Announcing the Erskine Green Training Institute

The Arc of Indiana Foundation is pleased to announce that the training institute located in Muncie, Indiana will be called the Erskine Green Training Institute in honor of two very remarkable Hoosier families. This one-of-a-kind postsecondary program will provide vocational training for a variety of jobs in the hotel, food service and healthcare environments.

Many know Carl Erskine for his wonderful career with the Brooklyn Dodgers, as well as his banking career. Steve Green, Bobby Knight’s first recruit at Indiana University, went on to enjoy a successful professional basketball career and built a successful dental practice. While they were building their careers, Carl and his wife Betty, and Steve and his wife Lana, also worked to make a significant impact in the lives of people with disabilities.

The Erskine and Green families represent the first two generations of The Arc movement that paved the way for today’s generation of families and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Thousands of Hoosier families have better lives because of their efforts. It is our honor to recognize their work with the naming of the country’s first training institute of its kind.

Carl and Betty began their advocacy for people with disabilities in the 1950’s when their son Jim was born with Down syndrome. They became leaders in the early movement to develop programs and services to support people with I/DD in communities throughout Indiana. The work of Carl, Betty and other early pioneers led to the establishment of Hopewell Center – the local chapter of The Arc in Madison County. Today, Hopewell provides services to over 600 children and adults through early childhood, employment and residential services, and the Erskine family continues to actively serve the organization. With the support of Hopewell and his family, Jim is celebrating 16 years of employment at Applebee’s in Anderson. A true story of success and community, the entire staff of Applebee’s is part of the Erskine’s extended family. On a recent visit the manager told guests that it would not be the same restaurant without Jim. He brings the best out of everyone there.

In addition to his work to establish Hopewell, it was a natural fit for Carl to channel his athletic interests towards helping to found Special Olympics Indiana. He knew that getting his son Jim and others involved in athletics would enrich their lives. Today, Special Olympics Indiana is recognized as an innovative leader in the world of sports through their integrated sports programs that brings people with and without disabilities together in a wide range of sporting events. In 2012, Carl authored The Parallel, a book that details the similarities of the journeys of Jackie Robinson, who broke Major League Baseball’s color barrier in 1947, and his Jim – looking at how both overcame prejudice and rejection to achieve acceptance and inclusion. Carl has dedicated this book to the benefit of Special Olympics Indiana, and it provides a pathway to planned giving support in his honor through the Carl and Betty Erskine Society.

The Erskine family has also been very supportive of The Arc of Indiana. In 1989, when The Arc decided to hold its first golf outing, it was Carl who agreed to be the inaugural host. Steve Green joined in the event as a board member of Noble, local chapter of The Arc in Marion and Hamilton Counties. Little did Steve know then that Carl would hand the outing off to him, and that he would host the Steve Green Golf Tournament to Benefit The Arc for the next 25 years.

It was in 1974, however, when Steve first connected with The Arc. Steve was a junior on the IU basketball team, and John Dickerson, at that time The Arc’s Assistant Director for Local Unit Affairs, traveled to Bloomington to get a basketball signed for a raffle for The Arc.

Steve and his wife Lana, whom Steve met at IU, have three children, Jessica, Michael and Casey. It was when Jessica was born with Down syndrome that his life reconnected with The Arc. One of the first calls that Steve and Lana received was from Coach Bobby Knight. He encouraged them not to listen to anyone who told them what she could not do, and to focus their energy towards working with Jessica to build her own life. And that is what they have done. Just like the Erskines, they did not let a label or diagnosis change their dreams for their daughter.

Continued on page 7
Hi everyone! We are so excited that winter has passed, and we are finally enjoying warm weather.

In February we held our first statewide meeting of 2015. We participated in “Valentine’s Day at the State House,” along with The Arc of Indiana. We held our statewide meeting in the morning and welcomed guest speakers Nicole Norvell and John Dickerson. After the meeting, self-advocates from around the state delivered valentines to their legislators. It was a great day full of advocacy and awareness.

March was a busy month for us! We traveled to Greensburg to meet with Self-Advocates of Decatur County. We attended a chapter meeting and learned about projects they were doing for Disability Awareness Month. We also traveled north to Albion to meet with self-advocates at The Arc of Noble County. We discussed SAI and what it meant to be a chapter. We are excited to announce that they have joined SAI as The Self-Advocates of Noble County, IN. Also in March, we presented at the INARF Annual Conference and held a board meeting.

In April, we traveled to Osceola to meet people at Mosaic who would like to start an SAI chapter. We also traveled to Washington, D.C. for the Disability Policy Seminar. In addition to attending the seminar’s sessions, we met with several members of Congress and their assistants to talk about what is important to people with disabilities.

