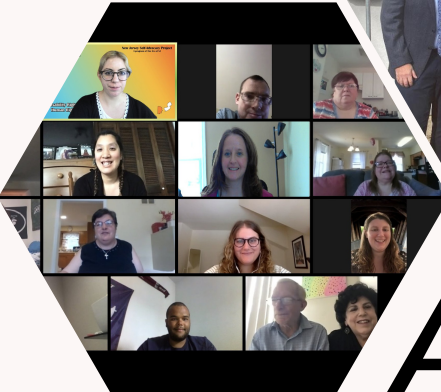
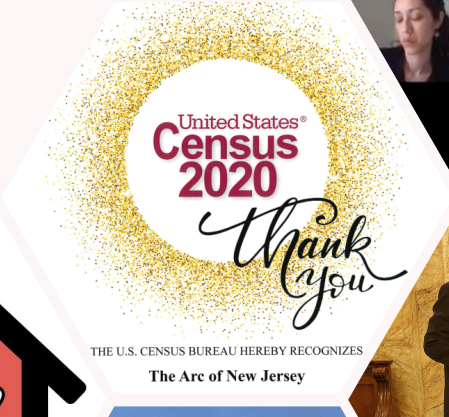




**The Arc**  
of New Jersey



# Annual Report to the Delegates

APRIL 8TH, 2021

[www.arcnj.org](http://www.arcnj.org)

# President's Message

## *Joanne Bergin*



This time last year, we all thought the 2021 Annual Meeting would be held in person but unfortunately, we are still connecting remotely in order to protect everyone's health and safety. The pandemic turned everyone's world upside down, but I am so incredibly proud of The Arc of New Jersey and the ways in which the organization supported people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. There were no shortage of curve balls over the last twelve months but with each new challenge and each unexpected dilemma, The Arc of New Jersey rose to the occasion and navigated through the murkiest of water on behalf of those we represent. Because while everything around us changed, The Arc of New Jersey didn't change. We adapted. And we morphed into something new. But the heart of our organization remained. The way we advocate for people may look different, but our mission remains the same and it always will. I want to thank the staff of The Arc of New Jersey for doing what they do best: putting people with I/DD and their families at the forefront and leading the way throughout this challenging time. I also want to acknowledge the incredible work of our local county Chapters who never wavered as the crisis took hold of our state. The dedication and commitment of our Chapters and their staff are a testament to the strength and resilience of The Arc.

# Executive Director's Message

## *Thomas Baffuto*

I have been The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director for the last 23 years, but I can't recall a time this community experienced the kinds of struggles like the ones we went through this past year. We are all so quick to move on to the next battle, but I think it is important to pause for a moment and acknowledge just how immensely this pandemic impacted our organization, those we serve, and our local county Chapters. At the height of the crisis, it felt like every day brought new and more complex obstacles. But throughout it all, The Arc of New Jersey held steadfast and we did what we do best. We were not overwhelmed or overcome by the challenges, we pushed through whatever the health crisis put in our way and we put the well-being of people with I/DD and their families at the forefront of everything we did. In that sense, our advocacy this past year was no different than it's been every day for the past 70 plus years. I am incredibly proud of the work we've done and of the staff for their dedication and commitment despite the hurdles and the difficulties we faced. With the flip of a switch the staff had to become experts in fields we knew little or nothing about. Whether it was Personal Protective Equipment, vaccine rules, eviction moratoriums or how to advocate through Zoom, we accomplished a lot and we are stronger for it. A big thank you to everyone who stood by us during this dark time. I feel hopeful and optimistic about the days ahead and I look forward to seeing everyone in person again as soon as the time is right.



# One Year Look Back on COVID-19

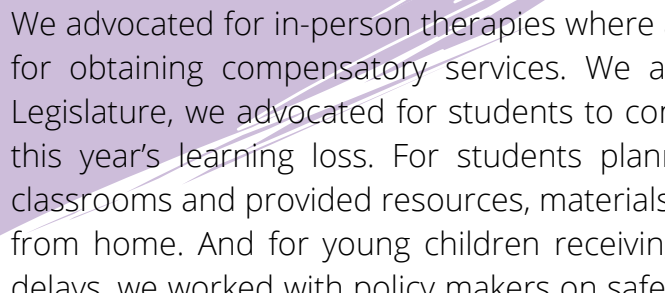
Anniversaries are typically something to celebrate. Whether it's the date of your wedding, or how long you've worked for the same company, important life milestones are an opportunity to acknowledge how much has happened since the previous year, both good and bad. Certainly this past year has come with many, many challenges, but we would argue we still need to celebrate the one-year anniversary of "the day everything changed" in March of 2020. And we say that because despite it all: we're still standing.

