

ARC NEWS IN INDIANA

Empowering People. Inspiring Change.

The
Arc

OF INDIANA

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www.arcind.org

Winter 2010

Family Guide to Objective Based Allocations Pages 4 and 5

Public Policy Agenda Page 6

Winter Heating Assistance Program Page 7

Next Phase of Pathways Campaign Underway

"To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires courage." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

On November 9, 2010 at The Arc of Indiana Conference, The Arc launched the next phase of the Building Pathways to Empowerment Campaign—mapping a new course of action for programs and services for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

The Pathways Campaign began as an effort to take a fresh look at Indiana's system of programs and services for people with developmental disabilities and their families, with the goal to find innovative ways to redesign that system into one that provides what people want and need in the most sensible way possible.

A key component of the campaign was bringing together national

leaders in the field of disabilities, the "Big Minds Group," to generate new ideas for Indiana. Through their work, five key initiatives have been identified that are central to creating that new path:

Pathways Initiatives

- Use What You Need
- Look to Career Paths – Paid and Volunteer
- Realize Gifts
- Support Resourcefulness
- Shift the Power: What Works/What Doesn't Work

Now that these new pathways have been identified, the work to build the paths begins. Harnessing the collective wisdom of leaders,

families, self-advocates and providers will be the key to the success of this ongoing campaign.

Indiana Response Team

Leaders in Indiana's disability field have come together to form the Indiana Response Team. The team is developing a plan of action to implement the major Pathways initiatives.

Regional Pathways Forum

Beginning in February, The Arc will host regional forums where families, self-advocates and providers will have the opportunity to discuss, brainstorm and provide input on the key Pathways initiatives:

- How can We all "use what you need" so that others who

are waiting have the opportunity to use what they need?

- How can We support career paths – from paid to volunteer?
- How can We help individuals discover and realize their gifts?
- How can We support the resourcefulness of individuals with disabilities and their families/community?
- How can We shift the power by doing more of what works and stop doing what does not work?

Watch for dates and locations on The Arc's website, www.arcind.org.

Be a Part of Change

To map out a course of action and follow it to an end is not easy and does indeed require courage. Based on the response The Arc received from the over 300 people who attended the conference, and the enthusiasm already brought to the campaign by the Indiana Response Team, The Arc is excited and energized as the next phase of the Pathways campaign moves forward in mapping a new course in programs and services for people with developmental disabilities in Indiana. Learn more by visiting www.arcind.org.



Darron Cummings / AP

Cameron Dunn, 22, who has epilepsy, autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, goes to work with his stepfather and sits in his truck since he cannot be left home alone during the day. Just two years ago, individuals like Cameron were able to get services through a Support Services Waiver when they came out of high school without being on a waiting list. While the state is working to move people off waiting lists, bringing 102 people into services in October, 2010, over 20,000 people continue to wait. Cameron's situation underscores the very real problem that viable options are not available to families due to Indiana's revenue short fall and changes in state policy.

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Learn and Share on The Arc's Pathways Website

Learning and sharing with one another is an important part of the Building Pathways to Empowerment Campaign. One way to do this is through our Pathways website both in "Innovation" and on "Message Boards." Visit: www.arcind.org/building_pathways.

Innovation

Out of the most challenging times have come the best ideas. Through this section of the web site you can upload videos, photos and stories to share and learn about innovative programs, services and new ideas. Items current posted include stories, photos and videos on finding solutions to employment, how one mom gets "free stuff" from CVS to donate to people with disabilities through a local service provider, a community garden, and a program to make "dreams come true" for people with developmental disabilities. Whether you are a provider, direct support professional, family member, advocate for people with disabilities or a self-advocate, we welcome you to share and learn in "Innovation."

Message Boards

Through message boards for families, self-advocates and providers you can share ideas, concerns, solutions or a kind word to support one another. You can start a new message topic, review topics that have been posted, and post comments on a message topic. Sometimes when you are working in the field of disabilities, or you are raising a child with a disability, you can feel like you are alone in your journey. Message Boards is a way to connect with others in a journey you share together.

