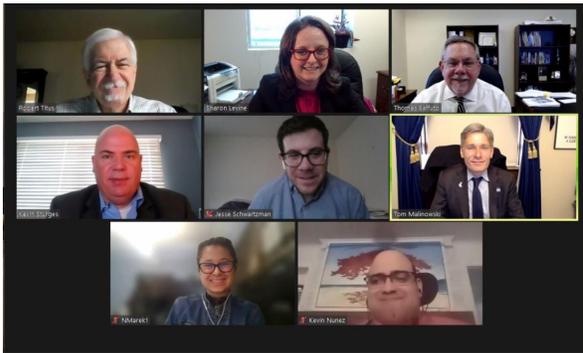




The Arc of NJ Meets with Congressional Members, Testifies on FY23 Budget Priorities



Following the Disability Policy Seminar, The Arc of New Jersey met with representatives from New Jersey's congressional delegation to discuss pending federal legislation, funding priorities, and other issues of importance to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. During the meetings, families and Self-Advocates spoke about the need to invest in Home and Community Based Services, necessary updates to the Supplemental Security Income program, pending legislation that would improve special education, bills to improve voting access and

proposed reforms to the criminal justice system. To continue reading, [click here](#). *Pictured above is Congressman Tom Malinowski, who represents New Jersey's 7th Congressional District.*

New Exec to Lead The Arc of Camden County

This month, we would like to introduce you to Tom Mannion who recently took over as the Executive Director of The Arc of Camden County.

1. Tell us a little bit about your background and how you're using your past experiences in your new role as Executive Director of The Arc of Camden County.

In my more than 35 years of Social Service /Healthcare, Accounting and Managerial experience, I have been exposed to a wide variety of mission-critical objectives that I had to meet along the way. In doing so, I developed my proficiency in many areas such as Business Development, Human Resources, Fiscal Management, Public Relations and Staff Development. With my depth of experience, I plan to use them all collectively in my new role as Executive Director. To continue reading, [click here](#).



Registration Now Open for Healthcare Webinar Series

The Arc of New Jersey's Mainstreaming Medical Care Program is delighted to announce a four-part Healthcare Webinar Series to be held on **four Tuesday mornings in May: the 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th at 10:30 am**. Each webinar will feature a 60 minute presentation, followed by up to 30 minutes for Q & A. **The webinars are available at no charge**, but registration is required.

- **May 3, 2022** - Transitioning to a Post-COVID World: Clinical and Behavioral Considerations
- **May 10, 2022** - Living Well after the COVID

- **May 17, 2022** - Grieving Lives Lost and Loss of Lives
- **May 24, 2022** - Medical and Dental Ramifications of COVID for Individuals with IDD

For additional information, and to register for the webinar series, [click here](#).

Healthcare Webinar Series May 2022

Free Registration is now available!

Webinar Dates:

May 3, 2022 - Transitioning to a Post-COVID World: Clinical and Behavioral Considerations

May 10, 2022 - Living Well after the COVID Pandemic Ends: Panel Discussion

May 17, 2022 - Grieving Lives Lost and Loss of Lives

May 24, 2022 - Medical and Dental Ramifications of COVID for Individuals with IDD

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You will see a "Register for the Webinar" button below the information on each webinar. Please use that link to register for each webinar separately.

NJ Statewide Self-Advocacy Network Celebrates DD Awareness Month



On March 22, a virtual DD Awareness Month event was held with members of the NJ Statewide Self-Advocacy Network and invited dignitaries. Department of Human Services Commissioner Adelman presented the group with a proclamation from the Governor highlighting DD Awareness Month and Assemblyman Dan Benson presented the group with a ceremonial resolution. The event gave Self-Advocates the opportunity to discuss issues of importance. This included Supported Decision Making, transportation, housing options and Direct Support Professionals, among other things. Pictured above is DHS Commissioner Adelman, in the bottom right-hand box, with Self-Advocates from the Network.

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DD Awareness Month Celebrations on the Local County Chapter Level

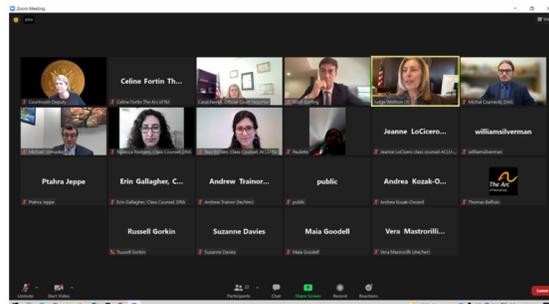


Chapters of The Arc recognized Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month with a variety of events throughout the month of March.