The Arc of New Jersey is built on a mission of representing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families and advocating on their behalf so they can lead the fullest lives possible. The pandemic took us out of our comfort zone in so many ways, but we didn't walk away from our responsibilities or from the people we serve. Instead, we found different, creative and at times challenging, new ways of doing what we've always done. Putting the best interests of people with I/DD at the forefront of everything we do.

In March, The Arc of New Jersey became experts in technology. Learning how to be just as effective working remotely as at the office, but also helping individuals with I/DD and their families access supports and services through the computer. Whether it was virtual day programs, online support groups, meeting via Zoom to complete state assessments for services, participating in virtual court hearings or supporting workers with I/DD working from home, our learning curve started there and it only grew.

Next we were introduced to new acronyms like PPE and we became much more familiar with the CDC website and any and all specific guidance related to people with developmental disabilities. We delved into the issue of "rationing of care" and fought back against it, and we advocated for hospitals to allow people with I/DD to be allowed a support person. Whereas before the pandemic we focused mostly on disability services and how individuals and families could access them, now we started to greatly expand that knowledge base to better meet the needs of those contacting us for help. That meant learning about eviction and utility turnoff moratoriums, how to get free Internet, where to find PPE. It meant staff delved deeper into the worlds of Medicaid and Social Security to make sure individuals who received stimulus payments wouldn't lose benefits and helped to ensure no one lost access to entitlement programs while the public health crisis raged on. We became relentless advocates when it came to equitable distribution and access to vaccines for people with I/DD and worked to ensure those most vulnerable to the threat of COVID were prioritized during this complex process. As a result of our advocacy, the Governor expanded eligibility to vaccines for people with I/DD in April, recognizing that those we represent require prioritization for this critical health measure. Simultaneously, we served as a resource for accurate vaccination information and we distributed information in a variety of easy-to-understand ways so people could consider all the facts when it came to getting a shot.

With schools closed, students receiving special education services and their families reached out in a big way for help and guidance. When the hands-on approach children receive in the classroom wasn't translating through the computer screen and services in the Individualized Education Plan weren't always being met, we were there. For those with technology gaps, we fought to get them connected.



We advocated for in-person therapies where appropriate and we helped families navigate the process for obtaining compensatory services. We attended virtual IEP meetings with families and in the Legislature, we advocated for students to continue in school past the age of 21 to make up for all of this year's learning loss. For students planning their transition out of school, we created online classrooms and provided resources, materials and videos that students and their families could access from home. And for young children receiving early intervention services because of developmental delays, we worked with policy makers on safe, in-home guidance and ways to conduct telehealth visits with practitioners.

And everyday throughout the crisis, we were in contact with policy makers on all levels about regulations and guidance to protect served individuals and about getting our local county Chapters the help they needed to be our boots on the ground. While Chapters supported people at home while day programs remained closed, we worked with decision-makers to help determine when they could re-open and to reimagine what they would need to look like when they did. We made sure providers had the extra funding they needed to properly support residents staying home and that monies were there for day programs until they could safely re-open. We worked to balance the rightful desire of families to visit loved ones they desperately missed throughout the COVID crisis with the need to protect the health and safety of both residents and our dedicated Direct Support Professionals. For them, our DSP Heroes, we successfully secured temporarily higher wages in recognition of all the personal risk they took on while assisting people with I/DD.

And as legislation and budgets were proposed and prepared, both on the state level and federally, The Arc of New Jersey was a constant and consistent voice. We weighed in on more than 50 pieces of legislation as they moved through the Senate and the Assembly this past year, delivering testimony remotely and meeting with legislators through Zoom. We reached out to New Jersey's Congressional delegation on everything from COVID relief legislation to Electronic Visit Verification, the need for PPE and more.