We are looking forward to a summer full of good meetings and presentations, with a little fun thrown in. Don’t forget to mark your calendars for our annual picnic, which will take place on Friday, July 24. If you are interested in volunteering at the picnic or sponsoring the picnic, please contact Laura Cummings, SAI Administrator at lcummings@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 podcast hosted by Michelle Fischer.
Visit www.arcind.org/AViewfromMyWindow to listen to the latest edition and past broadcasts of A View from My Window, including these recent shows:

A View into the Erskine Green Training Institute
A View into Insurance and ABA Therapy
A View into Membership with The Arc
A View with DDRS Director Nicole Norvell on Medicaid Waiver Transitions

Save the Dates!
Self-Advocates of Indiana Annual Picnic
July 24
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Eagle Crest Picnic Area
(located in Eagle Creek Park)
7201 Fishback Road
Indianapolis, IN 46278
$15 for SAI members
$20 non-members

Self-Advocates of Indiana Conference
September 16
The Marten House Hotel & Lilly Conference Center
Indianapolis
Watch for registration information at www.saind.org and www.arcind.org or contact us at 317-977-2375 or lcummings@arcind.org.
Executive Director’s Column

Recently I had the chance to spend a wonderful hour with Mike Furnish, CEO of Special Olympics Indiana. It was a great opportunity to get caught up on the amazing things they are doing, including their leadership on health and wellness issues for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. By taking the time to screen athletes at Special Olympics events, some powerful data is being developed both here and across the country that is leading to action to improve the lives of people with I/DD.

Would it surprise you to learn that over half the athletes screened have shoes that are more than two sizes too big or two sizes too small? The podiatrists who did the screening were clear—people’s feet are hurting. Now Special Olympics Indiana is working on new ways to get people shoes that fit.

Special Olympics Indiana Summer Games — It’s Not Your Father’s Track Meet!

Four out of ten athletes needed glasses and did not have them. This year, Special Olympics Indiana will not only have optometrists available at the 46th annual Summer Games, June 12 – 14, to screen people, but also will have an eyeglasses distributor on site to make the glasses and fit the frames before the athletes head home—all for free.

In addition, athletes will be able to receive hearing screenings, and work is taking place to assist those who need hearing aids to get them—also at no cost. All this on top of the dental and health screenings that take place every year. It truly is amazing.

The Arc is proud to be again sponsoring the Family Tent at the Summer Games. We will be taking a related tack, talking with families, athletes and direct support professionals attending the games about how they can access a healthier lifestyle for their son or daughter as well as themselves.

Data shows that a person with a disability has a higher chance of dying early due to preventable causes. How many of our friends will we lose early because they did not have access to basic health screenings? Special Olympics Indiana is showing us the way, and we are blessed to have them here.

We are also extraordinarily lucky that Tim Shriver, Special Olympics Chairman, will be the opening keynote speaker at the 2015 national convention of The Arc, taking place October 3-5 in Indianapolis. In 2014, Tim released a memoir, Fully Alive: Discovering What Matters Most, that offers a personal look into his life and the lives of people who inspired and taught him. He will share his family’s story and how it inspired him to make a difference.

We look forward to seeing you and your family at the Special Olympics Indiana Summer Games and at this year’s national convention of The Arc!

Blueprint for Change

Celebrating Those Who are Making it Work

The following stories exemplify the good work that is happening throughout the state thanks to local chapters of The Arc and the direct support professionals (DSPs) who provide supports and services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) every day. Through their efforts, people with I/DD are building career pathways, utilizing their unique gifts, and leading full and meaningful lives in their communities—all key goals of The Arc’s Blueprint for Change. Learn more about the Blueprint by visiting www.arcind.org.

The Arc Northwest Indiana

Local Chapter of The Arc in Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties

Arnie Madden has worked in the mail room at The Times since 2005. Prior to this, he worked for Ralph’s Electric. Arnie’s career began thanks to initial job placement and job training provided by direct support professionals at The Arc Northwest Indiana. Today, Arnie works at The Times independently, with only periodic visits from staff. Arnie has been honored by his peers as a recipient of the Operations Department’s “Above the Fold Award” - a group of awards that celebrate extraordinary individual achievement. Arnie received the Inspiration Award in recognition of his willingness to help co-workers and to do whatever is needed, always with a smile and a pleasant attitude, regardless of the situation.

Stone Belt Arc

Local Chapter of The Arc in Monroe County

Forrest Means and Susy Wooten

Direct Support Professionals Forrest Means and Susy Wooten work in Stone Belt Arc’s life science production area, as part of a team supporting 90 production workers with disabilities who assemble more than 5 million error-free pieces per year. Exacting specifications for the work products and state documentation requirements for the job require Forrest and Susy’s constant attention; but most importantly, they provide individualized supports to help workers placed on the job by Stone Belt Arc to be as productive as possible. DSPs like Forrest and Susy promote Stone Belt Arc’s principle that, “Employment is a fundamental part of adult life.”

Easter Seals Arc of Northeast Indiana

Local Chapter of The Arc in Allen, Dekalb, Huntington and Steuben Counties

Arnie Madden

Easter Seals Arc of Northeast Indiana’s Dream Teens Summer Program provides programs and support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities ages 13–22 while on summer break from school. In addition to providing parents with professional care for their loved ones, Dream Teens inspires participants to accomplish new challenges. Throughout the summer, participants enjoy visits to community events, parks, the YMCA and library; and spend time with friends playing games, learning to cook, and exploring the arts.