- The Arc, Ocean County Chapter, kicked off Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month with a Talent Show featuring 23 amazing performances and they hosted several #DDAwareness school presentations in Ocean County.
- The Arc of Atlantic County and The Arc of Cape May hosted a screening of "In A Different Key," on March 25, in Northfield. The movie depicts a mother who tracks down the first person ever diagnosed with autism, now an elderly man in rural Mississippi, to learn if his life story holds promise for her own son with autism.
- The Arc of Somerset County celebrated Marcia and her continued success in featuring her artwork to the local community. Last month she prepared to exhibit her work at the Adult Day Center in Bridgewater.
- Consumers at The Arc of Union County celebrated a return to outings and outdoor recreation.

Settlement Reforms Special Ed. Services in NJ Prisons

On March 3, 2022, a NJ federal judge granted final approval of a class action settlement agreement in the case of Adam X. et al. v. NJ Department of Corrections and Department of Education et al. The case was initiated five years ago by three students – Adam X., Brian Y., and Casey Z. (pseudonyms) – who alleged they were denied special education in prison, together with organizational plaintiffs the American Civil Liberties Union of NJ and The Arc of New Jersey. The plaintiffs were represented by the ACLU of New Jersey Foundation, Disability Rights Advocates (DRA), and Proskauer Rose LLP. To continue reading, [click here](#).



SCARC Hosts Awards Celebration Event

The Arc of NJ congratulates SCARC on their Honors Leadership Awards Celebration held on March 30, at Perona Farms in Andover. The event included live entertainment, dinner, awards, an auction and a raffle. Pictured from left to right: SCARC's Chief Development Officer Chris Hemmer, SCARC Board Member Andy Sharick, SCARC Board of Directors President Darleen Blandina, The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, SCARC President and CEO Richard Lecher, and State Senator Steve Oroho.



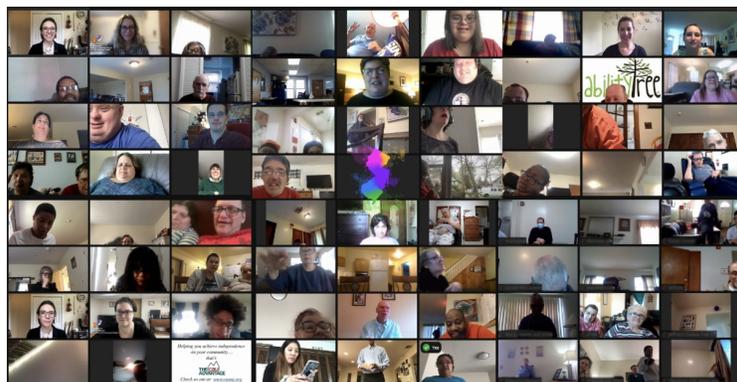
News You Can Use!



1. Project ECHO is offering sessions for staff and other caregivers of individuals with IDD who have dementia. The Project ECHO series is titled: Growing Older with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: When Dementia is Diagnosed or Suspected. The sessions will be held from noon to 1:15 pm, EDT, every other Monday, on 4/11, 4/25, 5/9, 5/23, and 6/6. [Register here.](#)
2. Program Directors of The Arc of NJ will present an overview of the supports and services provided to children and adults with IDD and their families at the Virtual Parent Empowerment Conference. The event is hosted by Hinkle Prior & Fischer. [Registration is available here.](#)
3. The Arc of NJ's Mainstreaming Medical Care Director will participate in a Healthcare Town Hall, sponsored by the NJ Regional Family Support Planning Councils, on April 16 at 10 am. [Click here for more information and how to register.](#)
4. Families with a loved one who has both an intellectual and developmental disabilities and a complex behavioral health condition may be interested in a new free resource: "An Enhanced Family Support Crisis Handbook: A Behavioral Health Wellness Toolkit." This is a revised and expanded edition of the Handbook that was originally written several years ago by co-authors Donna Icovino and Dr. Lucille Esralew. To download the resource, [click here.](#)
5. The Social Security Administration announced that starting in early April, they will add more in-person appointments and offer in-person services for people without an appointment. More information can be found [here.](#)

