



2020 NATIONAL CONVENTION PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Schedule subject to change.

Throughout this document, the term “intellectual and developmental disabilities” may be replaced with the acronym “IDD.”

October 26, 2020

**Opening General Session and Catalyst
Award Presentation 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET**

Sponsored by



Melody Cooper, Self-Advocate Specialist and Self-Advocate, The Arc of Indiana

Elizabeth Graham, Autism Waiver Service Coordinator and Self-Advocate, The Arc of Prince George’s County

Martha Haythorn, Disability Rights Activist, The Arc Georgia

Moderator: **Jose Velasco**, member of The Arc’s Board of Directors

Join us as we kick off our first-ever virtual National Convention with the presentation of our 2020 Catalyst Award, honoring one changemaker that has made extraordinary contributions toward greater social inclusion and the advancement of the human and civil rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Then we will hear from several self-advocates about their advocacy—yesterday, today, and tomorrow—as The Arc charts our course with a new Strategic Framework guiding our advocacy, programs, and more to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future head on.

BREAK

1:00 PM – 1:15 PM ET

FIRESIDE CHAT NETWORKING

1:15 PM – 2:00 PM ET

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Please be prepared to participate and explore the listed questions under each session.

Successfully Running a Small Chapter

Catherine Comer, Director of Development & Communications, The Arc Central Chesapeake Region

- ▶ What's going on in your role?
- ▶ What challenges are you currently facing?
- ▶ How do you make enough time for each of the roles you play?
- ▶ What are some things you have tried to put in place to increase your time capacity?
- ▶ How receptive are your staff to new ideas?
- ▶ How is the morale around you?

How to Successfully Engage and Work With Employers During COVID-19

Stephane Leblois, Senior Manager of Workforce Development, The Arc

- ▶ How do job developers contact employers in my area that are hiring during COVID-19?
- ▶ How do job coaches prepare individuals to be safe and successful in today's workplace?
- ▶ What are some workforce readiness training curricula that individuals and agencies can use to be more competitive in today's marketplace?
- ▶ Are there virtual/remote work options available to individuals with IDD?
- ▶ What are some tools my agency can offer to support people in the workplace safely?

Transition Planning for Students With Disabilities

Maureen Stone, Director, Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute; Director, Project HEAL

- ▶ How should you or your family prepare for life after high school?
- ▶ What are some of the differences between high school and postsecondary opportunities?
- ▶ Can postsecondary institutions deny students admission based on their disabilities?
- ▶ Do you or your family member need to notify institutions of higher education or employers of your disability status?
- ▶ How can you or your family members advocate for accommodations at the postsecondary level?

Criminal Justice

Leigh Ann Davis, Director of Criminal Justice Initiatives, The Arc

- ▶ What are the top one to three criminal justice and disability issues facing your chapter/agency and/or community/state right now?
- ▶ What criminal justice-related projects/services is your chapter or agency currently working on or providing?
- ▶ What are some of the biggest challenges your chapter or agency has faced providing criminal justice-related information & referral, training, or advocacy in light of the pandemic? How have you been able to address those challenges?
- ▶ What issues or new opportunities have you or your chapter/agency encountered in light of the death of George Floyd and discussions about reimagining policing?
- ▶ What types of resources or tools are most helpful when providing criminal justice advocacy, and what type of support would you like to receive from The Arc or other chapters/agencies to improve in this area of advocacy?
- ▶ Staff capacity and program sustainability are two key issues that most chapters/agencies struggle with when providing criminal justice advocacy. How is your chapter/agency addressing these challenges and what is the key to sustainability in your situation?

Assistive Technology Supports to Increase Independence

Pam Fields, CEO and Founder, Assistive Technology Training Center of CT (ATECH) & MidState Arc

Amy Rubin Mindell, Director of Community Outreach & Assistive Technology, Assistive Technology Training Center of CT (ATECH) & MidState Arc

- ▶ What does independence really mean?
- ▶ What barriers are preventing people with disabilities from being independent?
- ▶ What are some tools to help with independence?
- ▶ What are the ways that assistive technology, smart home technology, and remote monitoring are converging to help people with disabilities be independent?

Challenging Medical Discrimination During COVID-19: Challenges, Accomplishments, and Next Steps

Shira Wakschlag, Senior Director of Legal Advocacy & General Counsel, The Arc

- ▶ Have you experienced or witnessed a family member/client experience barriers in accessing health care during COVID-19?

- ▶ Have you experienced or witnessed a family member/client experience barriers in accessing COVID-19 testing sites in your state?
- ▶ Have you experienced or witnessed a family member/client experience barriers in accompanying a family member or person you are supporting to a medical appointment or hospital stay during COVID-19?
- ▶ Have you been engaged in advocacy challenging medical discrimination during COVID-19 in your state?
- ▶ Are you aware of the work The Arc has done to challenge medical discrimination during COVID-19?

