

2026 Disability Health Action Summit: Beyond Barriers, Toward Solutions

Tuesday May 19, 2026

Registration will be open from 12:00 – 5:00. Exhibits closed.

1:00 – 1:10	Welcome Sherri Landis, CEO, The Arc of Pennsylvania
1:10 – 1:30	Keynote Theo W. Brady, Executive Director National Council on Independent Living
1:30 – 2:15	General Session: <i>Legal Access as Disability Health Justice: Scalable Models for Breaking Systemic Barriers</i> Theresa Brabson, Esq., Legal Clinic for the Disabled
2:15 – 2:30	Break
2:30 – 3:15	Panel Session: <i>Emergency Preparedness</i> Panelists: Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC) – Research & Evaluation Group, Jason Rechtman, PerformCare, & Maria Brandt, The Arc of Blair County
3:15 – 4:00	General Session: <i>Beyond the Diagnosis</i> Dr. Josie Badger DHCE, CRC
4:00 – 4:45	Panel Session: <i>Policy Outlooks</i> Mary Hartley, Achieva/The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh Jennifer Garman, Disability Rights of PA

Wednesday May 20, 2026

Registration will be open from 8:00 – 12:30. Exhibits open.

8:00 – 8:50	Breakfast & Exhibitors
8:50 – 9:00	Welcome Sherri Landis, CEO, The Arc of Pennsylvania
9:00 – 9:20	Keynote: Secretary Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
9:20 – 10:05	General Session: <i>CARE Down Syndrome</i> National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS)
10:05 – 10:50	General Session: <i>Bridging the Data Gap: Disability Inclusion in Community Health Assessments</i> Makhari Dysart & Hannah Wells, Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

10:50 – 11:20	Break & Exhibitors
11:20 – 12:05	<p>Breakouts</p> <p>Option A: <i>Breaking the Silence: Building Accessible Mental Health Services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Communities</i> Neil McDevitt, Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre</p> <p>Option B: <i>The Impact of Self-Advocate Storytelling on the Development of Disability Education Resources for Healthcare Providers</i> Karin Roseman, MSW, LCSW, Thomas Jefferson University FAB Center for Complex Care</p> <p>Option C: <i>Empowerment Through Technology: Accessible, Affordable, Life-Enhancing Tech; Real Tools, Real Lives, Real Independence</i> Diana Petschauer, M.Ed., ATP, AHS Smart Living Tech, Arc Human Services</p>
12:05 – 1:15	Lunch & Exhibitors
1:15 – 2:00	<p>Breakouts</p> <p>Option A: <i>Designing for Neurodiversity: Building Inclusive Spaces for Health Equity</i> Sabra Townsend, MS & Wendy J. Ross, MD, FAAP, Jefferson Health</p> <p>Option B: <i>Partnering with Caregivers to Promote Optimal Oral Health for People with ID/A</i> Saumya Ayyagari, MSN, MPH & Kelly Parker, RDH, Special Outreach Services</p>
2:00 – 2:45	<p>Breakouts</p> <p>Option A: <i>Preparing for Clinical Encounters with Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities</i> Alyssa Siegel, MD, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)</p> <p>Option B: <i>The Community Supported Care Model: A Whole Person Health Solution for Pennsylvania</i> Charles Hooker, Ruth Siegfried, & Shane Spotts, William Penn Human Services</p> <p>Option C: <i>Integrating ADEPT-CARE for Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities into a Medical School Curriculum</i> Cailey Bozic, Zekiel Factor & Meghan Hartman, Penn State College of Medicine</p>
2:45 – 3:00	Break & Exhibitors
3:00 – 3:45	Panel Session: Self-Advocate Insights
3:45 – 4:00	Closing

Sherri Landis, CEO, The Arc of Pennsylvania