So as we mark the one-year anniversary since COVID changed everything we knew, at The Arc of New Jersey we are going to celebrate. We will celebrate all we accomplished and the feats we overcame for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. We will celebrate because we stand stronger today. We will celebrate because we are ready for brighter days ahead.

Joanne Bergin  
President

Tom Baffuto  
Executive Director



# Governmental Affairs

**Sharon Levine, Director**

Despite the limitations of in-person advocacy brought about by COVID-19, The Arc of New Jersey weighed in on a slew of legislation this past year and we remained in constant contact with legislators and policy-makers on every level. We stayed connected to lawmakers about budgets and proposed bills and policies that would impact people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and Chapters of The Arc. As an invited speaker, we participated in a variety of discussions, roundtables and forums about the issues impacting our community.

## **Budget Advocacy**

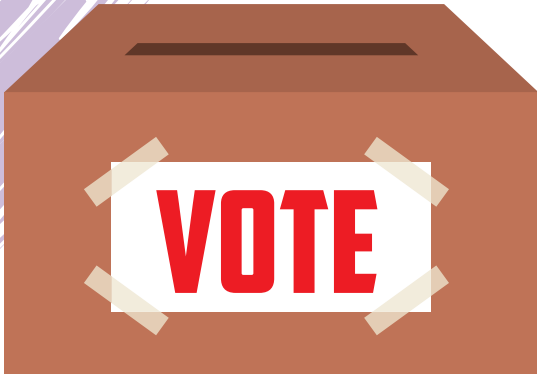
In the FY21 Budget, which was delayed by three months because of the pandemic, The Arc of New Jersey successfully advocated for increased funding to raise Direct Support Professional (DSP) wages while also staving off cuts in a year that presented many fiscal challenges to the State. There was also a \$45 million appropriation for the Department of Children and Families which was used in part for supporting children with I/DD, and \$25 million to help community providers pay for Personal Protective Equipment and other pandemic-related expenses like enhanced cleaning supplies. A letter to the editor about the importance of appropriate funding to support people with I/DD appeared on NJ.com in August ahead of the Governor's Budget Address. The Arc of New Jersey was also an invited guest at the signing of the FY21 Budget which took place at the War Memorial in Trenton. In the FY22 Budget, The Arc of New Jersey's advocacy led to a \$41.7 million appropriation in the Governor's proposed budget to again raise DSP wages ahead of the January 2022 minimum wage increase. There was also approximately \$57 million in funding included to continue the supplemental payments for residential providers who have supported people at home since the closure of day programs last year.

## **Legislation, Relationship Building & Advocacy**

In the past year, The Arc of New Jersey weighed in on more than 60 bills as they made their way through the legislative process. This included many oral testimonies on everything from Medicaid regulation, special education, transportation, employment, and COVID-19, as well as bills that affect families and community provider agencies. We also testified on a number of bills that were ultimately signed into law by the Governor. This included multiple pieces of legislation addressing transportation and paratransit services. We also met one-on-one with members of the legislature and their staff on specific priority bills as they made their way through the Committee process. The Governmental Affairs Program also coordinated two virtual events this year with lawmakers and representatives from the Department of Human Services. These events were held to recognize National Family Caregivers Month in November and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March. Also in March, The Arc of New Jersey was presented with a resolution recognizing DD Awareness Month by the Senate President on the floor of the Senate. The Arc of New Jersey also advocated with the Commissioners of Human Services, Education and Health throughout the last year on many COVID-related issues impacting those we represent. This included but is not limited to: access to vaccines, procedures for day program reopenings, family visitation, and virtual special education.



On the federal level, in coordination with The Arc US, we advocated with members of New Jersey's Congressional delegation on COVID-19 relief bills via the #WeAreEssential campaign. The American Rescue Plan, signed by the President in March includes a number of priorities we advocated for: \$12.7 billion in additional dedicated funding for Medicaid home and community-based services, stimulus payments extended to adult dependents with IDD, \$3 billion in additional funding for IDEA. We also participated in advocacy around Money Follows the Person (MFP). Ultimately, Congress extended MFP funding for the next three years.



### **Caregivers Taskforce**

The Arc of NJ is a member of the NJ Caregivers Taskforce, whose charge is to determine the availability of caregiver support services in the State, and provide recommendations for the improvement and expansion of such services. The Taskforce has been meeting monthly and has developed a caregiver survey, held 3 public listening sessions, and is collecting data on caregiving services. The final report to the Governor will be submitted in October 2021.

