



For people with intellectual  
and developmental disabilities

**Achieve with us.**

## UPDATE FROM TRENTON

### NJ Advocates Meet with Federal Lawmakers

Last month, The Arc of New Jersey and representatives from local County Chapters headed to Washington for the Disability Policy Seminar and to advocate on the Hill with the state's federal lawmakers and their legislative staff. The Arc of New Jersey, along with First Vice President Kevin Sturges, was joined by families, self-advocates and representatives from local County Chapters including Bergen & Passaic, Camden, Warren and Union. This trip gives individuals with IDD and their families the chance to share their personal stories with decision-makers in Washington. To continue reading, [click here](#).



### Coalition Announces Rally Details



Join the Coalition for DSP Living Wage on **Monday, May 13 from 10:00am—1:00pm** for a rally in front of the NJ State House Annex in Trenton to tell Governor Murphy and the Legislature that \$54-million is needed in FY2020 to secure a competitive DSP starting wage that's 25% above minimum wage.

A HUGE turnout would make a strong statement to lawmakers that NJ must #PayFair4DirectCare in FY2020.

**Date/Time:** Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 10:00am-1:00pm, held Rain\* or Shine \*Rain ponchos will be provided in the event of inclement weather

**Where:** In front of the State House Annex, 125 West State Street, Trenton

[Click here](#) for more details

### Self-Advocates Bestow Awards at Annual Luncheon



and the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network hosted the 14th Annual Spring Into Action Luncheon at the Imperia in Somerset. The sold-out event, attended by more than 300 self-advocates from across the state, included an awards presentation, lunch and celebration. Speakers at the event included Executive Director Tom Baffuto, Board President Joanne Bergin, New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities Executive Director Mercedes Witowsky and the Ombudsman for Individuals with I/DD and Their Families Paul Aronsohn.



Pictured top: Self-Advocates enjoying the 14th Annual Spring into Action Luncheon. Pictured bottom: Self-Advocates with Bob Canavan, co-Advisor to Advocates for Change, The Arc of Somerset County's local self-advocacy group. He received the Advisor of the Year Award.



Self-Advocates pictured here with Heroes Award Winner Assemblyman Dan Benson, as well as The Arc of New Jersey's immediate past president Bob Hage, Executive Director Tom Baffuto, NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities Executive Director Mercedes Witowsky and the Ombudsman for Individuals with I/DD and Their Families Paul Aronsohn.

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## The Arc US Exec Provides Update, Installs Officers



Peter Berns, CEO of The Arc US, updated individuals, families and local County Chapters about the direction of The Arc, as well as ongoing policy matters on the federal level during The Arc of New Jersey's Annual Meeting on April 4. In addition to an in-depth presentation on the most-pressing issues impacting people with I/DD and their families, Peter swore in The Arc of New Jersey's slate of officers for their two year terms. To view The Arc of New Jersey's Annual Report, [click here](#).

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## Helping Siblings Express Their Feelings

Sibshops provide brothers and sisters of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities opportunities to share and connect with peers who "get it." Attending a Sibshop allows siblings a chance to meet one another in a relaxed setting. Children will have the opportunity to participate in fun activities such as "Dear Aunt Blabby," and group discussions designed to help children express the joys and concerns of being a sibling of a child with special needs. Sibshops acknowledge that brothers and sisters of people with special needs, like their



parents, may need support.

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute has run 5 Sibshops in the past year in locations across the state. More dates will be added soon. [Click here](#) to see more resources for siblings.



## Register Now for Annual Medical Care Conference

The conference brochure for The Arc of NJ's 30th Annual Conference on Medical Care is now available. [Click here](#) to download your copy. The Conference will take place on Friday, May 31 at the Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village and is intended for everyone who is concerned about providing quality health care to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Registration for the event is open through Tuesday, May 14 so [click here](#) to purchase your tickets. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Lynch at [JLynch@arcnj.org](mailto:JLynch@arcnj.org) or 732-784-6397.



*Pictured above: speakers from the 2018 Mainstreaming Medical Care Conference.*

## The Arc Local Chapters in Cape May & Gloucester Hold Annual Events



The Arc of Cape May hosted their annual Sip Into Spring fundraiser on Saturday, April 13 at the Cape May Winery. The event, which included music and local wines, was a wonderful occasion that helps to support the Chapter and their work assisting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. **Pictured from left to right:** The Arc of Atlantic County's CEO Scott Hennis, The Arc of Cape May's Executive Director Leslie Long and The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto



The Arc Gloucester held their annual Gala "A Night in Hollywood" on April 27 at Auletto's Sunset Ballroom. The event included an inspirational keynote by Ben Hartranft, Philadelphia Eagles Autism Challenge Ambassador, awards, music and a wonderful dinner. Pictured from left to right: The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, Longtime Board member for The Arc Gloucester and The Arc of NJ Pam Corrigan, Assemblyman Adam Taliaferro and The Arc Gloucester President David

## 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 is Tom Baffuto with the folks from The Arc of Essex County at their April 27th Walk.*



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

- [The Arc of Union County - May 11](#)
- [The Arc Gloucester - May 11](#)
- [The Arc of Middlesex County - May 18](#)
- [The Arc of Burlington County - May 19](#)
- [SCARC - May 19](#)
- [The Arc of Camden - May 19](#)

## Check Out These Upcoming Webinars & Events

### Overview of Services for Children and Young Adults with I/DD from the NJ Department of Children and Families, Children's System of Care

[Wednesday, May 15, at 6 pm](#)

Starting in 2013, the Children's System of Care (CSOC) within the NJ Department of Children and Families took over the provision of services to children and young adults with I/DD and their families. They provide many supports and services including family support, crisis intervention, after school programs, summer camp and intensive in-home and out-of-home supports, just to name a few.

Join us on May 15th to hear more about the services CSOC offers, eligibility for services, and how young adults transition from CSOC to adult services when they turn 21. Presenter: Rosemary Browne, MSW, Assistant Division Director of the Children's System of Care, NJ Department of Children and Families.



### Webinar: Working with Adult Sexual Assault Survivors with I/DD

[Thursday, May 16, at 2 pm](#)

The Program Director of the Disability Service Program at service provider agency SAFE Alliance in Austin Texas Michelle Schwartz serves survivors of child abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence. She has created a coordinated community response to violence against people with disabilities and provides a wide range of direct services to youth and adults with disabilities. This one hour overview is the first of a two-part series and is a great opportunity to hear how one program has effectively served an often overlooked population.

### Transition Conference: Free Parent Forum & Opportunity Expo (Lawrenceville, NJ)

[Saturday, May 18, at 9 am](#)

This expo will start with an opening session on why planning is critical and how to start a plan for your child with I/DD. The second session will explain SSI and Medicaid and why you need to apply. Attendees will then have a break to visit with our service providers who will have information tables set up. For the last session of the day, participants can choose one of three workshops focusing on different areas of interest.

### Webinar: Supporting People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Healthy Relationships

[Tuesday, May 21, at 12 pm](#)

All people, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, want happy and healthy relationships. Join us as Michael Pearson Jr., Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator for the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project, discusses different types of relationships, and how to support a loved one look for and stay in a healthy relationship. The webinar will also focus on online dating and safety, establishing boundaries and teaching consent.

# 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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## 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](mailto:info@arcnj.org) | [www.arcnj.org](http://www.arcnj.org)

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