



Multiple Disability Bills Signed by the Governor

Last month, Governor Murphy signed 12 bills The Arc of New Jersey advocated for and supported that will positively impact people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and community provider organization. The legislation focuses on everything from employment and transportation to special education and accessibility. We are especially pleased to report that after months of advocacy, Governor Murphy signed A5262/S3455 into law. This legislation provides important improvements to NJ WorkAbility Medicaid for individuals with disabilities. Primarily, the new legislation permits a person with "unearned" SSDI income, who is employed, to be eligible for NJ WorkAbility. More info on this can be found further down in the newsletter. To continue reading, [click here](#).



The Arc Camden Exec Retiring After 37 Years with Chapter



The Arc of Camden County's Executive Director Peggy Englebert will retire this month after dedicating her entire career to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We will greatly miss Peggy, but her incredible contributions to the field will live on as she enjoys a well-deserved retirement. In recognition of her dedication and hard work on behalf of people with IDD and their families, we wanted to shine the light on Peggy to learn more about her journey as part of The Arc family.

1. How many years have you worked at The Arc of Camden County and what originally attracted you to this field?

I have worked at The Arc of Camden County since 1982, with 3 years off for good behavior (I like to say) over at The Arc of Bucks County. Originally after college I taught high school English, but soon became involved in the Counseling

department. I'm not sure what attracted me to the field, except maybe my friend's Aunt and Uncle, one of whom had mental illness, one of whom was IDD and I enjoyed their company, but once left teaching to take a job with Goodwill Industries in Camden as the Vocational Evaluator I was hooked by the practice. To continue reading, [click here](#).

Pictured from left to right: The Arc of NJ's Associate Executive Director Celine Fortin, The Arc of Camden County's Executive Director Peggy Englebert, and The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto.

Sarah Adelman Nominated for DHS Commissioner

Last month, Governor Murphy announced his nomination of Sarah Adelman for Commissioner of the Department of Human Services. Sarah has served as Acting Commissioner since January 2021. She initially joined the Department in 2018, serving as Deputy

Commissioner, overseeing the Division of Developmental Disabilities, the Division of Aging Services and the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services. During her time as Acting Commissioner, The Arc of NJ has enjoyed a great working relationship with her and she has supported a number of policy items that positively impact people with IDD, their families and community provider agencies. A press release announcing the nomination, which includes a quote from The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, can be accessed [here](#).



The Arc Somerset Exec Offers DSP Workforce Insights



The Arc of Somerset County's Executive Director Lauren Frary presented about community provider workforce needs, industry trends and challenges as part of the NJ Pathways to Career Opportunities Statewide Convening on January 19th. The event, which was hosted by the New Jersey and Business Industry Association and the NJ Council of County Colleges, took place virtually and included stakeholders from across the state. The goal of the event was to discuss ways to provide students and workers with the

education and career pathways they need to find new careers, and to ensure that employers have access to a highly skilled workforce to meet critical labor market needs. Lauren did an outstanding job discussing Direct Support Professionals as part of the event's health care panel.

News Alerts, Information & Updates

1. On January 19, 2022, Governor Phil Murphy signed [Executive Order No. 283](#), requiring covered workers at health care facilities and high-risk congregate settings to be up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations, including having received a booster dose. This impacts many settings, including but not limited to: licensed community residences for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI) (e.g., group homes and supervised apartments); certified day programs for individuals with I/DD and TBI; and Support Coordination Agencies. For more information, [click here](#).
2. As mentioned further up in this newsletter, we are very happy to report Governor Murphy signed A5262/S3455 on January 10. This legislation provides important improvements to NJ WorkAbility Medicaid for individuals with disabilities. To learn more about this new law, [click here](#).
3. The Arc of Warren County, along with other disability stakeholder groups, will host Dr. Kerry Magro on April 11, 2022 at Warren Hills High School Auditorium. Magro will present "Defining Autism: From Nonspeaking to Professional Speaker" as part of Autism Acceptance Month. More information can be [found here](#).
4. **Free, at-home COVID tests** are available from the federal government, to be shipped to one's home. You can order up to four (4) free COVID tests per home. [Click here for more information](#). Please note that the tests will usually ship in 7 to 12 days. In addition, the Department of Human Services announced that eight (8) free COVID tests, per month, are available from participating pharmacies for individuals enrolled in NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid. More information can be [found here](#).
5. A **free webinar** on oral health and dental care for people with disabilities will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 8, at 6:30 pm. Click the image above to view additional details and to register.
6. Rowan Integrated Special Needs Center (RISN) in Sewell, NJ is looking for women to participate in two focus groups. These groups will be reviewing educational materials pertaining to women's health exams. The goal is to increase awareness and access to