### **Communications & Get Out the Vote**

The Arc of New Jersey kept stakeholders informed on legislative news and information throughout the year with "Updates from Trenton." The Governmental Affairs program also authored updates for The Arc of New Jersey e-newsletter and The Arc of NJ Family Institute e-newsletter each month. In addition, a comprehensive Get Out the Vote Guide and accompanying web site were created and maintained ahead of the 2020 Election. Among other things, these resources helped to inform people about how to cast a vote which was especially important this year in light of new rules created due to COVID.



# The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute

*Lisa Ford, Director*

This was another busy year for The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute as outreach to families grew despite the many hurdles that were presented by closures and shutdowns. The key to our success this year was remaining flexible and creative when providing families with information and assistance.

Individuals assisted - 11,012

Website Visitors 20,118

Friends and Families lists 5,571

Instagram Followers- 653...More than doubled

Facebook Followers 2,116

13 New Podcasts and 1,181 Listeners!

7 Virtual College Tours- Over 550 people registered

16 webinars and 2,089 attendees

Archived webinars were viewed over 1300 times



Some of our more popular webinars:

Navigating The Medicaid Maze

Reflections on Everyday Coping During a Pandemic When A family Has I/DD

Self-Directed Programs at Public Partnerships

Demystifying Due Process

An Overview of Pre- Employment Transition Services Offered by DVRS

Life Planning: Helping Families Plan for the Future of a Loved One With a Disability

Sibling Rivals: Conflict Resolution For Children with I/DD and their Siblings

## ***Zoom With Us***

This year we put together a list of our most popular presentations and created a zoom workshop series for our families. Topics include(d).

- An Overview of The Arc of New Jersey
- College Options for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Understanding Support Coordination
- A Step by Step Process to Applying for NJ Divisions of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)
- What's in your IEP and How Do You Plan for Transition

We've had more than 350 people register for these events and counting!

## ***Virtual Caregiver Event***

Events in 2020 have looked much different than in years past, and our November 20th National Family Caregiver event was no exception. Although the annual event was moved online this year, it may have been our most successful to date. Members of the New Jersey Legislature and Administration stopped by (virtually) to celebrate National Family Caregivers Month and to discuss the challenges facing people with I/DD, DSPs, and family caregivers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Family members shared their experiences supporting loved ones with I/DD, and talked about the importance of DSPs, much needed COVID vaccinations, and the shift to virtual services. Honored guests included Senate President Steve Sweeney, DHS Commissioner Carole Johnson, Assembly Transportation Chairman Dan Benson, and Assembly Human Services Chairwoman Joann Downey.

## Virtual IEP Reviews

We are offering FREE virtual IEP reviews for families who may have questions or concerns about their child's plan. Families will have an opportunity to speak with an attorney from Hinkle, Prior, & Fischer to review their child's IEP, ask questions, and discuss any concerns they may have about their school district.

## Children's Advocacy

### Michael Pearson Jr., Assistant Director

In the first year since the program's creation, Children's Advocacy has focused on assistance for families receiving services through the Early Intervention System (EIS) and the Children's System of Care (CSOC). With a focus on being the go-to place for information about children's issues, the Program has developed innovative webinars, podcasts, and training materials for families and community providers. This year the Program began a new special education webinar series and newsletter, and an early intervention podcast. In addition, the Children's Advocacy Program expanded The Family Institute's growing resource list with new fact sheets and infographics. With the COVID-19 pandemic presenting a detrimental effect on the education system, the Program also helped families revise IEPs and attended virtual IEP meetings alongside families.