Betty Williams Elected as SABE President

Betty Williams, The Arc of Indiana's Consumer and Education Training Coordinator, was elected President of Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) at their national meeting in Kansas City, Missouri in September.

SABE is the self-advocacy organization of the United States. Founded in 1990, SABE works for the full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in the community throughout the 50 states and the world. The non-profit advocacy organization is run by a board of self-advocates representing nine regions of the country.



Betty Williams

In addition to her leadership activities with SABE and work at The Arc, Betty serves as Immediate Past President of Self-Advocates of Indiana.

Self-Advocates of Indiana Elect New Officers



Congratulations to the new officers of Self-Advocates of Indiana, elected at SAI's Annual Meeting on October 20, 2010. Pictured left to right: Treasurer Nicki Hinkle, Vice-President Shawn Fulton, Immediate Past President Betty Williams, President Melody Cooper, Sargent-at-Arms Erik Smith and Secretary Jennifer Seeburger.

Executive Director's Column

Mapping a new course



John Dickerson

Mapping out a new course is not easy, but I am extremely pleased with the response The Arc received from the over 300 people who came to The Arc of Indiana's conference November 9, 2010 to learn about new initiatives set out in the Pathways campaign to reform Indiana's system of services for people with developmental disabilities. As we move forward in this next phase of

the campaign, there is much work to be done. Having such willing partners at the grassroots level willing to join in this important work is wonderful. The success of this effort will depend on the creativity and ingenuity of people in Hoosier communities throughout the state. Learning and working together will be essential to the success of this reform effort.

I recently spent the morning with a mother who had not thought about volunteering as something that might be an important part of her son's life – even though when we

talked, she shared that he loves to help out at his church. This young man has severe cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities and is not able to speak. When case managers and providers talked to her about him working, she thought that they had absolutely no idea what they were talking about. But when we talked about what he likes to do at church, and the people there who appreciate what he does, a new world of understanding opened to her – perhaps *work* could mean something other than a traditional job.

In my many years of working at The Arc, I cannot remember a time when the state faced more difficult times economically. I also cannot remember a time when I felt more energized by the very real ability of Hoosiers to come together to make positive change happen.

I thank those of you who are already part of this effort, and welcome *you* to be a part of change by joining in the Building Pathways to Empowerment Campaign.

Learn more, visit: www.arcind.org/building_pathways.

Celebrating Gifts and Innovation

An important focus of Pathways Campaign is celebrating the many gifts that people with developmental disabilities have to offer, as well as the resourcefulness and creativity of local chapters of The Arc and other providers who work every day to develop and implement innovative programs for individuals in their communities.

Our 2011 calendar features both innovative programs and individuals with disabilities who are contributing to their communities through paid employment, volunteer work, leadership activities and so much more.

Throughout 2011 we will share the stories of those featured in our 2011 calendar. To purchase a calendar, visit us at www.arcind.org.



John Followell, KCARC

John Followell operates a CNC router at Dove Manufacturing in Vincennes, Indiana. His work will be used in the construction of projectile pallets for the U.S. military. Dove Manufacturing's Plant One, where John works, is operated by KCARC, local chapter of The Arc in Knox County. The plant employs people with and without disabilities in the manufacturing of metal and wood products, paint application and assembly operations. Other plants produce apparel, fiberglass products and food packaging. During his years at Dove Manufacturing, John has learned various work skills and is able to work in different areas of the plant, making him a valued and trusted employee.



Chris Meyer, Dr. Melinda Weakley and Mari Shawcroft; Milestones/Stone Belt Arc

Milestones, a division of Stone Belt Arc in Bloomington, is an outpatient clinic serving the mental health needs of children, teens and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Chris Meyer, a client of Milestones and Stone Belt Arc, is pictured here with Psychiatrist M. Melinda Weakley and Behaviorist Mari Shawcroft. Dr. Weakley and Mari partner together to provide Chris with the innovative clinical resources he needs to experience success. Chris is an active participant in defining the supports he needs to fully participate in the community.