Registration Open for Self-Advocacy Luncheon

Each year, the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project and the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network work together to host the annual [Spring Into Action Awards Luncheon](#). The event is an opportunity for Self-Advocates and Allies to network, learn about current advocacy issues, and celebrate the accomplishments of Self-Advocates over the past year. This year, the Spring Into Action Luncheon will take place **virtually on Saturday April 9!** [Click here](#) to register online. Registration is free. If you would like to make a donation, you can do so by clicking [here.](#)



Tell Your Congress: Pass Disability Funding Now!

It's time for a HISTORIC investment in disability funding, so everyone can get the support they need to live in their community - instead of in institutions. People with disabilities rely on home and community-based services (HCBS) for everyday things like employment supports, getting around the community, dressing, bathing, taking medication, and much more. But there isn't enough money in the HCBS program to support everyone. Too many people are stuck on waiting lists and not getting the services they need. Direct care workers are underpaid, which leads to high turnover, critical staffing shortages, and compromised care for many people with disabilities. Now it's time for the Senate to act so this bill can be signed into law! [Contact your Senators now](#) because #CareCantWait!



True community means **EVERYONE** has the opportunity to live, work, and build the life they want.

It's time to put community first for disability services!



The Arc of NJ Mourns the Loss of Past President

The Arc of New Jersey recently learned of the passing of Marvin Mills on December 27, 2020. Mr. Mills was a longtime volunteer for The Arc on the local and state levels and was President of The Arc of New Jersey from 1974-1976. He and his wife, Joan, lived in River Vale with their three children. The inspiration for his years of service to The Arc was his son, Kenneth, who had developmental disabilities and passed away in 1984. Mills is pictured in the middle in the image on the left.

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.



Mondays with Michael:

Every week at 10 am, catch a brief update from Michael Pearson Jr., Assistant Director, Children's Advocacy, on a topic or featured resource related to special education. Click [here](#) to view upcoming dates/topics. Mondays with Michael are Facebook Live events.

Zoom With Us:

- April 13 at 6 pm: [What is the Community Care Program and How Do I Access It?](#)

Webinars & College Tours:

- April 20 at 6 pm: [NAMI NJ - An Overview of Mental Health Conditions and Personal Stories of Lived Experience](#)
- April 21 at 1 pm: [What Do I Need to Know About: The Steps After an Arrest - An Overview of the Criminal Justice Process from Beginning to End](#)
- April 22 at 10 am: [In-Person Tour: The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College](#)
- April 26 at 6 pm: [FI Fireside Chat with PLAN/NJ](#)
- April 28 at 6 pm: [What You Need to Know About Stay Put, Mediation and Due Process](#)

Stay Healthy at Home - a webinar series hosted by the NJ Self-Advocacy Project - every Tuesday at 2 PM on GoToWebinar

The webinar series covers a variety of topics related to advocacy, life skills, employment, and civic engagement. Sessions are designed to be accessible to self-advocates, parents, and support staff. Live viewers can share comments, ask questions, and access resources. Live transcription is available.

- April 5: [*NEW* Sexual Harassment and Boundaries](#)
- April 12: [REPLAY: Internet Safety for Students and Adults with IDD](#)
- April 19: [REPLAY: Healthy Communication & Staying Connected](#)
- April 26: [REPLAY: Healthy Stress Management & Outdoor Safety Tips](#)

Healthy Lifestyles Project LIVE! - every Wednesday at 11 AM on Zoom

This interactive series of events is hosted by the NJ Self-Advocacy Project and focuses on activities to promote health and wellness education for students and adults with I/DD. Live viewers will be able to share comments, ask questions, and participate in activities led by professionals *in real time*.

- April 6: [Art Workshop](#)
- April 13: [Food for Thought: Interactive Recipe](#)
- April 20: [Art Therapy Session](#)
- April 27: [Music to My Ears: A Collaborative Song-Writing Session](#)

We also have Fitness Fridays at 1 PM: [Click here to register.](#)

A Message from The Arc of New Jersey

Thank You

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



The Arc of New Jersey | 732.246.2525 | info@arcnj.org | www.arcnj.org