- Processed 1,075 applications for NJCDD COVID-19 Emergency Grant funding
  - Total funding: \$314,109
- Created school district closure/reopening guide
- Completed The Arc @School Special Education Course
- Created a survey for parents of students in special education which collected 441 responses
  - Survey respondents were added to FI email list
- Redesigned The Family Advocate Newsletter
- Created Self-Directed Services factsheet to assist individuals and families in deciding between the Personal Preference Program and DDD.
- Created Table Talk: A monthly special education update for students, parents, and professionals
- Created video message from The Arc of New Jersey for NJ Key Club
- Wrote Issues Facing Children with Disabilities position paper
- Wrote DCF Transition position paper
- Member of the Child Neurology Foundation's Telehealth Advisory Committee
- Started Special Education Webinar Series
  - Monthly webinars focusing on inclusion, assistive technology, transition, and bullying prevention
- 143 attendees after the first 3 webinars
- Started Sharing Perspectives: An Early Intervention Podcast
  - Monthly episodes featuring interviews with EI provider agencies, practitioners, parents, and state employees.
- 61 new Twitter followers
- Co-hosted the Safe Santa Cares Event
- Attended 4 IEP meetings with families
- Created Videoscribe guides for the Self-Directed Services fact sheet and Funding Environmental Modifications fact sheet





# Planning for Adult Life

## *Jerisa Maseko, Director*

Planning for Adult Life celebrates its seventh year of supporting students, ages 14 to 16 in special education, and their families, in the planning process of transitioning from school to adult life. PFAL continues to challenge of providing these families to create plans focusing on eight different areas including Entitlement Programs and Eligibility; Postsecondary Education/Employment; Planning/Visioning for the future; Housing; Legal/ Financial Planning; Building/Maintaining Community Ties; Self-Direction; and Health/Behavioral Health.

### *Highlights of the Year*

- The Making Action Plans for Life and Career Clubs (MAPs Clubs) - During the pandemic emergency, staff were able to instantly pivot our services to online platforms and continue to run strong in more than 60 schools serving all 21 counties of New Jersey.
- The Hands On Workshop Series (HOW) provided 48 presentations full of valuable information to more than 700 students and their families on State Services (New), SSI and Medicaid, Creating a Plan for Transition, College Options, Guardianship Basics, Exploring Employment Options, and Getting The Most Of Your Student's High School Experience (New).
- The PFAL website welcomed more than 9,000 visitors who have viewed our informational pages, watched archived videos and asked helpdesk questions.
- Our helpdesk responded to more than 700 inquiries.
- In order to reach students that aren't in the schools that we have agreements with, PFAL launched live Virtual MAPs Classes.
- Planning For Adult Life debuted a free "Got Plans?" guide and matching online curriculum for students. The guide and fun instructional videos will help students navigate decisions on the road to adulthood.
- The monthly Webinar Wednesday Series was held 8 times on various topics, a few highlighted topics including:
  - Creating a Transition Plan for Your Child's Future (Spanish version)
  - Getting the Most Out of Your Student's High School Experience
  - Introduction to IEPs and Understanding the IEP Process
  - Understanding the Basics of Special Education Mediation
  - Alicia's Law and The Graduation Process for Students in Special Education

**The COMPASS E-newsletter is distributed to more than 6,200 individuals monthly**

### *By the Numbers in the 2019-2020 School Year*

- 1,862 MAPs Clubs conducted
- 5,328 Students participating in MAPs Clubs
- 133 GOT Plans? downloads
- 451 Virtual MAPs Classes conducted



# Mainstreaming Medical Care

## *Beverly Roberts, Director*

The Mainstreaming Medical Care Program promotes quality medical, dental and behavioral health care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout New Jersey. During this past year, the COVID-19 pandemic was a high priority, impacting the program's work every day. We continued to respond to the usual types of requests for help, (e.g., what happens to the benefits of a son/daughter with I/DD when a parent starts to collect Social Security), but we also responded to a large number of coronavirus-related issues. Starting at the end of December, 2020 when two COVID-19 vaccines were approved for distribution, there were a very large number of questions about eligibility for and access to the vaccine. Throughout the year, we distributed information to help caregivers understand newly emerging issues that occurred because of the COVID pandemic, e.g.: How to contact Social Security during the pandemic; Medicaid terminations are prohibited during the pandemic; and persons with I/DD who received unemployment insurance during the pandemic - the impact on SSI and Medicaid.

- Responded to 1,008 requests for assistance from families and staff, including support coordinators and transition coordinators at schools. Many of the requests for help arose from concerns about COVID 19 and SSI or Medicaid benefits.
- Webinars and Zoom presentations on SSI and Medicaid and the annual webinar on changes in Medicare Part D for persons who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid - 860 persons.
- Three webinars on important COVID issues, organized by the Program Director - 1,550 persons.
- Wide dissemination of information on a variety of topics related to COVID-19 and individuals with I/DD - 1,632 names on our distribution list, and many of these emails were also distributed widely to other group lists.
- Prepared the script for two short videos for self-advocates about COVID. Viewings to date: 728 for the nasal swab testing video and 1,171 for the COVID vaccine video.