Emily Parker, Arc Rehab Services

Emily Parker lives in a group home operated by Indiana MENTOR in Indianapolis and attends Arc Rehab Services during the day. Emily will be the first one to tell you that she has been shy and

reserved all of her life. That is until the Lebanon-Arc Aktion Club, a Kiwanis service club for people with intellectual disabilities, recently voted Emily in as its president. Emily was unsure and quiet at the beginning of her term as president, but now runs the meetings by herself and steps up to the microphone with confidence. Under her leadership, the club is currently working on a project to sponsor several children in the "Early Readers Club" of United Way of Central Indiana. Emily loves having the opportunity to develop leadership skills while giving back to her community.



Denise Fields, Arc BRIDGES

Denise Fields attends Arc BRIDGES' South Developmental Center in Crown Point where she participates in Work Services. Denise was recently honored for her thirty years of service to Arc BRIDGES. Denise is currently fulfilling a personal goal through Arc BRIDGES' Community Connections program – a program that links people with disabilities to resources and activities in their community. Denise's wish was to be a Meals on Wheels volunteer. Once a month, Denise and her Community Connections staff person, Inez, pick up meals and off they go. It is hard to say who enjoys these visits more. The folks on the delivery route look forward to their visit with Denise, who always leaves them with a cheery "enjoy your lunch" greeting.

Family Guide to Objective Based Allocations

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) has implemented a new process known as *Objective Based Allocations* to allocate funding for recipients of the Developmental Disabilities (DD) and Autism Medicaid waivers. This allocation process is designed to ensure that individuals with similar support needs, who

are living in comparable situations, receive similar allocations of funds. To understand the new process, you need to know about Assessment (Algo) Level Assignment, Budget Allocation Determination, and the Individual Service Plan. Those subjects are discussed here, along with some frequently asked questions.

Assessment (Algo) Level

Individuals receiving DD or Autism Medicaid waiver services will be assigned an assessment level, known as an *Algo level*, that is based upon their need for services as well as their health and behavior needs. It is called an Algo because it is created by an algorithm that factors in various information about the individual. Assessment levels can range from a level of 0 for those with minimal needs, to a level of 6 for those with very intensive needs.

The assessment level is directly based upon an individual's ICAP (Inventory for Client and Agency Planning) assessment and addendum questions to the ICAP on health and behavioral needs. A company called Arbitre has completed an assessment for each individual having a DD or Autism Waiver within the last three years.

The ICAP includes two sets of addendum questions on health and behavioral needs—referred to as Health/Behavior Factors. Answers to the ICAP and Health/Behavior Factors are important in determin-

ing the level of funding individuals will receive in their Medicaid waiver budget under the new allocation system.

Families and consumers can request a copy of their ICAP and Health/Behavior Factors from their IPMG case manager. The information should be carefully reviewed to determine if the information is accurate.

It is also important to carefully review the description for the assessment level that has been assigned to the individual to make sure it accurately reflects his or her needs. Detailed descriptions of each level can be found in the chart below.

If the assessment level is correct, the next step will be developing the *Individual Support Plan* (ISP). If the assessment level does not seem to fit the individual's needs and/or there is inaccurate information in the ICAP or Health/Behavior Factors, an IPMG case manager can request that the assessment level be reviewed and adjusted through a Budget Review Questionnaire (BRQ). More information on this is provided in the Frequently Asked Questions section on page 5.

Low 0	Basic 1	Regular 2	Moderate 3	High 4	Intensive 5	High Intensive 6
0 hrs.	0 hrs.	36 hrs.	72 hrs.	108 hrs.	144 hrs.	Individual plan for hours

Annual Hours for Behavioral Supports Based on Assessment (Algo) Level

Budget Allocation Determination

Once an individual's assessment level has been established, a budget allocation for services will be created for each of three separate areas: Day Services Support, Behavioral Support and Residential Support. It is important to note that funding allocations for Day Services Support and Behavioral Support can only be used for services defined specifically for these areas. Funds available for Residential Support are somewhat flexible and may be used toward services such as Day Services Support, Behavioral Support, Family and Caregiver Training and Electronic Monitoring.