Inclusive Fitness That's Adaptable and Fun

John White, Co-Founder/President, TruFit LLC

- ▶ How can we motivate and encourage physical activity in a social distancing society?
- ▶ What core principals are essential to developing a sustainable adaptive fitness program?
- ▶ What are some of the way's technology can be used to help adapt fitness for the IDD community?
- ▶ How do we create fitness inclusivity while still being specific to the needs of each individual?
- ▶ What are some of today's common barriers to fitness and how can we adapt to overcome them?

Social Security Policy Now and After Coronavirus

Bethany Lilly, Director of Income Policy, The Arc

- ▶ How has the pandemic impacted your Social Security or SSI benefits?
- ▶ Are Social Security offices giving you electronic options to do the things you need to do?
- ▶ Did you have challenges with Social Security or SSI before the pandemic?
- ▶ What improvements would you like to see to Social Security or SSI?
- ▶ Have you told your Members of Congress about the challenges you have had or the improvements you would like to see?

VIDEO BREAK

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2:00 PM – 2:15 PM ET

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2:15 PM – 3:15 PM ET

An Insider's View to Grantmaking: Funding From a Grantmaker's Perspective

Elaine E. Katz, Senior Vice President Grants & Communications, Kessler Foundation

To most people, grantmaking is a closed and secretive process—completed by funders sitting in a remote office tower. How do foundations find, fund, and manage their grants? Every foundation is unique and operates in a contextual framework with a mission and focus as diverse as its board of trustees and staff. Building bridges between funders and the non-profit community leads to better project outcomes, using the knowledge and strength of each organization. This session provides an insider's view on the skills and attributes behind successful grant making such as grant selection and review, project management, and evaluation. Understanding these basic decision-making principles used by foundations will bolster your working relationship with funding partners.

Inclusive Design Powering Accessible Xfinity Experiences

Tom Wlodkowski, VP of Accessibility, Comcast

Joel Moffatt, Principal Product Manager, Accessibility, Comcast

With accessibility options like Voice Guidance and Voice Control built in, Xfinity's entertainment, home control, and high-speed internet experiences really are simple, easy, and awesome. Comcast Accessibility Team leaders will demonstrate some of the key Xfinity Accessibility options and discuss their Inclusive Experience approach which, engages customers with disabilities and community partners in the product design and development process.

Caregiver Support in the Time of COVID

Patricia Nobbie, Director, Disability Policy Engagement, Anthem;

Katelyn Fitzsimmons, Product Management Director, Anthem

Joy Dalton, MBA, Provider Workforce Development Director,
Amerigroup Community Care

The pandemic has laid bare the gaps and weaknesses of our society's support for caregivers of older adults and people with disabilities. It has affected paid caregivers, such as DSPs and unpaid family caregivers, in much the same way. The need for alternative arrangements and for additional resources to support both of these caregiver universes arose quickly, requiring creative thinking and rapid response. In this session, Anthem representatives will share the supports they provided to support these paid and unpaid caregiver workforces and will also discuss some of the options being considered for moving forward.

Managing Through Crisis Part A: Restructuring Program and Financial Plans

Lauren Frary, Executive Director, The Arc of Somerset County

The recent pandemic reminds us that natural disasters and other crises can occur at any time and have dramatic impacts on our businesses. When such a crisis occurs, there is often little time to organize our business affairs amid more pressing personal obligations. Closures and quarantines forced programs and revenue streams to grind to a halt, causing many chapter leaders to scramble to deal with the financial impact while managing staff, programs, and especially the people they serve. In this session, you will learn how to put together a crisis plan while managing your staff and programs during a crisis.



Sponsored by the National Conference of Executives

National Council of Self-Advocates Symposium Interacting With Police: What You Need to Know Part 1

Dena Gassner, Member, The Arc Board of Directors

Chloe Rothschild, Member, The Arc Board of Directors

During this year's symposium, we will introduce some ideas about maintaining personal safety if we engage with law enforcement. Many seminars focus on training police, but self-advocates need to be empowered with information as well. This year, we will introduce some ideas to consider and ask for your feedback as we plan for part 2 in 2021.

Before attending this session, please [review this Powerpoint](#).
Learn more about the [National Council of Self-Advocates](#).

October 27, 2020

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET

Delivering Results in the New Virtual Reality: Digital Fundraising Strategies to Attain Your Year End

Lyndee Waldbauer, Marketing and Communications Coordinator,
The Arc Southern Maryland

Renee Seigley, Director of Development, The Arc Southern Maryland

The global pandemic has fundamentally changed the way we do business. In-person events have been replaced with robust virtual events that enable development professionals to effectively build and retain essential stakeholder relationships. Traditional fundraising processes have been replaced by or augmented with technology. New innovative tools, strategies, and campaigns

have become our new reality. In this session, The Arc Southern Maryland will provide an overview of the tools and strategies used to create two successful virtual campaigns, provide lessons learned and best practices for virtual events from around our industry, and discuss the power of storytelling. Come learn how they grew their donor base without meeting them in person.