### ***Areas that Continue to be a Priority***

- Helping families understand all aspects of Medicaid for persons with I/DD, including what happens to the SSI and Medicaid of their son/daughter with I/DD when a parent collects their own Social Security benefit.
- Distributing information and responding to a variety of concerns pertaining to COVID-19 and individuals with I/DD, including information on the vaccine.
- Assisting families if their son/daughter with I/DD is notified that Medicaid will be terminated. Although Medicaid termination should not happen during the pandemic, some Medicaid termination notices have been sent.
- Explaining what happens when a person with I/DD is eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare.
- Helping families with private duty nursing (PDN) issues, including help if those hours were reduced or terminated.
- Helping families or staff who need to access medical, dental, or behavioral health care from a Medicaid managed care organization.

### ***Feedback***

- From a mom who had questions about Medicaid: "Thank you again. During these dark times (COVID, upcoming election, my personal health problems), your willingness to help me made my day."
- "Thank you so much. You answered all of our questions AND explained things that we weren't aware we needed."
- From a professional in the I/DD field who saw my Zoom presentation: "I was on the webinar this evening and it was fabulous! Every time I hear your presentation I learn something new. I really don't know how you keep it all straight!"

# Project HIRE

## Adam Kubler, Director

Project HIRE experienced many changes in the Supported Employment sphere over the last year. True to Project HIRE's goal of continuing to be a leader in the field, the program continues to adapt to these changes to ensure continued success. These are some of the highlights from the past twelve months:

Project HIRE's work with Union County Project SEARCH again proved successful with the 2020 cohort, with 9 students completing the program and meeting all required benchmarks. Additionally, the 2021 cohort was selected and is expected to experience the same, excellent outcomes when they graduate this summer.

Project HIRE was well prepared for the renewal of the agency's CARF certification. This important certification allows the agency to continue providing Supported Employment services to hundreds of individuals across the state. The program not only met, but exceeded CARF standards and the director is proud to have had the opportunity to show the program to surveyors. In spite of the ongoing pandemic and widespread power outages caused by severe weather during the survey, Project HIRE received no recommendations in the areas of field operations and was given the full, three-year accreditation.

Looking forward, the program is excited to announce that it will be expanding services to include the Social Security work incentive program, Ticket To Work. This program helps individuals reduce dependence on public assistance through employment support and Social Security benefits counseling to ensure a smooth transition to financial independence for individuals who qualify.



**Placements 118**

**Avg Service Hours Per Month 1,880**

**Individuals Currently Being Served 525**

**Transition hours 1,677**

**Adult Service Hours 15,240**

# New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project

*Ashley Ritchey, Director*

NJSAP reached a total of 6,649 Self-Advocates and 771 Direct Support Professionals through group facilitation, trainings, and virtual programming this year.

- Advocacy Trainings and Digital Workshops Delivered: 173
- NJSAP facilitated 66 Self-Advocacy groups for 755 participants
- We delivered 39 legislative advocacy trainings to 396 advocates
- The affiliated NJ Statewide Self-Advocacy Network gained 68 new members
- The NJSAP team attended 234 self-advocacy events, workgroups, and committees
- We released 34 publications and created 10 infographics, including a COVID-19 prevention and mask guide as well as a video chat etiquette graphic
- The NJSAP team responded to 2,685 I&R requests

## New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network



**ADVISORY BOARD**

## *Virtual Programming for Self-Advocates, Family Members, & Staff*

The NJSAP team delivers digital content and advocacy education every weekday. We disseminate 2 monthly e-newsletters, Positive Pulse and Advocacy Matters, as well as a biannual newsletter, The Self-Advocate.

