **Webinar: Support Brokerage Services and What You Need To Know**

**Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 6:00pm**

As a service provided in the Division of Developmental Disabilities service system, Supports brokers are the linchpin of the self-directed service model, fostering independence, social engagement, and choice. This orientation provides an overview of self-determination, self-direction, and the basic principles of person-centered thinking and planning. Participants will learn how Supports Brokers collaborate with the person receiving supports, Support Coordinators, the Fiscal Intermediary, and Self-Directed Employees to bring the service plan to life. Building community connections and identifying supports outside of the formal service system will also be discussed.

*Presenter: Patricia Brennan, Director, Waitlist and Special Projects, NJDDD*

### **Webinar: Prevention through Education: Outcomes and Barriers**

**Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 2:00pm**

Heidi Lersch, Disability Services Educator/Trainer and Megan Westmore, Disability Services Manager for SAFE Alliance, a community response program in Texas, will be discussing the importance of prevention through education including individuals with I/DD, parents, school and residential staff. SAFE Alliance, a coordinated community response program located in Austin Texas, serves survivors of child abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, providing a wide range of direct services to youth and adults in the community.

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## **Looking for Trainings and Workshops on I/DD Issues?**



Go to the DD Training Resources website and find workshops, trainings, webinars and conferences on a wide variety of topics related to intellectual and developmental disabilities. The website includes a calendar of upcoming trainings as well as links to archived training materials. Know of a training resource? There's a place to submit trainings to the calendar as well!

[Go to website!](#)

Thank you to the [NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities](#) for funding the DD Training Resources Project!

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## **NJ Partners in Policymaking Now Accepting Applications**

New Jersey Partners in Policymaking (PIP) is a free 8-month leadership development and advocacy education program for adults with developmental disabilities (over age 18), family members of children with developmental disabilities and transition age youth with developmental disabilities. The goal of this program is to prepare the next generation of disability advocates to work toward meaningful change in our state. To learn more, [click here](#).

**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

STAY CONNECTED

DONATE NOW!