The Chapter Executive's Guide to Avoiding Cybersecurity and Compliance Disasters

Mike Semel, President, Semel Consulting

Mike Damiano, Chief Executive Officer, Allegany Arc

Imagine a hacker locking your data files with ransomware that shuts down your network for over a week. No email. No billing. No reporting. Now imagine reporting the attack to the HIPAA enforcers and then telling your board your cyber insurance policy won't cover the \$100,000 ransom, \$25,000 IT bill, and your million-dollar compliance penalty (when you thought you were secure and compliant). This can really happen—but it is preventable. Cybersecurity and compliance expert Mike Semel and Allegany Arc Chief Executive Mike Damiano will show you what you must do to protect your reputation, your finances, and the individuals you serve.

Managing Beyond the Crisis Part B: Reflect, Refresh, and Rethink – How to Move Your Organization Forward

Lauren Frary, Executive Director, The Arc of Somerset County

It is only after the crisis passes that we fully appreciate the impact on our company's operations, forcing us to struggle from behind the power curve to put our business affairs back in order and comply with the seemingly endless legal and regulatory burdens that often arise after a major disaster. Now is the time to reflect, refresh, and rethink. In the conclusion to Part A session, you will learn how to reevaluate your crisis plan and make changes to it for a post-crisis organization.

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Employment Benefits Counseling

Michelle Sipple, Vice President, Achieva Family Trust, Achieva

- ▶ How does your organization handle benefits-related questions? Does your agency have someone specifically designated to provide this service?
- ▶ What is your personal level of comfort answering questions related to benefits?
- ▶ What are your go-to sources/partners for questions related to benefits?
- ▶ How many calls does your organization receive weekly/monthly on benefits?
- ▶ What are your client's biggest concerns/questions related to their benefits?

Sexual Education

Lukisha King, President, Lync Support Services Inc.

- ▶ What supports/guidance do you use when talking to individuals with IDD about sex?
- ▶ How do you introduce the topic of sex with individuals with IDD?
- ▶ How do you introduce the topic of sex to parents of individuals with IDD?
- ▶ When is it appropriate to talk about sex with individuals with IDD?
- ▶ What would you need to be more comfortable talking about sex with individuals with IDD?

Access, Equity, and Inclusion

Ariel Simms, Senior Program Manager & Attorney, The Arc

- ▶ How are you advancing access, equity, and inclusion (AEI) in your communities? Which communities are you trying to serve/reach and why?
- ▶ Share a recent success story or example of how you advanced AEI.
- ▶ Share a recent fumble in AEI and what you learned from the experience. What advice would you give to others working in this space?
- ▶ What would you like to see The Arc and other national disability organizations doing to advance AEI?
- ▶ What resources would help you with your AEI work?

This event is made possible thanks to the support of Southwire.



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Self-Advocates as Successful Board Members

Bill Krebs, Self-Advocacy Coordinator, Keystone Human Services

- ▶ How many self-advocates serve on your board? Do you have a minimum number of people with disabilities that need to be represented?
- ▶ What methods do you use to reach out to and recruit new self-advocates to become board members?
- ▶ In what ways have you utilized past self-advocates on your board? Do you think these were effective methods?
- ▶ What could you improve upon to increase participation from self-advocate board members?
- ▶ Does your board provide any compensation or services for self-advocates to attend and become effective members of the board (ex: hotel accommodations, transportation, direct care worker supports, accessible materials)?

How to Mobilize Families and Other Influencers

Joanna Scocchi, Director, The Arc Rhode Island

- ▶ How do you capture the attention of families in today's COVID world?
- ▶ How do you communicate your position/issue?
- ▶ How or what can you do to motivate someone to "adopt" your cause?
- ▶ How do you get them to show up, do something, or donate?
- ▶ How do you keep it going?

Creating Safe and Inclusive Communities

Matthew Lattimer, Lead Conciliation Specialist, U.S. DOJ, Community Relations Service

Mildred Duprey de Robles, Conciliation Specialist, U.S. DOJ, Community Relations Service

Kim L. Milstead, Conciliation Specialist, U.S. DOJ, Community Relations Service

- ▶ What challenges, if any, has your community faced in feeling wholly included within the fabric of civic and social life of your city? Schools?
- ▶ Can you discuss the difference between a bias incident and a hate crime?
- ▶ What should people do if they think they have seen or been victims of a hate crime/bias incident?
- ▶ What should people expect after reporting a hate crime or bias incident?
- ▶ What should law enforcement officials better understand about your faith/community to enhance your sense of security?
- ▶ What resources are available to assist victim(s) of bias-based incidents/hate crimes and how to access the resources?

