



## Kevin Sturges Elected New Board President



The Arc of New Jersey is excited to welcome Kevin Sturges as the new Board President, effective July 1, 2021. Prior to this role, Kevin served as our organization's First Vice President and the Chair of our Governmental Affairs Committee. We would also like to recognize Joanne Bergin who concluded her four years as President on June 30. We thank her for the outstanding leadership and her commitment to those we represent. In addition, we are pleased to announce the following individuals will serve as our organization's Executive Committee:

**Karen Murphy, First Vice President**  
**Lauren Zalepka, Second Vice President**  
**Pamela Corrigan, Treasurer**  
**Carolyn Hayer, Secretary**

Members-at-Large include: Andy Sharick, Marnie McNany, S. Paul Prior, Charles Pinto, Steve Shallop, Robert Hage Joanne Bergin, Immediate Past President

We look forward to continuing our advocacy work with Kevin's leadership and advancing the organization and our mission under his direction.

## Governor Tours Future Playground Site for Children with Special Needs & Disabilities



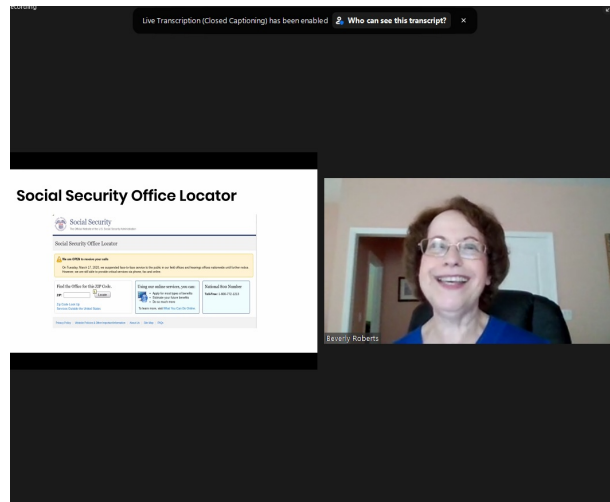
Executive Director Tom Baffuto was on-hand last week when Governor Murphy toured the future site of the "Toms River Field of Dreams."

When complete, the site will serve as an inclusive, three-acre outdoor complex geared toward children with special needs and disabilities. The FY22 Budget signed into law in June included \$400k to help complete the project. Pictured left is Tom with the Governor at the event on July 30, and pictured above is the Governor with the Toms River Mayor and Council members, as well as the family that helped to advance this project.



## Summer Leadership Institute Includes Presentation from Mainstreaming Medical Care Director

Mainstreaming Medical Care Director Beverly Roberts presented last month, alongside Bethany Lilly from The Arc of the United States, at the annual Summer Leadership Institute. The presentation was entitled: "Income Support for People with Disabilities: COVID and Social Security." Additional forms of income supports, such as stimulus payments, unemployment insurance, and revisions to tax credits benefiting low-income individuals, were passed as part of COVID relief and many of have helped, but some have also had unintended consequences. The session detailed these changes as well as strategies to address these complications. If you have questions about these issues, contact Beverly at [Broberts@arcnj.org](mailto:Broberts@arcnj.org).



## Act Now: Tell Congress to Pass the Better Care Better Jobs Act, a Historic Investment in Disability Services

**CLICK HERE  
to Take Action!**

For years, the service system that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families rely on, Medicaid, has needed an update. People are stuck on waiting lists, the direct care workforce is underpaid, and too often, unpaid family caregivers are filling in the gaps in service. The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified these problems and exposed the cracks and gaps in the care infrastructure when it comes to supporting people with disabilities. Now, following the Administration's proposals, Congress has introduced the Better Care Better Jobs Act. This bill includes a

long-overdue investment in the disability service system as part of a COVID-19 economic recovery to support care for Medicaid recipients and create more and better jobs for the workforce that provides that care. We must ask Members of Congress to enact legislation that lives up to this plan and do more for people with disabilities, their families, and the direct care workforce. [Click here to take action](#)

## The Arc Warren Hosts Triathlon at Mountain Lake



Congratulations to The Arc of Warren County on their Tri Mountain Lake Sprint Triathlon held July 17, in Liberty Township. The triathlon included a 1/4 mile swim, a 15-mile bike ride and a three-mile run. Proceeds from the event will support The Arc of Warren County which serves more than 1,100 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities each year. Pictured left is The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto and representatives of The Arc of Warren County. More information about the Chapter can be found on their web site by [clicking here](#).

## President Biden Recognizes Anniversary of the ADA

## On ADA Anniversary, Biden Recommits To Disability Rights

by Michelle Hammett | July 27, 2021



- Find a Job
- Major Gift Officer
  - Director of External Affairs
  - Healthcare Navigator
  - Director of Nursing

According to a report published in *Disability Scoop*, President Joe Biden used a White House ceremony marking the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act to push his plans to spend billions on home and community-based services and end subminimum wage. The article states that Biden, who was a co-sponsor of the ADA during his time in the U.S. Senate, hailed the landmark disability rights law for transforming American life for people with disabilities, but said there is still more progress to be had. Nicole Jorwic, Senior Director of Public Policy for The Arc US, was in attendance representing individuals with IDD, their families and Chapters of The Arc across the country. To read the full *Disability Scoop* article, [click here](#).