Dusty Rouse

The Arc News in Indiana

107 N. Pennsylvania St.
Suite 800
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-977-2375 • 800-382-9100
www.arcind.org
State Budget Makes Investment in People with Disabilities

The two year state budget that begins July 1, 2015 provides funding for key services and support for people with disabilities, including:

- Funding to serve 3,500 new people on the Family Supports Medicaid Waiver and 600 new people on the Community Integration and Habilitation (CIH) Waiver over the next two years. As of April 30, 2015, 2,563 were on the Family Supports Waiver waiting list. This means that in the not too distant future individuals will be able to receive waiver services in the same year they apply – a far cry from the years when people faced years of waiting to get services and supports.
- A significant investment in resources to help the service delivery system recover from years of sustained cuts by providing funding to restore provider reimbursement rates to 2010 levels. Resources were also included in the budget for the conversion to daily rates for the Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver. This will allow providers to begin to address the critical issue of wages and benefits for direct support professionals.
- $1 million each year of the biennium for Adult Volunteer Guardianship Programs. The language in the budget also allows the match required for the program to recognize in kind donations. This is a major achievement as the demand for quality guardianship services is growing and the availability of programs to meet the demand has been difficult.
- A slight increase each year of the biennium for the public mass transit fund. Continued work is needed to provide funding for quality, dependable public mass transit.
- Funds Vocational Rehabilitation Services to respond to anticipated demand.
- $6.1 million each year for First Steps/Early Intervention and efforts to study the manner in which Systems Point of Entry and ongoing services are funded to assure transparency and adequacy and to study rates for First Steps service.
- Funding for the CHOICE, state funded home care program at $48.7 each year of the biennium, along with transfers from CHOICE funds to the Aged and Disabled Medicaid Waiver of $18 million each year.

We thank the team at INARF, Indiana’s association for providers of services to people with disabilities, led by CEO, Kim Opsahl. Their leadership in championing rate restoration for services provided by direct support professionals was tremendous and we appreciate the collaboration that took place. We also want to thank local chapters of The Arc, families, self-advocates and providers who emailed, called, and met with legislators throughout the legislative session on key issues impacting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The passage of a biennial budget that includes key provisions for people with I/DD was made possible thanks to this team effort.

Vocational Rehabilitation Changes to Spur Employment Options, Opportunities

Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS), a program of the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS), provides services to enhance and support people with disabilities to prepare for, obtain or retain employment. Beginning July 1, 2015, changes are coming to VRS with key goals to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities, and to be more responsive to all individuals, including those with the most significant disabilities.

The changes will take place through reforming the way in which providers are reimbursed through rates received for services and the time and direction given to VRS counselors in working with their clients.

VRS Reform Goals

- VRS should be responsive to all, ranging from individuals with high support needs to those with minimal support needs.
- Refocus on “discovery,” providing time and reimbursement to help individuals discover the type of work they want to do, especially for those with minimal or no prior work experience.
- Retain a system that focuses on outcomes, but also recognizes and allows for quality and individualization.
- Retain a system that is not difficult to administer.
- Improve the overall experience of those participating in the VRS process.

One of the most exciting changes addresses the process of “discovery.” Individuals will now have access to additional supports that allow for time and funding to help identify employment goals and the nature and scope of services needed to achieve those goals. In addition, individuals with the most significant disabilities will have increased access to supported employment services, including ongoing support services. Activities and costs will vary based on individual need.

Changes are also designed to give VRS counselors more time to provide counseling and guidance.

Continued on page 8
Legislative Wrap Up

Following is a brief overview of legislation The Arc of Indiana monitored and pursued. Unless otherwise noted, the legislation listed passed the House and Senate and went on to the Governor for his signature.

HB 1093 – Prenatal Tests Information for Parents. Requires the state department of health to disseminate information for health facilities and health care providers to share with parents who receive a prenatal test results for Down syndrome and other conditions diagnosed prenatally. Legislation introduced to prohibit abortions based on the sex of the fetus or prenatal diagnosis did not pass.

HB 1108 – Dyslexia. Provides that if an education service center offers in service training or other teacher training programs, they may offer courses for teachers on dyslexia screening and appropriate interventions. Provides that guidelines for use by accredited teacher education institutions and departments must include content that prepares teachers to recognize that a student who is not progressing at a normal rate related to reading may need to be referred to the school’s multidisciplinary team to determine the student’s learning needs, including needs related to dyslexia.

HB 1194 – High School Diplomas. Will ensure that all high school students have access to the general education diploma and in the near future will have different career pathways from which to choose to assist them in earning a general education diploma. Provides that individualized education plans developed at the annual case review in grade 8 for students with disabilities must include the type of diploma the student will seek and the courses necessary to obtain the diploma. Beginning at grade 9, the student’s teacher of record must communicate with the student’s parent at least one time each reporting period to review the student’s progress toward the diploma. Provides that, not later than October 1, 2015, the Core 40 subcommittee of the Indiana career council shall present to the education study committee recommended changes to course requirements for general, Core 40, academic honors, and technical honors diplomas to ensure that students seeking a diploma have enough flexibility in their schedule to pursue a college or career pathway appropriate to their goals, knowledge, skills and requires the education study committee to propose legislative changes necessary to carry out the recommended changes.

HB 1265 – Designation of Caregiver for Patients. Requires a hospital to provide each admitted patient or the patient’s legal guardian with an opportunity to designate a caregiver within a specified time. This will ensure that patients receiving care in hospitals have the availability of a caregiver to also be given instructions for continued care and follow up post discharge.