Day Services Support

Each individual receiving DD or Autism waiver services will receive funding to be used for Day Services Support. These services can include:

- Facility Habilitation
- Community Habilitation
- Pre-vocational Services
- Supported Employment Follow Along (SEFA)
- Adult Day Services
- Facility Based Support Services
- Work Place Assistance
- Respite Services*
- Transportation
- Music Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Recreational Therapy
- Psychological Therapy

*Electronic Monitoring (EM) can be used for adults age 18 or older for Respite Care. Approximately 1.7 hours of EM can be substituted for one hour of Respite Care.

The funding amounts for Day Services Support are: \$5,500 for children and those attending school, \$10,500 for adults with assessment levels 0-4, and \$18,000 for adults with assessment levels 5 & 6.

Behavioral Support

No Behavior Supports are required for those who have assessment levels 0 or 1. Individuals with assessment levels 2 and above will have funding that must be used for Behavioral Support. The required hours of Behavioral Support increase as each assessment level increases. Behavioral Support hours can help individuals with any behavior that interferes with their full participation in any facet of their life, including specific behaviors that may need to decrease or increase.

Residential Support

Funding for Residential Support is based upon an individual's assessment level and living situation. The chart on page 5 indicates the Residential Habilitation Service (RHS) hours an individual will receive per day. Those hours will be combined with hours available to housemates to provide the total hours of residential supports. As an example, an individual with an assessment level 3 who lives with two housemates is eligible for 7.8 hours of RHS per day. The state believes that the majority of people needing 24-hour residential supports will have a level 3 assessment and should have two housemates.

Funds available for Residential Support are somewhat flexible and may be used toward services such as Day Services Support, Behavioral Support, Family and Caregiver Training and Electronic Monitoring (EM).

Assessment (Algo) Level	Description
0—Low	High level of independence (Few supports needed). No significant behavioral issues. Requires minimal Residential Habilitation Services.
1—Basic	Moderately high level of independence (Limited supports needed). Behavioral needs, if any, can be met with medication or informal direction by caregivers (through the use of Medicaid state plan services). Although there is likely a need for day programming and light Residential Habilitation Services to assist with certain tasks, the client can be unsupervised for much of the day and night.
2—Regular	Moderate level of independence (Frequent supports needed). Behavioral needs, if any, met through medication and/or light therapy (every one to two weeks). Does not require 24-hour supervision—generally able to sleep unsupervised—but needs structure and routine throughout the day.
3—Moderate	Requires full-time supervision (24/7 staff availability) for medical and/or behavioral needs. Behavioral and medical supports are not generally intense and can be provided in a shared staffing setting
4—High	Requires full-time supervision (24/7 frequent and regular staff interaction, require line of sight) for medical and/or behavioral needs. Needs are moderately intense, but can still generally be provided in a shared setting.
5—Intensive	Requires full-time supervision (24/7 absolute line of sight support). Needs are intense and require the full attention of a caregiver (1:1 staff to individual ratio). Typically, this level of services is generally only needed by those with intense behaviors (not medical needs alone).
6—High Intensive	Intensive Requires full-time supervision (24/7 more than 1:1). Needs are exceptional and for at least part of each day require more than one caregiver exclusively devoted to the client. There is imminent risk of individual harming self and/or others without vigilant supervision.

Assessment (Algo) Level Scale Descriptions

	Low 0	Basic 1	Regular 2	Moderate 3	High 4	Intensive 5	High Intensive 6
Living with Family	0.2 hrs.	2 hrs.	3 hrs.	4 hrs.	5 hrs.	6 hrs.	Individual plan for hours
Living Alone	0.2 hrs.	2.6 hrs.	6 hrs.	9 hrs.	11.7 hrs.	21 hrs.	
Living with 1 Housemate	0.2 hrs.	2.6 hrs.	5.3 hrs.	7.8 hrs.	11 hrs.	12 hrs.	
Living with 2 Housemates	0.2 hrs.	2.6 hrs.	4.6 hrs.	7.8 hrs.	10.1 hrs.	11 hrs.	
Living with 3 Housemates	0.2 hrs.	2.4 hrs.	4.3 hrs.	7.3 hrs.	9.4 hrs.	10 hrs.	

