



Executive Director's Report For The Arc of PA Quarterly Board Meeting June 7th, 2021

March 17, 2021 through June 7, 2021

- Include Me Preschool - Lisa Snyder, Program Consultant
- Include Me School Age & ADEPT - Nicole Turman, Director, Include Me & ADEPT
- Advocacy - Sherri Landis, Executive Director & Katie Yost, Director, Government & Chapter Relations
- Communications - Alexa Brill, Manager for Social Media & Website & Shirley Keith Knox, Communications Director
- Chapter Support - Sherri Landis, Executive Director & Katie Yost, Director Government & Chapter Relations
- Finance - Tracy Gross-Fritz, Director of Finance and Sherri Landis, Executive Director
- Operations - Sherri Landis, Executive Director

***** Include Me Preschool

1. Lisa Snyder attended 4 LICC (Local Interagency Coordinating Council) meetings. All meetings took place through a virtual platform: ZOOM. The meetings were Lancaster, Montgomery, Bedford, and Franklin Counties. Lisa continued to share information on Include Me Preschool's role in family engagement and other program updates.
2. Lisa Snyder participated in the April SICC (State Interagency Coordinating Council) meeting. Lisa co-facilitated a family 'meet and greet' before the SICC meeting with 12 families in attendance.
3. Lisa Snyder assisted in the facilitation of three family Vitality Cafes. Each café was the same topic presented to different family groups. Lisa led family discussion groups.
4. Lisa Snyder presented to the EITA (Early Intervention Technical Assistance) inclusion cohort. Lisa shared information on family engagement, LICCs, and the Include Me Preschool program.
5. Lisa Snyder participated in the Pennsylvania 2021 Early Intervention and Family Support Program Conference. Lisa presented on the Life Course framework with EITA and one other family member. Lisa shared her personal experience with the framework.

***** Include Me School Age (IM)

1. District support needs continued to evolve throughout the school year and requests for support continues to grow. Planning for next school year continues. To date, the following districts/schools have submitted confirmation to continue next school year: Bloomsburg, Council Rock, Cumberland Perry Vo-Tech, Delaware Valley, Northampton, Mercer Area, Pittsburgh Public, School District of Philadelphia, and West Shore. Nicole Turman has been meeting with additional districts for participation next year. The following districts have planned participation: Benton, Easton, West Mifflin School District and Midd West. Millersburg, Pequea Valley, and Cornwall-Lebanon have all expressed some level of interest and outreach/follow-up continues with those districts.
2. Sherri Landis, Nicole Turman, and Jill Craig worked with Kim Herb to develop the Trauma Informed Care/Behavior Support e-learning module and it is posted on the website.
3. The Arc of PA's application as an Act 48 provider was approved by the Pa Department of Education. We can offer Act 48 credit for our professional development training, e-learning modules, book studies, and the Intentional Teaching full day training. The first professional development training for an IM school district for Act 48 credit is scheduled for May 18th.

4. Planning for a Summer Institute to provide 3 days of training on inclusive practices for Act 48 credit continues. The Institute will be held June 22-24th and includes a combination of keynote speakers and The Arc of PA sessions each of the three days. Topics include: Trauma informed supports in the classroom; Presuming competence; Equity by design.
5. Jennifer Billig continues facilitation of a second round of the book study on “Out of My Mind” by Sharon Draper. A second book study on the book “Fish in a Tree” has begun and is being facilitated by Jennifer Mulle, Celia Morrison, and Lisa Butler.
6. Program specialists are delivering end of year professional development sessions, planning for requested supports over the summer, and working with continuing districts to plan supports for the 2021-22 school year.

Summary of Activities:

- LTF meetings attended: 2
- Professional Development Sessions: 21
- Attendance at Professional Development Sessions: 589
- Individuals Reached via Outreach Activities: 1725

ADEPT - Arc Discovery Employment Transitions

ADEPT staff continued work related to Discovery and Customized Employment with the following activities highlighted:

1. Action with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)
 - ACRE (Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators) trainings were delivered via Zoom March 22-24th and April 28-30th. An ACRE training is scheduled for May 17-19 via Zoom. These trainings continue to be offered outside any Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) training contract. The remaining trainings for this fiscal year are scheduled as follows: May 17-19 and June 14-16. After receiving feedback from the ACRE team, Nicole Turman and Jen Hipps made the revisions to the ACRE curriculum to submit for ongoing approval to deliver the ACRE certificate training via distance learning beyond June 30, 2021.
2. Action with the Office of Developmental Programs:
 - Nicole Turman, Anthony Chan, and Jen Hipps presented Discovery Certification training via remote learning April 19-21, 2021.
 - Nicole Turman, Anthony Chan, and Jen Hipps presented Marc Gold & Associates online Customized Employment (CE) Job Development training April 12-14th. The ADEPT will be mentoring the certification candidates from this cohort through CE Job Development certification activities.
 - The ADEPT team developed content for an e-learning module on Customized Employment which has been sent to Kim Herb for development. This module will provide those seeking their re-certification with a review of the content. Additional modules related to CE are being developed.
3. Action with the Department of Education:
 - ADEPT continue to attend bi-weekly ZOOM program meetings with IM staff to facilitate coordination of efforts and support. Program staff are working together to deliver and develop professional development training, conduct outreach, and support student teams - including development of new tools, resources, and training specific to transition and employment.
 - ADEPT consultants have maintained communications with participants, families, school districts, and OVR counselors. As counties moved to phased openings and schools begin to resume more activities, ADEPT consultants and Jen Hipps maintained contact with participants, employers, and funders to determine preparedness to return to work/services and transition-based work experiences. Jen had a meeting with Benton School District - they have requested participation in Include Me, including supports for student transition teams using Discovery and CE to develop customized work experiences.