HB 1269 – Health Matters. Makes the department of correction an inmate’s authorized representative for applying for Medicaid for inmates who are potentially eligible for Medicaid and who incur medical care expenses that are not otherwise reimbursable.

HB 1304 – Various Criminal Law Issues. Amends the definition of autism to mirror the definition of autism spectrum disorder as defined in the latest edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). Requires the division for aging to: (1) meet with stakeholders to collaborate on changes in the health facility preadmission screening assessment process; and (2) submit a written report to the general assembly not later than June 30, 2018.

HB 1387 – Human Services and Health Matters. Permits a prosecuting attorney to require a person participating in a prosecutorial diversion program to receive mental health treatment to reduce recidivism, and permits diversion and deferral fees to be used to fund mental health treatment programs to reduce recidivism. Permits a criminal court to appoint a court-appointed special advocate to assist a person with an intellectual disability who is charged with a criminal offense.

HB 166 – Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Fund. Allows the spinal cord and brain injury fund to be used to fund facilities, treatment and services for spinal cord and brain injuries. Requires the spinal cord and brain injury research board to consider applications and make grants to nonprofit health care clinics that employ physical therapists and provide activity-based therapy services in Indiana to individuals with traumatic spinal cord and brain injuries that require extended post acute care.

SB 358 – Medication Therapy Management and Medicaid. Allows for pharmacist reimbursement for medication therapy management services provided to certain Medicaid recipients beginning July 1, 2016. Requires FSSA to determine any Medicaid cost savings and improvement in patient quality of care by providing the services and report the findings to the general assembly not later than June 30, 2018.


SB 460 – Comprehensive Care Health Facilities. Prohibits the state department of health from approving new nursing home beds until June 30, 2018.

SB 465 – Human Services and Health Matters. Provides that if an individual has been certified as having an intellectual disability who is charged with a criminal offense, the sentence introduced to prohibit abortions based on the sex of the fetus or prenatal diagnosis did not pass.

SB 500 – Education De-Regulation. Makes comprehensive revisions to the Indiana Code relating to all aspects of the administration of schools and school corporations and the education for students from pre-kindergarten through grade 12. Repeals various obsolete provisions and provisions that limit local control of schools.

Do You Need Health Insurance Coverage? Indiana’s Healthy Indiana Plan May Help

Indiana’s new Healthy Indiana Plan (or “HIP 2.0”) is an affordable health insurance program from the State of Indiana for uninsured adult Hoosiers. The Healthy Indiana Plan pays for medical expenses and provides incentives for members to be more health conscious.

The Healthy Indiana Plan provides coverage for qualified low-income Hoosiers ages 19 to 64, with incomes of up to $16,436.81 annually for an individual, $22,246.25 for a couple or $33,865.13 for a family of four. To learn more visit www.in.gov/fssa/hip or call 877-GET-HIP-9 (877-438-4479).

Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann greets members of The Arc of Indiana who visited the State House on Valentine’s Day to deliver Valentines to state legislators and state officials.
Action Needed to Address Federal Budget, Impact on People with I/DD and Families

In late April, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to approve a compromise concurrent budget resolution (Senate Concurrent Resolution 11) which lays out a budget plan for funding federal programs for Fiscal Year 2016. As The Arc News in Indiana goes to press, the Senate was expected to vote on the concurrent budget resolution passed by the House.

The concurrent budget resolution would require Congress to find savings in certain “entitlement” programs. This would likely be done with legislation that includes fundamental restructuring of the Medicaid program, such as block grants (state flexible spending accounts). The resolution could result in permanent cuts and elimination of the entitlement to services in the Medicaid program—which provides the bulk of long term supports and services (LTSS), including home and community-based services (HCBS), and many employment supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Just like everyone else, members of Congress are likely to have a connection to someone who has an intellectual or other developmental disability (I/DD), but they may not connect the dots about the needs of people with I/DD to something they are voting on in Washington. As advocates, it’s our job to educate them about The Arc’s values, positions and policies and to make them think about how their work and votes impact us. Members of Congress are always looking for stories from back home to illustrate why they are voting a certain way or making an issue a priority – getting to know you can help advance disability issues by giving them a personal reason to support our issues.

The Arc urges families, individuals with disabilities (Self Advocates), providers and others connected to people with I/DD to contact their members of Congress, as well as U.S. Senators Joe Donnelly and Dan Coats.

Key Message to Congress
Congress must preserve Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security,SSI and other vital programs for people with disabilities.

Recommendations
• Congress should oppose cuts and structural changes to Medicaid and Medicare and oppose eligibility and benefit cuts to Social Security and SSI.
• Congress should increase funding for critical education, employment, housing, developmental disability programs, and other programs that support people with developmental disabilities.
• Congress should raise sufficient revenues to help reduce the deficit and finance the federal government’s role in providing essential supports, services, and benefits for people with disabilities and their families.

Find Your Legislator
To learn who represents you in Congress, as well as your state legislators, visit: https://s.a.gov/legislative/find-legislators. Remember, for this message you want to contact your U.S. Representative and Senators Donnelly and Coats.