Residential Habilitation Service (RHS) Service Hours Based on Assessment (Algo) Level and Living Situation

when two or three people share a home and direct support staff. The Objective Based Allocation system is designed to encourage individuals who have assessment levels of 3 & 4 to live with one or two housemates.

At this time, approximately 1,000 Medicaid waiver consumers who receive 24-hour supports, seven days a week, live alone. If each of the 1,000 people currently living without a housemate began to share expenses with just one person, savings of approximately \$20 million could be achieved.

The Arc of Indiana worked with Self-Advocates of Indiana to develop a Housemates Guide to assist families with the process of finding housemates. The guide can be requested from The Arc of Indiana by calling 800-382-9100 or emailing thearc@arcind.org. In addition, The Arc of Indiana has worked in partnership with TheArcLink to develop a website, www.findmyroommate.org, that can assist people in finding a housemate.

What can I spend the Day Services Support funding on?

Day Services Support funds should be focused on the individual's person-centered plan and long-term goals for community involvement, employment and having a meaningful day. (See list of services under "Day Services Support.")

Do I have to go to a workshop if I don't want to?

Individuals do NOT have to go to a workshop. The day services funding can be used for a variety of options, as listed on page 4.

How can I use my Behavioral Support hours?

Behavioral Support hours can help individuals who have any behavior that interferes with their full participation in any facet of their life. Behavioral supports can help individuals with specific behaviors that may need to decrease or increase.

Through observations, team collaboration and assessment, a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) is completed. The FBA identifies behaviors and potential causes for those behaviors. With this information the team, facilitated by the Behav-

ioral Consultant, will develop a Behavior Support Plan (BSP). The BSP will be used as a tool by all members of the team to effectively intervene with that individual in both proactive and reactive ways to reduce or eliminate challenging behaviors, while at the same time increasing and facilitating replacement behaviors that will help that person achieve better outcomes in their life.

Specific activities can include training of staff, family, roommates and other appropriate individuals in behavior plan implementation, assertiveness training, stress reduction techniques, development of socially acceptable behaviors, consultation with team members and clinical consultation with a psychologist as needed and recommended by the team.

Can funding allocated for Behavioral Support or Day Services Support be used for Residential Support, or can funding for Behavioral Supports be used for Day Services Support and vice versa?

DDRS has stated that funding allocations for Day Services Support and Behavioral Support can only be used for services defined specifically for these areas. Funds available for Residential Support are somewhat flexible and may be used toward services such as Day Services Support, Behavioral Support, Family and Caregiver Training and Electronic Monitoring (EM).

Is it possible to use my Residential Habilitation Service Hours for Electronic Monitoring?

Electronic Monitoring (EM) hours can be substituted for hours of Residential Habilitation Service (RHS). Because an hour of EM costs less than an hour of RHS, one hour of RHS can buy about 1.5 hours of EM. The more EM used in a service plan, the more hours of residential service can be provided in any particular day. EM can be used as a substitute for RHS for overnight hours, or time periods during the day or evening. Using EM in place of RHS may allow an individual to have fewer roommates or to schedule more on-site staff for a particular time period.

Individual Support Plan

Once an individual receives his or her total funding allocation, based on funding levels and hours of services for Day Services, Behavioral and Residential Supports, the Support Team will meet to create an Individual Support Plan (ISP). The ISP details the programs and services the individual will receive within each of the service areas. The service plan should be based on the individual's person-centered plan, with the goal of creating a plan that focuses on achieving the individual's goals for community involvement, employment and having a meaningful day. It is important to remember that part of the process of creating a plan may be to include activities in the plan that do not fall within the traditional funding process. This might include, for example, participation in local parks and recreation programs, volunteer work and community activities.