## A Proclamation on Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 2021.

JULY 26, 2021 • PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

Thirty-one years ago, on July 26, 1990, our Nation moved closer to the fulfillment of its foundational promise when we passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This landmark law affirms and protects the fundamental rights of people with disabilities — the right to equal opportunity, economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and equitable participation in every aspect of American life. For more than

On July 26, 2021, President Biden issued a proclamation recognizing the 31st Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. "This landmark law affirms and protects the fundamental rights of people with disabilities — the right to equal opportunity, economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and equitable participation in every aspect of American life. For more than three decades, the ADA has made our communities, our economy, and our country stronger and more vibrant. It has helped to uphold the dignity of the estimated 61 million Americans who live with a disability — in short, it is a triumph of American civil rights." To continue reading, [click here](#).

## The Arc of NJ selected by local Stop & Shop for Community Bag Program!

For the entire month of August, when you purchase a \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Stop & Shop located at 940 Easton Avenue, Somerset, New Jersey, \$1 is donated to The Arc of NJ, unless otherwise directed by the customer through the Giving Tag attached to the bag. The Community Bags are located on displays around the store and at the checkout. For more information about the program, please visit [stopandshop.bags4mycause.com](http://stopandshop.bags4mycause.com).



## DDD Seeks Input from Individuals, Families for Survey Project

### New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities

#### OVERVIEW: National Core Indicators (NCI) Surveys

New Jersey is one of fifty-five states including the District of Columbia participating in a national project called the National Core Indicators (NCI). The purpose of this is to identify needed performance indicators for the public services that support people with developmental disabilities.

#### What is the National Core Indicators?

National Core Indicators (NCI) is a collaborative effort between the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NADDSS) and the Bureau of Economic Research Institute (BERI). The effort will collect, analyze, and disseminate data that will be used to measure the quality of services provided to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families. These measures are obtained through a series of voluntary surveys. In 2021, we will be using the In-Person Survey, the Adult Survey, Family Survey, and Family Survey.

#### What do the NCI Surveys Measure?

The NCI measures how well the public system serves adults with developmental disabilities and their families, and how well the public system serves children with developmental disabilities and their families. The NCI measures how well the public system serves children with developmental disabilities and their families, and how well the public system serves children with developmental disabilities and their families.

#### How is the data used?

The data from the NCI surveys are often used to inform planning, identify practice gaps, and inform policy and program equity improvement initiatives. Many states also share the data with other states and the federal government to help inform national and state-level policy decisions. Please note that all information collected is kept confidential.

#### How do the surveys work?

The In-Person Survey (IPS) is a voluntary, face-to-face conversation completed with a selection of 600 individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families. The IPS is conducted in person by trained interviewers who are trained to support individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. The IPS is completed in person by trained interviewers who are trained to support individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. The IPS is completed in person by trained interviewers who are trained to support individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

#### The face-to-face portion of the IPS will be conducted virtually with the person receiving services and family members.

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10/20/2020 1:40:10pm (GMT-04:00) 1/21

The New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities is participating in the National Core Indicators project through three of NCI's voluntary surveys and they are seeking your help. The In-Person Survey (IPS) is a face-to-face conversation between individuals receiving services and trained interviewers. This year, the face-to-face portion of the IPS is being conducted virtually with the person receiving services. The Family Surveys, which are anonymous, are completed online (or via a paper version if necessary). The last day to participate in the NCI Survey Project is **August 31, 2021**. The Division would like to learn about families' experiences with services from the Division and provider agencies as well. All families of individuals who have received at least one paid service in addition to Support Coordination are eligible to participate and should have received notification of the survey. If a family has not received an invitation to participate in the NCI Family Surveys, they can request a survey by emailing us at [DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.NCI@dhs.nj.gov). Click the image for more information.

## 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:

- August 24 at 6 pm: [Accessing DDD Services](#)

## 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. *SUMMER HITS! We'll be playing replays of some of our favorite past webinars all of July and August. Don't worry, we'll be back in the fall with a new and improved webinar series with brand-new topics and new accessibility features!*

- August 3: [REPLAY: The Picture Perfect Filter: Using Facebook & LinkedIn to Find Work](#)
- August 10: [REPLAY - Model Employee Perfect Your Personal & Professional Look](#)
- August 17: [Replay: Managing Minutes for Productive People](#)
- August 24: [REPLAY - So Relatable! Everyday Self-Advocacy](#)
- August 31: [REPLAY - Love Languages: Healthy Relationships & Communications](#)

## 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*.

- August 4: [Food for Thought: Veggie Noodles](#)
- August 11: [SproutFlix: Movie Screening & Discussion](#)
- August 18: [Art Therapy Session](#)
- August 25: [Art Workshop: Abstract Art](#)

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

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## 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.

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## 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.



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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](#)

[DONATE NOW!](#)

STAY CONNECTED



The Arc of New Jersey | 732.246.2525 | [info@arcnj.org](mailto:info@arcnj.org) | [www.arcnj.org](http://www.arcnj.org)