Stay Informed
To stay informed, visit our Public Policy Advocacy page to find links to sign up for Action Alerts and more: www.arcind.org/our-programs/public-policy-advocacy

State Representative Ed Clere and U.S. Senator Joe Donnelly Honored for Work on Behalf of People with Disabilities

State Representative Ed Clere was honored with The Arc’s 2015 Public Policy Award, and U.S. Senator Joe Donnelly was honored with The Arc’s Distinguished Service Award at our annual Legislative Breakfast in April, 2015.

John Dickerson, executive director of The Arc of Indiana, said, “Throughout his tenure in the House, Representative Clere has been a champion of critical services that support people with disabilities leaving high school. Thanks to Chairman Clere’s dedication, thousands of people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities are becoming more independent and enjoying fuller lives in communities across the state of Indiana.”

Dickerson continued, “We are honored to recognize Senator Donnelly for his commitment to improving the lives of Indiana’s most vulnerable citizens. He understands critical services and supports people with disabilities depend upon to live in communities across the state of Indiana and to have the greatest amount of independence as possible. He has been a strong supporter of important legislation over the years, the latest being a co-sponsor of the ABLE Act that will provide an important pathway for families to plan for the future of their loved ones with disabilities while protecting their benefits.

“We are proud to be able to show our appreciation to Senator Donnelly and Representative Clere for their dedication to people with disabilities in the state of Indiana.”

Be Part of History

Purchase a Personalized Brick to Support the Erskine Green Training Institute

Show your support, recognize your business or organization, honor a loved one or make your mark on history. How? By leaving your own personal message on a brick to be displayed in the courtyard at the Erskine Green Training Institute and Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Muncie.

For $250, each personal message will be engraved on a brick that was once part of Muncie history. Your historic brick will be installed in the hotel’s courtyard wall, and you will receive a locator map to easily find it when visiting the hotel.

The photo rendering shows what the courtyard will look like when complete. Adding your personalized brick for the courtyard will only be possible until July 1. This is a great way to become a permanent part of this groundbreaking project. Order yours today by visiting www.arcind.org and clicking on “Training Institute.”
Sponsored Artwork Created by Artists with Disabilities to Adorn Teaching Hotel Guest Rooms

Each hotel room in the new Courtyard Muncie at the Horizon Convention Center will display an original piece of artwork, sponsored by a patron, created by an artist with a disability – including the amazing artwork of Cannon Hoops, a ten year old boy with cerebral palsy from Indianapolis.

The inspiration for Cannon’s artwork comes from many mediums, as pictured here in these two examples.

Chihuly Glass

Drawing his inspiration from an exhibit of Chihuly Glass, created by Dale Chihuly, a leader in the development of glass as a fine art, Cannon created a beautiful piece of artwork that mirrors the color and movement of the glass.

Mardi Gras Mask

In this fun piece, Cannon used his Mardi Gras mask to create his own textured and colorful piece of art.

Artwork sponsors will have a personalized recognition plate placed with the artwork that identifies the individual, organization or business that made display of the piece possible. This can be customized to be made in honor or in memory of an individual. Each piece can be sponsored for $5,000.

All of the artwork displayed will be published in a special edition book which will also recognize the artists and sponsors.

To discuss sponsorship opportunities, please contact Jill Vaught, Director of Advancement, The Arc of Indiana Foundation, at 317-977-2375 or jvaught@arcind.org.

All of the artwork displayed will be published in a special edition book which will also recognize the artists and sponsors.
Creating Blue Space

Three chapters of The Arc of Indiana recently came together for two days of training from the author of Creating Blue Space: Fostering Innovative Support Practices for people with Developmental Disabilities. Hanns Meissner, The Arc of Rensselaer County, New York; John O’Brien and Beth Mount, led the teams from these three chapters through a number of sessions designed to help them plan for the future. Meissner, who authored the book and who has been with The Arc of Rensselaer County for over 30 years, documents the transition they have made and the transformation and organizational development they have employed to make the change in individual’s lives.

Leslie Green, Stone Belt Arc’s Executive Director, said of the experience: “My inner wellspring is filled to the brim after spending two days with three amazing thought leaders. John O’Brien and Beth Mount lead the way in empowering people with disabilities to live as full citizens. They have been instrumental in the formation of my beliefs and values about what is important in my work. Hanns Meissner is a leading example of how to take such beliefs and create change in an organization. I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn and share with them and other Indiana colleagues about leaning toward the forces that pull us to positive outcomes.”

Stone Belt Arc, the local chapter of The Arc in Monroe County; Noble, local chapter of The Arc in Marion and Hamilton Counties; and Easter Seals Arc of Northeast Indiana participated in the training.

Vocational Rehabilitation Changes
From Page 4

Incentives for VRS counselors to quickly close cases will be reduced, providing more time for individuals to become stable in their jobs. Core milestones that will be eligible for reimbursement include: Milestone 1 – Job Development and Job Placement, Milestone 2 – Support & Short-Term Retention, and Milestone 3 – Retention on the Job.

Changes are also designed to give VRS counselors more time to provide counseling and guidance. Incentives for VRS counselors to quickly close cases will be reduced, providing more time for individuals to become stable in their jobs.

