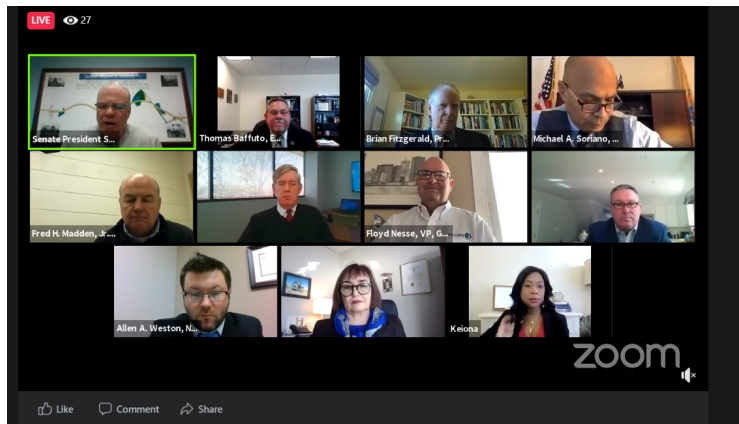




The Arc Participates in Employment Roundtable, Weighs in on Legislative Proposals

The Arc of New Jersey’s Executive Director Tom Baffuto participated in a Roundtable on Workforce Development for Adults with Disabilities on January 29, hosted by Senate President Sweeney. Tom told members of the legislature that employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities is a high priority for The Arc of New Jersey and that we believe an individual’s life significantly improves when they experience the benefits of working. Furthermore, Tom told members of the Roundtable that individuals with I/DD can work in competitive employment with the proper supports and services and that with the appropriate training and assistance, employment can be a reality for many individuals with developmental disabilities living across the State. To continue reading, [click here.](#)



Executive Director Tom Baffuto pictured above, top row, second from the left.

Chapter Spotlight: Salvador Moran Begins Tenure as The Arc/Morris Executive Director



Salvador Moran recently joined The Arc/Morris as the organization’s Executive Director after spending many years supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities at a New York Chapter of The Arc. We welcome Sal to his new role and we want to take a moment to introduce him to our community of readers and learn more about his plans for The Arc/Morris in the weeks and months ahead.

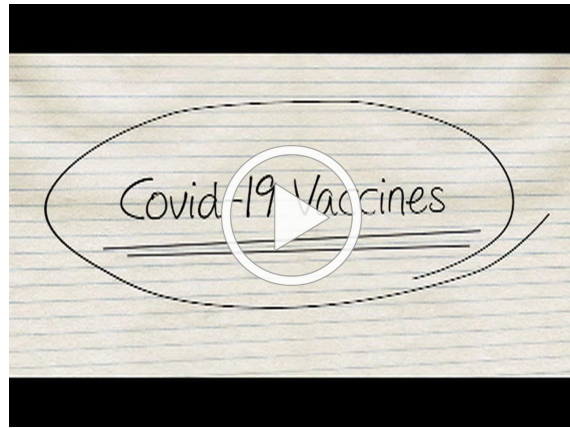
1. **What attracted you to the position of Executive Director at The Arc/Morris and how are you using your past experiences in your new role?**

I am the proud sibling to a woman with special needs. My hardworking parents taught me early on that people with disabilities, like my sister, deserve to be treated as equals, with the same right(s) to a good quality of life as everyone else. I was raised to believe that it is our duty to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to pursue that right. By fighting for the rights of those most vulnerable in our society and in need of help, we are creating a better world for all. My family’s struggles shaped my commitment to social justice. I understand the complexity and painful process that families of people

with disabilities must endure when they seek services for their loved ones. I have spent my entire career fighting to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities, and I plan to do this in our community as well. To continue reading, [click here.](#)

Video Helps to Demystify COVID Vaccine

The Arc of New Jersey is pleased to announce our new video to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities better understand what they can expect when receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. This short video is narrated by Self-Advocate Barbara Coppens who walks viewers through how to prepare for the visit, potential side effects from the injection, and the timeline for receiving a second dose. Please be sure to view our video, by clicking the image to the right, and share it with anyone you think may benefit from this information. You can find additional information on this issue by visiting the vaccine page of our [website](#). The Arc of New Jersey has worked tirelessly over the past number of months to ensure people with I/DD receive the COVID vaccine as soon as possible. We will continue to advocate on this incredibly important issue in the days and weeks to come.



Group Home Residents at The Arc of Union, SCARC Receive Activity Kits from Special Olympics

The Arc of New Jersey thanks Special Olympics New Jersey for their generous donation of activity kits for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in group homes operated by Chapters of The Arc. These kits will help keep people active and engaged while they continue to practice social distancing due to COVID-19. Group homes across the state received items such as: corn hole, ring toss, bowling and baseball games. We thank Special Olympics New Jersey for helping us keep individuals moving and having fun during this difficult time.



Pictured Left at SCARC: Tom Baffuto, Richard Lecher, Betty Lunn, Joanne Monaco and Darleen Blandina

Pictured top at The Arc of Union: Tom Baffuto, Donna Kell, Colleen Palmela and Karen Lewicki

Research Survey: Healthy Relationships & Sex Education

You are invited to join a study being conducted for Temple University. The purpose of this research is to explore recommendations for best practices in and barriers to sexuality and healthy relationship curriculums in schools for individuals with I/DD. [Participation is completely voluntary and should take](#)

[about 5-20 minutes to complete this survey.](#)

If you would like to participate in the Zoom interview, or if you have questions about this research, you should contact Melissa Rosen from Temple University's College of Public Health and intern at The Arc of New Jersey at mrosen@arcnj.org.

Participate in graduate level research with the College of Public Health at Temple University!

Research will be presented at Temple University's Research Day and will hopefully serve to improve education for individuals with IDD. If you would like to participate or if you have any questions, please email tj85377@temple.edu or mrosen@arcnj.org

Looking for self-advocates to partake in a short interview on Zoom about healthy relationships and sexuality education!

RESEARCH

Remember, this is completely voluntary. You can choose to be in the study or not. You will not be required to identify yourself by name and all responses will be coded to protect anonymity.



Upcoming Virtual Events!

We've added additional webinars to help individuals with I/DD and their families during this difficult time. Register today and be sure to check out our [calendar](#) for other upcoming events.



Webinars:

- February 17 at 1 pm: [Creating an Inclusive Classroom](#)
- February 17 at 6 pm: [Understanding Special Education Mediation and What to Expect](#)
- February 18 at 2 pm: [The Relationship Between Autism Spectrum Disorder and Criminal Responsibility - Part 2](#)

Zoom with Us:

- February 18 at 6 pm: [College Options for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)

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.

- February 2: [Love Languages: Healthy Relationships & Communications](#)
- February 9: [REPLAY: Follow Me! Guided Activities to Boost Your Health and Happiness](#)
- February 16: [Great Mentoring: Talking One to One about Sexual Decisions](#)
- February 23: [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 3: [Food for Thought: Blueberry Lemon "Ice Cream"](#)
- February 10: [Exploring Gratitude with Art Therapy](#)
- February 17: [Where the Wild Things Are: Cape May County Zoo Tour](#)
- February 24: [Dance Class with "Look Who's Dancing"](#)

NEW 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 few weeks, 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

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

STAY CONNECTED

DONATE NOW!