Now in its 8th grant cycle, the Healthy Lifestyles Project (HLP) virtual trainings and events have reached 13,125 people since April 2020. A total of 368 virtual HLP events have been coordinated by the NJSAP team including the creation of 3 entirely new virtual programs:

- Stay Healthy at Home Webinar Series launched in April 2020 as a way of staying connected while day programs and schools are closed or operating at reduced capacity. The weekly series has reached 1,749 advocates thus far. Topics have included voting rights, The ADA, responding to Action Alerts, employment readiness, and supported decision making to name just a few.
- Healthy Lifestyles Project: LIVE launched in June 2020. These interactive workshops are held on Zoom twice each week and provide socio-educational experiences for students and adults with I/DD.
- Brain Games every Thursday at 1 PM on Zoom: Self-advocates are invited to play live, interactive board games with the NJSAP team. We test our creativity and knowledge, build communication and teamwork skills, and have fun!

## **Social Media**

NJSAP Website Visitors: 11,338

Facebook visitors: 4,339

New social media followers gained: 296

Action Alerts and Email Blasts Distributed: 171

Email Subscribers Reached: 19,446

New Subscribers Added: 723



# Criminal Justice Advocacy

*Jessica Oppenheim, Director*

The Criminal Justice Advocacy Program provides direct case management to individuals with developmental disabilities who become involved in the criminal justice system, in the municipal and superior courts of New Jersey. As of April 1, our caseload is 147 clients who are receiving these services, which include community service planning and communication with the court and attorneys. On average, our Community Care Coordinators, who provide case management, have an average of 45 cases and our Program monthly Level of Service Averages are between 700 and 900, well above the level of expected services.

Due to the pandemic, courts have been closed and client contact has been disrupted. Despite these challenges, as of March 30, the Community Care Coordinators drafted 18 Personalized Justice Plans, which we provide to the Court as a basis for successfully supporting the individual in the community, crime-free. They have appeared virtually in more than 75 court appearances. Part of our success in maintaining clients in the community comes from the ongoing relationship with probation and parole officers, and the opportunity to participate in alternative disposition court programs, which improves the ability of clients to comply with conditions of probation, such as finding suitable housing, jobs, day programs and other activities. Community Care Coordinators also work hand in hand with support coordination agencies to ensure delivery of services. One of our Community Care Coordinators was nominated by a client's family for The Arc of New Jersey Heroes' Award for her assistance in reaching a good disposition of the criminal matter and her ongoing support of the client.



The Equal Justice Talks Webinar Series continues to be very successful, bringing highly knowledgeable speakers on a wide range of difficult issues. This year's focus has been Reimagining the Criminal Justice System for People with I/DD. This has included highlighting programs around the country that create alternative disposition options and services specifically designed for people with IDD. Speakers have included experts from The Arc of New Mexico's Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program for people with I/DD, the Rockland County District Attorney's Office Alternative Disposition Program for people with I/DD and a speaker from the Northeast ADA Center, discussing the need for accommodations for people in court settings. The webinar series is seen by well over 1,000 viewers live and more once posted on our website.

The Partners in Justice Task Force has continued to meet to address concerns related to the sexual victimization and exploitation of people with I/DD. Our continued mission is to work on issues related to prevention and awareness. In April, during the week of April 18, which is Crime Victims Awareness Week, PIJ will hold a virtual vigil under the auspices of the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Projects to increase community awareness around the issues addressed in The Arc of New Jersey's White Paper.

# Training & Consultation Services

*Wesley Anderson, Director*

TCS has continued to provide support, training, and resources to SE providers and individuals with disabilities throughout the state. Some highlights include:

- The creation of the "Covid Nasal Swab" explainer video to help individuals with disabilities grow comfortable with the process. Viewed over 700 times.
- The creation of the "Covid Vaccine" explainer video. Viewed over 1,000 times.
- Worked with DVRS to update the SE documentation requirements and allow time for translating those changes to an electronic format
- Created a "Guide to Remote Billable Services" resource to aid providers adapting to the covid world.
- Developed new training "Technology Fundamentals" to aid provider agencies work in the virtual world.



# Communications and Development

*Celine Fortin, Associate Executive Director*

*Sharon Levine, Director of Governmental Affairs & Communication*

## Grants

DOF Cares	\$10,000
The Arc of the US (\$5k for GA activities around Covid, and \$11k for Project HIRE)	\$16,000
Investors Bank	\$500
Leandro Rizzuto Foundation	\$1000
Horizon Foundation for NJ	\$25,000

## Fundraising

Annual appeal	\$28,215
Heroes of The Arc	\$24,275
General donations	\$54,301

In addition, we received \$2.7 million from an estate of a longtime donor.