For those who need ongoing support, reimbursement will be provided to providers based on a monthly rate tied to the number of Supported Employment hours provided – ranging from a rate of $176 for 1-5 hours of support per month to $1,120 for 26-30 hours of support provided per month.

These changes, coupled with changes coming to the Medicaid Waiver that will continue to allow the waiver to fund extended supports, offer an encouraging movement forward in assisting individuals with I/DD to become and stay employed in communities throughout Indiana.

To begin the process of obtaining services through VRS, individuals may self-refer, or be referred by family members, physicians or medical institutions, educational institutions or others by calling, writing, or visiting any Vocational Rehabilitation Services office or facility.

To learn more, visit www.in.gov/fsaiaddr2636.htm or contact The Arc of Indiana at 317-977-2375, 800-382-9100 or thearc@arcind.org

Memorial Donations

For 59 years The Arc of Indiana has stood as a beacon of hope for individuals with disabilities and their families. We were able to touch countless lives in 2014 because of the incredible generosity of our donors.

Thank you for your support and the continued trust you have in The Arc. From the family just learning of a diagnosis to the self-advocate dealing with the loss of a caregiver, we were able to offer information and hope to thousands of individuals.

Thank you for helping us help others.

Memorials

During 2014, The Arc of Indiana received memorial donations for the following individuals. While nothing will ease the loss suffered by family and friends, these memorial gifts serve as a tribute to these very special people.

Anne Averitt
Chris Barr
Carol Clark
Alan Clyne
Carol Corwin
Lloyd Crowe
Deborah Christine Downs
Jack Gruenenfelder
Mildred Gruenenfelder
Miriam Knauff
Joe Lesch
Audrey K. Lyst

Honorariums

In 2014, The Arc of Indiana received donations in honor of the following individuals.

Curtis Allen
Helen Fay Behrman
Chrisy Clawson
Tychelle Coleman
Thomas A. Hamilton

Steve Howell
Clients, Staff & Board of JRDS
Ralph E. Lux
Tiffany R. McCrary
Teddy Vandenberg

Are You Registered to Vote?

Election Day on November 3, 2015 will be here before you know it. To vote, you must be registered by October 5, 2015. You can register to vote at your county’s voter registration office, county clerk’s office, any BMV license branch or public assistance office. Register to vote online by visiting http://www.indianavoters.com
Imagine

Sally Morris, Assistant Director of Public Relations

Sometimes it is the people who no one imagines anything of who do the things that no one can imagine.

The movie “The Imitation Game” shares the story of mathematician Alan Turing, who works to break the German’s enigma code with help from fellow mathematicians. Turing is portrayed as an individual who may be on the autism spectrum. As a child, he is bullied by his classmates.

His one friend gives him hope when he shares with him, “Sometimes it is the people who no one imagines anything of who do the things that no one can imagine.”

As I listened to those words, and learned what Turing went on to accomplish, it made me think of the many people I have met through The Arc, both individuals with disabilities and their parents, who have accomplished things that many would never have imagined.

I think of Ilene Younger Qualkinbush and Dorothy Burns, the original “lobbyists” for The Arc beginning in the mid ‘50s when women typically did not enter the halls of the Indiana State House. At that time, there were no supports or services to help families care for their loved ones at home, and Ilene and Dorothy had to make the difficult decision to place their daughters at Muscatatuck State Hospital. Who would have imagined that Ilene would go on to be a founder of The Arc and that together, Ilene and Dorothy would work to pass legislation that led to the system of services we have today.

Who would have thought that Betty Williams, whose school teachers told her she could not take certain classes because of her disability, would go on to serve on the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities; or that Melody Cooper, a shy and quiet girl, bullied by classmates who did not understand her disability, would lead The Arc?

For many days I have been thinking of Grace Akers, a young lady who left this world too soon, just shy of her 17th birthday. Grace was born with Moebius Syndrome, a condition that primarily affects the 6th and 7th cranial nerves, leaving those with the condition unable to have facial expressions. There were surely those who did not imagine anything of what Grace would accomplish in her short life. But for perhaps those few, how wrong they were to make such an assumption.

Her parents, Joe and Jennifer, shared in a tribute to Grace, “Grace loved playing her guitar, purple and pink, (and) listening to Elvis and Patsy Cline … She worked to teach the world about inclusion for people with disabilities, and she lived her life as a reminder about the message that “Everyone belongs.” She promoted kindness and courage and tolerance, and she was a source of inspiration to people all over the world.”

Her legacy now is that her family has requested that her life be honored by paying it forward with a “Gift of Grace” by letting the world know that Grace was here and made a difference.

Grace’s legacy, and the continued actions of countless individuals with disabilities and their families, will continue to do things that no one can imagine; and the world will be a better place for it.

Join The Arc

Getting Team Indiana to #Go2Indy

Become a member of The Arc and this October #Go2Indy and The Arc National Convention

The Arc of Indiana is now over 21,500 members strong. We have set two important goals in our current membership campaign efforts:

The Arc’s 2015 National Convention takes place in Indianapolis, October 3-5. We want families, self-advocates, caregivers, teachers, providers and others throughout the state to #Go2Indy and join in this great opportunity to be part of a national event of The Arc. Members of The Arc in Indiana, whether you join at the local level or become an at-large member of The Arc of Indiana, can receive a discounted registration to the convention.