What Congress Must Act on in 2021

Nicole Jorwic, Senior Director of Public Policy, The Arc

- ▶ What were the biggest successes and misses of the last Congress?
- ▶ What are The Arc's top priorities for next Congress?
- ▶ What are state human service budgets facing in 2021?
- ▶ How do we highlight the voices of people with IDD?
- ▶ How can Federal advocacy and State advocacy work together in 2021?

Annual Business Meeting (Convening and Voting)

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm ET

The Arc's Annual Business Meeting is an opportunity for attendees to engage directly with The Arc's National Board of Directors. This year's highlights include the proposed Bylaws amendment adding the Diversity Committee as a standing committee, election of officers and directors, and the adoption of proposed Position Statements.

For more information, including the agenda, visit [the Annual Business Meeting page](#).

VIDEO BREAK

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3:30 PM – 3:45 PM ET

Strategic Framework

3:45 pm – 4:45 pm ET

Peter Berns, Chief Executive Officer, The Arc

Frederick Misilo, Jr., Board President, The Arc

While we are in the midst of a global health pandemic that is wreaking havoc on all of our lives, we must also plan for the future and the challenges ahead. We spent the last two years doing just that—taking stock of what we've accomplished together, gathering your input, and planning for the future—and the future begins today. Attend this session as we unveil the new Strategic Framework for the Future of The Arc, your plan to guide our advocacy, programs, and more in the years ahead. Along with the Strategic Framework, we will also share insights gained from the national stakeholder survey we conducted along the way. Join us to listen and learn, ask questions, and share your thoughts and advice!

Advocacy “Power Hour”

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm ET

Liz Mahar, Director of Family & Sibling Initiatives, The Arc

Claire Manning, Director of Advocacy & Mobilization, The Arc

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to leave us navigating a very uncertain moment in our world. We’ve heard from self-advocates and siblings about the unique challenges they have experienced during this pandemic. In this “power hour,” we will gather a panel of self-advocates and siblings to share stories and learn more about the advocacy and plain language resources available to self-advocates and siblings to better navigate the pandemic. Knowledge is power. It’s important to learn about the resources you will need to be better advocates!

This event is made possible thanks to the support of Pfizer, Inc.



October 28, 2020

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET

Prepare and Protect Yourself From Digital Hazards

Angela Perryman, Family Advocate, The Arc of the Ozarks

Elizabeth Obrey, Family Advocate, The Arc of the Ozarks

Technology is the great equalizer for people all over the world. If we know how to use it, we can increase personal independence and success. Understanding the basics of how the internet works and how to keep personal information safe is vital. Whether you are a novice using the internet, teaching others about it, or need to upgrade your skill set, there is an urgency to learn to protect yourself from current threats and train your eyes to see the clues that are hidden from plain view. Privacy we took for granted in the past has been an open door for predators, hackers, phishers, and cheats. Going further than tips, this presentation will give solid guides for protection and navigation.

COVID-19 and Post-Election Congressional Plans

Nicole Jorwic, Senior Director of Public Policy, The Arc

Bethany Lily, Director of Income Policy, The Arc

Annie Acosta, Director of Fiscal and Family Support Policy, Public Policy, The Arc

Molly Burgdorf, Director of Rights Policy, The Arc

Mike Nagel, Program Associate, The Arc

Hear from The Arc’s public policy team about the COVID-19 legislative packages that moved through Congress this year and how they impacted, and missed, the needs of the disability community. As the election approaches, the team will also outline what we anticipate in the lame duck session of Congress.

Using Data for Quality

Michelle Saunders, Assistant Director of Business Development, Therap
Hannah Burkhart, Documentation Control Specialist, The Arc of the Ozarks
Brian Siracusa, Executive Director, The Arc Tampa Bay
Gina Turner, Director of Employment Services, The Arc of San Diego

This session will be a panel presentation with Therap and chapters of The Arc to discuss the impact of using electronic documentation on overall quality of service delivery. Panelists will discuss their experience with utilizing electronic data collection and reporting to facilitate improved efficiency, planning, and overall outcome assessment and achievement for the individuals they serve.

VIDEO BREAK

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1:00 PM – 1:15 PM ET

General Session and NCE Awards Presentation

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM ET

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During this General Session, we will begin by recognizing a few passionate and dedicated chapter leaders of The Arc. The NCE Awards honor NCE members as well as those persons outside the membership who make significant contributions to strengthen the IDD community. These awards celebrate those who strive for excellence, put our clients first, and deliver great results. Join us in congratulating the 2020 NCE award recipients.

Next up, we will be featuring direct support professionals and advocates in their own words and videos.

Business Meeting (Speeches, Reports, Open Forum)

2:15 pm – 3:45 pm ET

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