Medicaid Prior Authorization (PA) and IHCP Services

To make Medicaid waiver dollars stretch as far as possible, it is important to make use of all available Medicaid Prior Authorization (PA) and Indiana Health Coverage Program (IHCP) services. PA and IHCP services include:

- Pharmacy Services
- Physician Services
- Dental Services
- Home Health Care
- Hospice Care
- Outpatient Mental Health Services
- Medical Supplies and Equipment
- Incontinence Supplies
- Transportation

Objective Based Allocations: Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the state moving to Objective Based Allocations?

The intent of an Objective Based Allocation process is to create more equitable allocations for individuals with similar support needs who live in similar situations.

How is my Objective Based Allocation determined?

Individuals will be assigned an assessment level, known as an "Algo level," that is based upon their need for services as well as their health and behavior needs. The assessment level is directly based upon an individual's ICAP (Inventory for Client and Agency Planning) assessment and addendum questions to the ICAP on health and behavioral needs.

What is the ICAP and Addendum Questions on Health/Behavior Factors?

The ICAP (Inventory for Client and Agency Planning) is an assessment tool used to describe the needs of an individual who receives waiver funding. Addendum questions are questions at the end of the assessment that provide information about an individual's health and behavioral needs. Answers to these questions have a significant impact on an individual's assessment level.

How do I get a copy of my ICAP and answers to the Addendum Questions?

You can request a copy of your ICAP and answers to the addendum questions on Health/Behavior Factors from your IPMG case manager. Carefully review the results to be sure it accurately describes the individual being assessed.

What if there are errors in the ICAP or answers to the Health/Behavior Factors in the adden-

dum questions, or the assessment (Algo) level that has been assigned does not reflect the individual's needs.

Contact your IPMG case manager. Request that your case manager submit a Budget Review Questionnaire (BRQ) to the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS).

The BRQ should carefully document any disputed information, including any health, behavioral or living situation changes that have occurred since the ICAP and addendum questions on Health/Behavior Factors were completed. Good documentation is essential to the review process.

A Personal Allocation Review Specialist (PARS) will review the information that has been submitted and *may* create a new assessment (Algo) level based on information provided and/or phone interviews. This *may* lead to an increase in your Medicaid waiver budget allocation.

How will the new allocation system affect people with significant physical disabilities?

The Arc of Indiana is concerned about how the new allocation system will affect staffing for people with significant physical disabilities. It is important that allocations provide sufficient staffing when two people need assistance with lifting, bathing, eating, transportation and safety – even when equipment such as a Hoyer lift is available. If you or your loved one would be affected by this, talk with your IPMG case manager. The Arc is working with FSSA to address this issue.

Why do I need a housemate?

Residential Supports make up nearly 90% of the over \$500 million in Waiver spending. Significant savings can be achieved

The Arc's 2011 Public Policy Agenda

The much anticipated 2010 general elections resulted in major changes in the Indiana General Assembly. Not only did the House of Representatives swing to a Republican majority, but the Republicans now hold a super majority in the Senate – meaning it would be possible for them to conduct business without any Democrats in attendance. More than twenty-five freshman legislators will be in the Indiana General Assembly, leaving much room for education and new relationships to be built.

The state of Indiana remains in a difficult financial situation. To quote the incoming chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Jeff Espich, “The biggest challenge is getting everyone to understand that

there really is no money. Unfortunately, I think there are still some people out there in public, in schools and probably even the legislature, who don't accept the fact that we're broke.”

More than twenty-five freshman legislators will be in the Indiana General Assembly, leaving much room for education and new relationships.

Over the last eighteen months, services and programs for people with developmental disabilities have seen budget cuts totaling \$255 million. More than 22,000 people sit on Medicaid waiver waiting lists, and some are facing nearly fifteen years of waiting. The Arc, families and advocates must continue to share personal stories with members of the Indiana General Assembly so they never lose sight of the hardships citizens in Indiana are facing.

The focus needs to be on doing things that add real value to people's lives.

Realizing that Indiana faces a difficult financial situation is one reason The Arc of Indiana embarked on the “Building Pathways to Empowerment” Campaign.

Key to the initiatives of the campaign (see article on page one) is understanding that the focus needs to be on doing things that add real value to people's lives. For too long the focus has only been on the services and supports that people need, not what individuals can and want to give back. As we work through the 2011 budget writing session, we will work to keep the Pathways Campaign initiatives central to our work.