The Arc of Indiana has set a statewide goal to reach 25,000 members by the end of December, 2016 - the conclusion of our 60th anniversary.

We want you to #Go2Indy! And we want to get a strong start on achieving our goal of 25,000 members in 2016. If you are already a member, please invite family members and individuals connected to people with disabilities in your community to join The Arc. If you are not a member, join us; and then spread the word to become a member of The Arc.

Learn more about membership by contacting your local chapter of The Arc, and by visiting www.arcind.org/about-the-arc/join-the-arc

Visit The Arc of Indiana’s YouTube Channel, www.youtube.com/arcadvocate, to view our #Go2Indy video, asking you to Go2Indy! You might see some familiar faces, including our receptionist, Bobbie Jo Franson.
Summer Activities and Accessibility

Melissa Keyes, Legal & Advocacy Services Director, Indiana Protection & Advocacy Services

Summer is often a time for carnivals, amusement parks, going to the beach and other fun activities. This article presents the basics of what you need to know about disability accommodations in these public places.

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires, among other things, that newly constructed and altered state and local government facilities, places of public accommodation (like hotels and restaurants), commercial, and recreation facilities be accessible to people with disabilities.

What is covered?

Determining whether or not a facility or particular area of a facility is covered can be hard. Facilities built before the regulations took effect are often required to follow the guidelines unless it would be too difficult or too expensive to make the changes.

When new facilities are built or an existing facility is changed, then the regulations could apply. For government-owned facilities, the regulations in general should be followed unless there is a specific exception, regardless of when the facility was built.

Finally, even if the regulations apply, there are many exceptions for certain types of facilities (for example, water slides) or when compliance with a regulation is not possible (for example when portions of a hiking trail cannot be widened to allow for wheelchair access due to the natural contours of the area).

What Facilities and Outdoor Spaces Are Included?

Accessibility guidelines are available for facilities like amusement parks, boating facilities, fishing piers, public golf courses, mini golf courses, sports facilities (like stadiums and fields), swimming pools and for outdoor spaces like beaches and trails. Keep in mind, the summary of guidelines presented below is not exhaustive and may change over time. It is important to contact the facility directly to ask about any specific accommodations you may need.

Amusement Parks and Boating

In general, facilities like amusement parks and recreational boating are required to have accessible routes to loading and unloading areas as well as wheelchair accessible seating (or seating to accommodate a transfer from a wheelchair as well as a mechanism for transfer).

Golf and Mini Golf Courses

For facilities like mini-golf courses, the rules require that at least 50% of the holes are accessible and those holes should be near accessible entrances and exits.

For public golf courses, golf carts and accessible routes must be available. It is important to know that these rules may not apply to private clubs.

Bowling Alleys

For bowling alleys, at least 5% of the lanes need to be served by an accessible route.

Swimming Pools

For swimming pools, wading pools and spas, at least two accessible means of entry need to be provided (for pools under 300 feet long, only one entry need to be provided). This includes the option to use swimming pool lifts, sloped entries, transfer walls, transfer systems or pool stairs. For wave pools, lazy rivers, and sand bottom pools, one accessible entrance needs to be provided.

Stadiums/Ball Parks

Wheelchair accessible seating is required in a stadium or arena. The number of wheelchair accessible spaces required is based on the total number of seats in the stadium. Wheelchair accessible seating also must be integrated into the regular seating plan and should have comparable views to the field or stage (this includes providing an area where someone in a wheelchair can reasonably see over spectators who might be standing). In addition, luxury suites and club boxes are also required to be wheelchair accessible and must have wheelchair and companion seating.

In addition to the wheelchair accessible seating, accessible restrooms and concession areas, at least 1% of the fixed seats must have no armrest (or a removable armrest) for those with mobility issues who do not wish to use the wheelchair accessible seating area.

Beaches and Other Outdoor Areas

Outdoor areas include places for camping, picnics, trails and beach access routes. In general and when possible, these outdoor areas should be accessible. There are exceptions, however, when the trail or beach access has natural obstacles like large rocks that make it impossible to comply with the regulations.

What Facilities and Spaces are Not Included?

Water slides are exempt from the guidelines as it was thought that creating ramps or elevator lifts to the tops of large slides would be too expensive. However, the guidelines encourage designers of smaller water slides to make them accessible when possible.

Diving boards and diving platforms are also exempt from accessibility requirements.

Mobile or portable amusement rides, such as those seen at traveling carnivals and state fairs are generally exempt from the guidelines.

Where Can I Learn More or File a Complaint?

The U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division is responsible for enforcing ADA. If you or a loved one with a disability is denied access to a public facility covered by the rules, you can file a complaint at http://www.ada.gov/filing_complaint.htm. Indiana Protection & Advocacy Services is also available to assist you with any issues you have in accessing these and other public accommodations.
Using Your Special Needs Trust

A Special Trip to Disney World

Melissa Justice, Trust Director

When I discuss The Arc of Indiana Master Trust with parents, beneficiaries and caregivers, one question I hear quite often is, “Can the trust be used for a beneficiary to go on a vacation?” That answer is yes, The Arc Master Trust very frequently is used to pay for a beneficiary to take a longed for vacation.