## Communications

The Arc of New Jersey increased our followers across all social media channels and added hundreds of new subscribers to our e-newsletter distribution list this past year.

- E-newsletter subscribers now total 1,787, an increase of 400 people from this time last year.
- Facebook: 3,432 page likes up from 3,185 last year
- Twitter: 3,245 followers, up from 3,186 last year
- Website visitors: 50,954 visitors and 110,400 pages viewed up from 42,919 visitors, 102,424 pages viewed last year



# Human Resources, Finance & Operations

*Michael Prendergast, Assistant Executive Director*

*Helen Rivera, Director of Administrative Services*

- In 2020 the Finance and Human Resource Department was reorganized to better streamline operations. The roles of Coordinator of Finance and Coordinator of Administrative Services were combined. The new position, Director of Administrative Services is responsible for Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable and payroll operations for the agency.
- The Arc of NJ acquired and updated computer hardware and software so as to better support a remote workforce during the health emergency. This included new cloud-based programs, remote access capabilities and software to support a variety of virtual programming.
- The Finance Department prepared the FY 2022 proposed budget and it will be presented at the Annual Meeting for approval.
- The FY 2020 audit of our financial statements was completed. There were no findings discovered.
- The Arc of NJ staff completed the FY 2020 audit for NJ Camp Jaycee and no findings were discovered.
- The Personnel Policies were reviewed by the Internal Committee and updated as needed.
- The Arc of New Jersey employed 47 Full Time Staff and 6 Part Time Staff. The breakdown is as follows: Female 43, Male 10 and the average length of employment is 9 Years.



## Board of Directors

### *Activities of the Board*

- 7 Executive Committee meetings and 4 Board meetings; DHS Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried and Ombudsman for Individuals with I/DD and Their Families Paul Aronsohn were guest speakers
- Board policies reviewed, revised and approved; Personnel policies reviewed and approved
- Represented The Arc of NJ at The Arc National Convention
- Regular meetings of all Committees – Governmental Affairs, Internal, Audit, Investment, By-Laws and the Family Advisory Council
- Development of slate of officers for FY 2022-2024 by Nominating Committee
- Development of an Ad Hoc By-Laws Committee to review The Arc of NJ By-Laws

### **Executive Committee**

Joanne Bergin, President

Kevin Sturges, First Vice President

Karen Murphy, Second Vice President

Carolyn Hayer, Secretary

Pamela Corrigan, Treasurer

### **Members-at-Large**

Bruce Bird

James Gallagher

Andy Sharick

Bruce Humphreys

S. Paul Prior

Kevin K. Walsh

Robert Hage, Immediate Past President

# Boards and Workgroups

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
Boggs Center Consumer Advisory Committee  
Coalition for a DSP Living Wage  
DDD Leadership Committee  
Division of Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocacy Committee  
Horizon NJ Health, Managed Long-Term Services and Supports, Advisory Committee  
Medical Assistance Advisory Council (MAAC)  
National Association of Social Workers - NJ Chapter  
National Conference of Executives of The Arc (NCE)  
NJ APSE Conference Committee  
NJ Business and Industry Association  
NJ Coalition for Special Education Funding Reform  
NJ Conference of Executives of The Arc (NJCEArc)  
NJCEArc Development Directors Group  
NJCEArc Finance Directors Group  
NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities, Health Committee  
NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities, People & Families, Editorial Board  
Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Network  
NJ Task Force on Abuse of Persons Who are Elderly or Disabled  
Protection and Advocacy for Developmental Disabilities (PADD)  
Supportive Housing Association of NJ  
The Arc of Union County's Medical Advisory Board  
The Arc's Center for Future Planning Chapter Workgroup  
EI Part C Steering Committee  
SPAN Community of Care Consortium  
CMS Medicare Partners  
NJ Caregiver Taskforce  
Oral Health Coalition  
National Task Group on I/DD and Dementia, Advisory Board  
Special Health Care Needs Task Force on Dental Care  
Women's Health Project; subgrantee on grant to Rowan Integrated Special Needs Center (RISN)  
CNF Telehealth Advisory Committee  
Governor's Stakeholder Workgroup  
NJ Supported Employment Workgroup  
NJ Legislative Disabilities Caucus