The Arc of Indiana remains committed to working with the administration, providers and schools to serve the most people in the most meaningful and cost effective way. We will continue to advocate for a system which does not lose sight of what is in the best interest of families

and individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

The 2011 Public Policy Agenda covers a wide variety of issues that impact people with developmental disabilities throughout their life, including:

- Criminal Justice
- Direct Support Professionals
- Early Intervention
- Funding
- Guardianship Services
- Home and Community Based Services and Supports
- Institutional Settings
- Insurance
- Meaningful Day
- Prevention & Prenatal Education
- Self Advocacy
- Special Education
- Supported Employment

The complete Public Policy Agenda can be viewed on our web site by visiting www.arcind.org and clicking on “Public Policy Advocacy.”

The Arc's Legislative Action Center

The Arc's Legislative Action Center is your one stop to find information on state and federal issues impacting people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

Through the Legislative Action Center you can:

- Learn who represents you in Washington D.C.
- Learn who represents you at the Indiana General Assembly
- Learn how to contact the people who represent you
- Sign-up to receive Action Alerts on state and federal legislation and regulations
- Take Action on The Arc's latest Legislative Alert

Visit the Legislative Action Center and be sure to sign-up to receive Action Alerts.

Just go to www.arcind.org, click on “Public Policy Advocacy,” and then click on “Legislative Action Center.”

Support The Arc through the George Rowlas Endowment Fund

There are many ways to support The Arc of Indiana, and one of them is a gift to the George Rowlas Endowment Fund. The original gifts will never be touched; however, the interest from those gifts will ensure the work of The Arc will continue for years to come. For more information, contact Jill Vaught, Director of Organizational Advancement: 317-977-2384, 800-382-9100, or jvaught@arcind.org.

COVOH Collaborative Work Lab

Did you know that The Arc of Indiana's offices are home to the COVOH Collaborative Work Lab?

The lab offers users an innovative system that links individual participant's laptop computers in a program that takes group planning and decision making to a new level in innovation and efficiency.

The lab can be used for strategic planning, focus groups, project and grant development, project evaluation, board development and much more. To learn more, including scheduling a demonstration, contact Jill Vaught, Director of Organizational Advancement: 317-977-2384, 800-382-9100, or jvaught@arcind.org.

A View from My Window

Hosted by Michelle Fischer

The Arc of Indiana welcomes you to listen in to *A View from My Window*, our audiocast hosted by Michelle Fischer.

Visit the Media Gallery on our website, www.arcind.org, to listen to the latest edition and past broadcasts of *A View from My Window*, including recent shows that provide updates on the Pathways Campaign and background on the work of the Big Minds Group.



The Arc of Indiana Master Trust 2011 Winter Heating Assistance Program

The Arc of Indiana's Board of Directors has approved \$40,000 for The Arc of Indiana Master Trust 2011 Winter Heating Assistance Program. This will allow the trust to assist 400 low-income individuals with disabilities with \$100 toward their winter heating bills. Funding for the Winter Heating Assistance Program comes from The Arc of Indiana.

To apply for assistance, individuals should contact the local chapter of The Arc in their county and request a certification form, or ask them to complete and verify a form, for The Arc of Indiana Master Trust 2011 Winter Heating Assistance Program. The certification form is available on our web site at www.arcind.org – click on “News and Events” or click on “The Arc of Indiana Master Trust, Helpful Resources and Links.”

Application may also be made through a community mental health center, independent living center, area agency on aging, or a district office of the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services. These agencies should be aware of The Arc's Winter Heating Assistance Program.

Assistance available for recipients of SSI or Medicaid Disability

The trust wants to distribute funds as equally as possible throughout the state. Therefore, a limited number of applications will be accepted from each of Indiana's counties.

Initial payments will not include those who have received assistance in the past. Applicants who have received prior assistance will be placed on a waiting list. After first-time applicants have received their checks, and if money remains to be distributed, checks will be issued to those on the waiting list on a first come, first served basis.