In February of this year one of our trust account managers received a phone call from the parent of a Trust II beneficiary (an Arc Master Trust account funded with the beneficiary’s own assets), wanting to know if the trust for her son could be used for him to take a vacation to Disney World. The beneficiary’s mother shared that she had stage 4 cancer and was no longer seeking treatment. She and her son wanted the trip to be very special for several reasons. The beneficiary has always wanted to go to Disney World, but has never been able to go due to financial reasons and physical limitations that made planning for the trip more complicated. His mother wanted to be there to experience his dream vacation with him.

The trust account manager quickly gathered the information on how long they would be gone, what they wanted to do while there and let me know their plans for the trip. The disbursement was approved, and the family went to a travel agent to arrange the trip.

We were particularly pleased to be able to help this family make a dream come true.

The trip to Disney, along with a trip to spend the day on a beach in Daytona, was arranged, and our trust beneficiary was able to take his dream vacation in March. They were gone for 5 days and had a wonderful time. Mom was able to share the much longed for vacation with her son because the trust was in place and able to cover the expenses.

The Arc Master Trust is designed to enhance the quality of life of our beneficiaries, allowing them to have those things they want and need but often cannot afford outside of the trust.

In 2014, The Arc Master Trust, Trust I and Trust II, made 7,208 disbursements totaling $4,076,097. It is our pleasure to be there to assist all of our beneficiaries each and every day. We were particularly pleased to be able to help this family make a dream come true.

MLMC Offers Living and Support Options

My Life, My Choice (MLMC) is a statewide program of The Arc of Indiana to meet with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who live in nursing facilities, group homes and large intermediate care facilities. It allows people with I/DD to discuss options regarding where they can live and receive supports, including community residential programs. The project teams are led by individuals who themselves have a disability, self-advocates. The program is funded through a grant from the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA).

Over the past several months teams have met with nearly 800 individuals living in nursing facilities to discuss community living options. Approximately 16% of individuals interviewed were interested in learning more about finding a home in the community.

In previous months, MLMC teams met with individuals living in group homes, generally homes in the community serving 6-8 people, about their options to move to smaller community residential programs funded through the Medicaid Waiver. Some of those individuals have now moved. When asked, “What was the most important change for you,” these were some of the responses:

“I can do a whole lot of things. If I want to go somewhere, I can. At the group home, I wouldn’t always get to go if some of the guys acted up.”

“I’m fine where I’m at! It’s so quiet. Nobody can hear me!”

“(I) like having good staff and my own room.”

“We get to do a lot more stuff. (We) go out in the community and go shopping. Before, we didn’t have enough staff to go out. I am saving cans to get the money to go on recreations … I am happy that I moved.”

Some of the individuals who initially said they wanted to move from their group home later declined the opportunity to move. However, when MLMC teams followed up with them, they were pleased to learn that the discussions provided an opportunity for them to share concerns about where they lived, and changes were made as a result, and those changes led them to be happier with where they were living.

If you or a loved one would like to learn about options in transitioning from a nursing facility, intermediate care facility for people with I/DD or a Medicaid funded group home, to a home with Medicaid Waiver supports, contact Jill Smith, Consumer Supports Grants Administrator, at 317-977-2375 or jsmith@arcind.org.

The Arc of Indiana

The Arc of Indiana was established in 1956 by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who joined together to build a better and more accepting world for their children.

The Arc of Indiana is committed to all people with I/DD realizing their goals of learning, living, working and fully participating in the community.

Today, the combined strength of local Arcs, state Arcs and The Arc of the United States makes The Arc the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Learn more about us at www.arcind.org.
The Arc National Convention
October 3-5, 2015
Marriott Downtown, Indianapolis

The Arc’s 2015 National Convention, October 3-5, 2015, is a three-day gathering of individuals with I/DD and their families, chapter leaders and staff and those dedicated to our movement to come together and learn, grow, and be inspired. The 2015 convention takes place in Indianapolis – we welcome you to #Go2Indy!

Important Dates
Early-Registration – May 15–June 15
Regular – June 16–September 1
Late & On-Site – September 2–October 5


General Sessions
October 3, 2:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Opening General Session
Families – Our Foundation and Our Future
Tim Shriver, Special Olympics Chairman

Nearly 65 ago, The Arc was founded by family members of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who wanted more for their loved ones. Families remain the core of our movement, and they breathe life into our mission. Tim Shriver, Chairman of the Special Olympics and world renowned activist, will share his family’s story and how it inspired him to make a difference. In 2014, Shriver released a memoir, Fully Alive: Discovering What Matters Most, that offers a personal look into his life and the people who inspired and taught him. There will be a book signing at the Opening Reception, immediately following this session.

October 5, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Closing General Session
Using the Power of our Grassroots to Manifest Change

In 2015 we are set to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the 50th anniversary of Medicaid and Medicare. The passage of this transformative legislation would not have been possible without the hard work of congressional leaders and disability advocates, like you! We can celebrate these monumental achievements, but we can’t stop there. We have to keep the momentum going, and the only way to do that is to mobilize our grassroots! This session will be a powerful and inspirational call to action for The Arc’s network and provide concrete examples on how we can reinvigorate our movement.