Summary of Activities:

- Number of Transition age students/teams receiving ADEPT supports, BSE funded: 5
- Number of individuals attending March- April ACRE training: 46
- Number of people attending Marc Gold & Associates Discovery and Job Development training: 25
- Number of individuals attending The Arc of PA Intentional Teaching training (a one-day. Overview of Systematic Instruction: none held this reporting period. Next training June 21, 2021.
- Number of individuals receiving Employment Supports, OVR (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation) Funded: 14
- Number of individuals receiving Employment Supports, ODP (Office of Developmental Programs) funded: 0
- Public Outreach: various employers, Chamber of Commerce events, other activities: 35

Advocacy

1. Critical Correspondence - Sherri Landis & Katie Yost

a. Correspondence with legislators:

- Contacted freshman legislator staff to set up virtual 'meet & greets' between them, The Arc of PA, and their local chapters.
- Corresponded with the Senate Education Committee on testimony for Education reform hearing.
- Corresponded with Chairman Sonney, Senator Corman, Speaker Cutler, Leader Benninghoff, Senator Martin, and Senator L. Williams' offices on legislation to address additional year for students with IDD about to age out/graduate from education services.
- Corresponded to members of the Senate on support of SB 664.
- Emailed members of the Appropriations Committee to schedule budget advocacy meetings.
- Emailed members of the House and Senate Appropriations committee The Arc of PA's Ideas for American Rescue Plan dollars.
- Emailed members of the House and Senate Leadership The Arc of Pennsylvania's budget priorities and Ideas for American Rescue Plan dollars.
- Emailed legislators to participate in Virtual Advocacy Days as part of A&P Day.

b. Contacted Vision for Equality for contacts for chapter expansion in counties without a local Arc Chapter.

c. Circulated Action Alert emails on PA COVID-19 Vaccination plan and the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP)/Rite Aid partnership.

d. Circulated Slice of PIE, Legislative Review to PIE and DD Council, and the Legislation Watchlist to the PIE Policy email group.

e. Corresponded with local chapters on various activities such as Self-Advocate Seminar, upcoming trainings, and virtual advocacy events. Circulated calls to local chapters to participate in grant partners press conferences across the state.

f. Corresponded with the PA State Archives to discuss The Arc of PA's Archive Project.

g. Worked on report for the PA State Task Force with The Arc of PA representative.

h. Reached out to Education Law Center, PA State Education Association, and PA School Business Officials on their support for additional school year for students with IDD aging out.

b. Worked with internal staff to formulate a proposal presentation for the NCE conference.

2. Meetings/Lobbying - Sherri Landis

a. Meetings with Deputy Secretary Ahrens regarding American Rescue Plan funding, DSP crisis and Vaccine distribution.

b. Meeting with Acting Secretary Meg Snead on American Rescue Plan funding and DSP crisis.

- c. Budget advocacy meetings with members of House and Senate Appropriations Committee
- d. ODP Technology Workgroup Chair meetings
- e. ODP Technology Policy and Procedure Workgroup meetings
- f. Stakeholder meeting with Senator Casey's office on COVID19
- g. Disability Integration Task Force
- h. PA Coalition for Inclusive Community
- i. ISAC Racial Equity Work group
- j. ISAC
- k. IM4Q Steering Committee meeting
- l. APS Steering committee meeting
- m. Special Education Coalition
- n. ISAC Provider Oversight Subcommittee
- o. PIE Advisory and Policy calls
- p. NCE state executives monthly calls
- q. Meeting with various legislators and ODP, Dept. of Health on vaccination plan
- r. Meet & Greets with Rep. Lewis DelRosso, Rep. Guzman, Rep. Pisciotano, Rep. Kinhead, Rep. Parker, Rep. Young, Rep. Krajewski, Senator Cappelletti, Rep. Stambaugh, Rep. Guent, Rep. Mercuri, Senator Saval, Senator Comitta, Rep. Craig Williams, Rep. Flood, Rep. Nelson, Rep. Herrin, Rep. M. Mackenzie, Rep. Silvis, Rep. Labs, Rep. A. Brown
- s. House & Senate Appropriations Budget Hearings - Dept. of Health, PA Department of Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Labor & Industry and communication with various legislators
- t. Meetings with Bureau of Special Education Carole Clancy on extended school year.