**THE DYNAMIC DUO:
ORAL HEALTH AND DENTAL CARE FOR
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

You will learn about:

- Daily oral hygiene, nutrition, and the effects of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs
- How chronic conditions affect overall health and your oral health

February 8, 2022 | 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Zoom
Register here: <https://bit.ly/3EVijh>

Upcoming inclusive webinar series:

- Behavioral Health Management/ Deinstitutionalization Techniques
- NJ Family Care/Medicaid Program Dental Benefits and Care Coordination services for Children and Adults with IDD
- NJ Community Voice Policy Opportunities to Advance the Oral Health Agenda

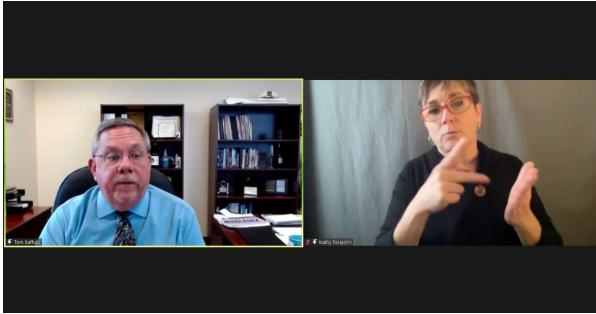
PRESENTER

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Division of Community Health Services
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physical, sexual, and reproductive health for women with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD). For more information, [click here](#).

7. **Helpful resource:** The State of NJ is offering an Isolation and Quarantine Calculator for anyone who has questions about testing and quarantine guidelines. [Click here to access it.](#)

The Arc of NJ Participates in Disability Caucus



During the January NJ Legislative Disability Caucus meeting, The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto spoke about the many services offered by our organization. This was an opportunity for state lawmakers and other stakeholders to learn more about New Jersey disability organizations and the ways in which those organizations can serve as a resource to legislators and their constituents. To view the recording, [click here](#).

Tell Your Senators: Pass the Build Back Better Act

On Friday, November 19th, the House of Representatives passed the Build Back Better Act ([H.R. 5376](#)) by a vote of 220-213. The House version includes many of The Arc's policy priorities including historic funding for home and community-based services, paid leave, reforms to Supplemental Security Income, education, housing, and much more. We need you to act now! Tell the Senate to Pass the Build Back Better Act. [Click here to take action.](#)



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.



Zoom With Us:

- February 9 at 6 pm: [I Love a Good Resource](#)

Webinars:

- February 8 at 6 pm: [Supporting Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders \(FASD\)](#)
- February 10 at 6 pm: [Special Education Series: Pre Employment Transition Services \(Pre-ETS\) in School](#)
- February 17 at 2 pm: ["What Do I Need to Know About..." Arraignment Hearings and Obtaining a Public Defender in Municipal and Superior Cases](#)

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.

- February 1: [Sexuality and Healthy Relationships for Self-Advocates Taught by Self-Advocates and National Experts](#)
- February 8: [REPLAY: Can I Help You? Mental Health First Aid](#)
- February 15: [REPLAY: Love Languages: Healthy Relationships & Communications](#)
- February 23: [REPLAY: Augmentative & Alternative Communication](#)

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*.

- February 2: [Zumba: Dance-based Fitness Class](#)
- February 9: [Food for Thought: Interactive Recipe](#)
- February 16: [Where the Wild Things Are: Denver Zoo](#)
- February 23: [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