Although applications are being accepted now, checks will not be drafted until 2011. As soon as an application is accepted, and assuming the county limit has not been met, the assistance recipient will receive confirmation. Checks will be drafted to the utility company provided and mailed to the recipient in the first quarter of 2011. The recipi-

ent will then mail their utility company the \$100 payment. *Please note, this is a change in procedure from prior years.*

Following is the criteria for The Arc of Indiana Master Trust Winter Heating Assistance Program:

1. An agency must submit a completed certification form confirming that the person is disabled and is a recipient of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medicaid Disability.
2. The agency must submit documentation along with the form confirming that the individual (or someone in the household) is a recipient of SSI or Medicaid Disability.
3. The agency must certify that the \$100 will be used to supplement, not supplant, other sources of revenue used to pay the person's monthly bills.
4. The program is based on \$100 per recipient household. If two people with disabilities live together in the same household, only one may apply for assistance.

The Arc of Indiana Master Trust is pleased to be able to offer the Winter Heating Assistance Program, now in its 10th year, to low-income Hoosiers with disabilities.

Annual Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament set for February 20, 2011

Shuffle up and deal on February 20, 2011, at The Arc of Indiana's Annual Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament. The tournament will once again be held at the Rathskeller, 401 E. Michigan Street, Indianapolis.

Prize packages will be awarded to the top 10% of finishers with \$7,000 in cash prizes awarded for a full field of 140 players. There is a \$100 tournament buy-in which includes \$8,000 in tournament chips, light snacks, one drink ticket, sandwich buffet at the break, Second Chance Tournament, 50/50 drawings, pull tabs and a silent auction.

Watch for on-line registration information by visiting our web site, www.arcind.org, and clicking on “Upcoming Events.” For more information, contact Jill Vaught at 317-977-2375 or jvaught@arcind.org.

This event is licensed by the Indiana Gaming Commission, license number 122317.



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The Arc of Indiana 2010 Awards

Congratulations to all the recipients of The Arc of Indiana's 2010 Awards. It is our honor to recognize and celebrate the outstanding people and organizations whose dedication and good works make a difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families every day. To learn more about this year's award winners, visit: www.arcind.org/news/viewarticles.asp



Education Award – Margaret Hammond. Advocate and teacher, Hamilton Southeastern High School.



Citizenship Award – Ashley Porter-Szabo. Fort Wayne's determined advocate for people with disabilities at both state and national



President's Award – Steve Green. His daughter Jessica asked to say a few words.



Community Living Award – Beth DeHoff. Established Westside Special Needs Network and a special needs ministry at her church.



Cathleen Clark Professional Service Award – Rose Dickerson. Exceptional contribution and commitment on staff at Stone Belt Arc.



Sycamore Award – Tim Hines. Board member for local chapters of The Arc in Indiana since the 1950s.



Outstanding Professional Achievement Award – Bitta DeWees, Director of Community Employment, achieves a 75% placement success rate.



Innovation Award—Evansville ARC Connections for Life Program. Individuals with disabilities volunteer throughout the community and participate in social activities and sports.



Media Award – *The Herald Times* in Bloomington. In 2010 featured articles about the successes and struggles of people with disabilities.

2010 Membership Awards

Five Year Participation in Annual Membership Campaign

- Evansville ARC
- Arc Rehab Services
- The Arc of Bartholomew County
- Jayland ARC

2010 Annual Membership Campaign

Thanks to our local Arc chapters whose participation in the 2010 Membership Campaign lead to 1,219 new members of The Arc.

- Evansville ARC
- Arc Opportunities
- KCARC
- Noble of Indiana
- Easter Seals Arc
- Arc Rehab Services
- The Arc of Tippecanoe County
- Jayland ARC
- The Arc of Bartholomew County
- Fountain County ARC
- The Arc of Jackson County

2010 Membership Traveling Trophy

- Arc Opportunities
- 349 New Members/Most New Members Based on Population
- Evansville ARC
- 351 New Members/Most New Members

The Arc of Indiana 2010 Conference & Appreciation Luncheon Sponsors

Thanks to all of our sponsors for their generous support.

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