3. Meetings/Lobbying - Katie Yost

- a. Social Media Workgroup - Discussion on IDD Awareness Month, Autism Acceptance Month, Advocacy & Policy Conference postings, Summer Institute.
- b. PA Vaccination Plan - Meetings with various department and stakeholders to discuss vaccination roll out and impact on people with IDD.
- c. Technology 1st Coalition: Meeting of Workgroup to discuss White Paper on use of telehealth.
- d. Met to discuss Additional Year legislation with the offices of Chairman Sonney, Representative R. Brown, Senator Corman, Speaker Cutler, Leader Benninghoff, and Senator L. Williams.
- e. Advocacy & Policy Conference planning meetings.
- f. Monthly Phone 2 Action Meeting
- g. Chapter Development
 - Hosted webinars for local chapters.
 - Meetings for local chapter promotion/highlight.
 - Participated in recorded Q&As for local chapter.
- h. Meet & Greet with Freshman Sen. Devlin Robinson and Rep. Joe Kerwin.
- i. 53 Budget Advocacy Meetings with members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committee members *see separate spreadsheet of all legislators.*
- j. House & Senate Appropriations Budget Hearings - Dept. of Health, PA Department of Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Labor & Industry, and communication with various legislators.
- k. Participated in Everyday Lives
- l. Virtual Advocacy Day Meetings with Legislators *see separate spreadsheet of all scheduled meetings to date*.

4. Policy Information Exchange (PIE)

- a. Provided policy calls for the PA Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council and committee members.
- b. Attended the bi-monthly PA DD Council PIE meetings.
- c. Issued PIE alerts throughout the quarter.

- d. Participated in the PA DD Council Meeting
- e. Hosted Quarterly PIE Advisory Committee meeting.
- f. Drafted and sent out Slice of PIE (Policy Information Exchange) publication

5. Committee Participation

a. Sherri Landis

- Intellectual Disability/Autism Coalition
- PA School Works Mobilization Committee
- SAGA Committee
- ISAC
- ISAC Racial Equity
- APS Steering Committee
- IM4Q Steering Committee
- Special Education Coalition
- Coalition for Inclusive Community
- Disability Integration Taskforce
- Imagine Different Coalition
- ODP Tech Task Force
- Disability Budget Coalition

b. Katie Yost

- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
- Intellectual Disability/Autism Coalition
- Right to Education State Task Force
- PA School Works Mobilization and Governing Relations Committees
- The Arc Advocate Monthly Meetings
- SAGA Committee
- State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention Services (SICC)
- Disability Budget Coalition
- Coalition for Inclusive Community
- Disability Integration Taskforce
- Special Education Coalition
- Medical Assistance Advisory Committee Meeting

5. Advocacy and Policy Conference Planning

- Sherri Landis, Katie Yost, Alexa Brill, Joshua Fields, & Shirley Keith Knox have finalized plans for this year's conference. Check out our website to register and for details. The title of this year's conference is: "Making Connections for the 21st Century Workforce: Advancing Employment for People with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities".

Social Media

1. Facebook

- Likes increased from 4,450 to 4,489 people, with 5,102 followers.
- Most successful posts this quarter have been posts on how people with intellectual disabilities can access the COVID-19 vaccine, inclusive employment for people with disabilities, and the elimination of sub-minimum wage, as well as posts on President Biden's initiatives for people with disabilities.

2. Twitter

- Increase from 1,107 to 1,128 followers.
- 3. Instagram
 - Increase from 594 to 628 followers
- 4. Website
 - Switching from FireSpring to Word Press
- 5. In Touch
 - The Arc's e-newsletter was distributed every two weeks during this quarter highlighting timely news, links to resources, and key state chapter staff activities.
- 6. PA Message
 - Spring 2021 Issue was distributed. This issue highlighted The Arc of PA's new strategic plan.
- 7. Board/Chapter Communications
 - Conducted Executive Director conference calls

Chapter Support

1. Chapter Executive calls
2. Call with The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh on supported decision making
3. Guest speaker at The Arc of Susquehanna Valley Self-determination event
4. Monthly call with Arc of Indiana

Finance

1. Continuing work to create policies and procedures for financial and step-by-steps in case of issue/fail safes.
2. Reviewing and updating current disaster recovery plan with our Information Technology company and with new offices at Mumma Road.
3. Researching and reviewing Cafeteria 125 plans and will discuss with our broker to see what the best/correct options for The Arc of PA are.
4. Telephone system was switched from Fusion to Selectech in April with savings and adding app for field staff to be able to conduct business using The Arc of PA main line instead of personal cell phone lines.
5. Updated staff onboarding to be more robust and cover more information. We also went to in-person onboarding with IT present in April.
6. Director of Finance invited to join the PNC Forum for Small Business insight, joined March 2021.
7. Continuing to work on the budget for FY2021-2022, waiting on responses from grantors, and to finalize grant budgets with those parties.
