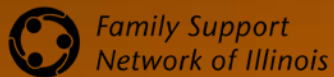


# Statewide Best Practices and Home Based Services Conferences

The Arc of Illinois  
Family Support Network &  
Ligas Family Advocate Program  
Shirley Perez, Executive Director





# Speakers For Today:

- Shirley Perez & Shakari Asbury, Family Support Network
- Meg Cooch, The Arc of Illinois
- Mary Dixon & Megan Mutti, Ligas Family Advocate Program
- Jose' Ovalle & Michelle McFarland, HBS Advocates and participants
- Eliza Jones, Clearbrook
- Patty O'Brien, Suburban Access
- John Agosta & Yoshi Kardell, Human Services Research Institute
- Tasha Whiteside, ACES\$ Services

# Our Agenda

- **9:00 - 9:15 a.m.** - Welcome and Mission of the Family Support Network (FSN), Shirley Perez, Program Director, The Arc Family Support Network & Shakari Asbury, The Arc FSN and Ligas Liaison
- **9:15 - 9:30 a.m.** - "Updates/Concerns for Family Support", Meg Cooch, Executive Director , The Arc of Illinois
- **9:30 - 9:35 a.m.** - BREAK - José Ovalle, HBS participant
- **9:35 - 9:45 a.m.** - "Ligas Family Advocate Program, Mary Dixon and Megan Mutti, Ligas Family Advocates
- **9:45 - 10:20 a.m.** - "Role of SDA", Presented by Eliza Jones, Clearbrook
- **10:20 - 10:35 a.m.** - "Role of the Independent Service Coordination Agency (ISC)", Patty O'Brien, DD Program Manager, Suburban Access
- **10:35 - 10:45 a.m.** - BREAK - Michelle McFarland, HBS participant
- **10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** - "What is the Medicaid Waiver and How it Works", Derek Hedges, Division's Waiver Manager and Supervisor of the Medicaid Waiver Unit and Andrea Medley, Strategic Planning Unit Supervisor, DDD
- **12:00 - 12:30 p.m.** - Lunch Break Sponsored by ACES\$
- **KEYNOTE: 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.** - "What Do We Do Now? - Disability Service Systems Past 2020", John Agosta, Executive Vice-President, Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) and Yoshi Kardell, Policy Analyst with HSRI
- **2:00 - 2:10 p.m.** - BREAK
- **2:10 - 3:10 p.m.** - "Meet Your Fiscal Agent", Tasha Whiteside, Director of Illinois Operations for ACES\$ Financial Management Services
- **3:10 - 3:30 p.m.** - "*Wrap-Up*", Shirley Perez, Program Director, The Arc Family Support Network

# The Family Support Network (FSN)

## Our Mission:

- The mission of the Family Support Network is to unify individuals with disabilities and their families to advocate for funding, services and community resources that strengthen and support the individual and the family directly by responding to their individual needs and empowering them to live in their own homes.

# Meet the FSN Staff



Troy Markert joined the Arc of Illinois Family Support Network as our Family Advocate Specialist, bringing with him over 20 years of experience in troubleshooting issues that families face. He has filled a significant gap in family advocacy; increasing our ability to assist families with unique and difficult situations, particularly in downstate Illinois. Within his role, relationships with ISC's, families, and other developmental disability organizations have expanded, increasing the resources that can be offered to families in need of information and support. The addition of the Family Support Specialist role has strengthened our ability to effectively advocate on behalf of families and self-advocates.

# Meet the FSN Staff



Shakari Asbury, Family Support Network Assistant and Liaison. She continues to interact with families and self-advocates who call the FSN/Ligas office looking for support and resources. She works with and assist in getting individuals registered for Know Your Options events. She continues to support the Family Support Network Director in Partnering with organizations and connect with families who have loved ones not receiving services to share information. FSN continues to develop our relationships as we partner with Chicago Land Autism Connection, (CAC), Answer Inc., and Parents of Extraordinary Children in the 10<sup>th</sup> ward and South Chicago Parents and Friends. In these challenging times we are happy to have Shakari respond out to our families in a timely manner.



# What we do:

- Our program partners with families and other support groups and organizations to provide support, education, and connection around developmental disability policy, legislative advocacy, and problem solving. We work in partnership with families who are experiencing difficulties navigating the developmental disability service system in Illinois.
- Our goal is simple – enhance a family's ability to support an individual with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) to live as independently in the community as possible, with the supports and services that help them meet their unique goals.



# Why reach out to FSN?

- Interest in becoming involved in legislative advocacy
- Difficulty locating a provider who can meet your family's needs
- Conflict or concern regarding access to services or service delivery that has gone unresolved
- Ongoing barrier within the developmental disability service system that you have been unable to resolve on your own
- Need for additional supports and services for your family due to changing circumstances
- Interest in connecting with other families who are advocating for needed services for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Illinois
- Connection to core developmental disability programs and resources throughout the state to assist families with immediate support needs and planning for future support needs
- Assistance with advocating for social, recreational, and community resources for those with **I/DD**

# Thank you to our generous Vendor & Sponsor

- **ACES\$:**

- **Avenues to Consumer Employment Services and Supports:** Northern Illinois Office: 7820 Graphics Drive, Suite 106 Tinley Park, IL 60477; Central/Southern Illinois Office: ACES\$ 830 South Spring Street, Springfield, IL 62704 Toll Free Number (877) 223-7781; Website: <https://mycil.org/>

- **Little City:**

- 1760 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, IL 60067, (847) 358-5510; Website: <https://littlecity.org/>

# Thank you for joining us!

- The Arc of Illinois, Meg Cooch, Executive Director
  - [meg@thearcofil.org](mailto:meg@thearcofil.org)
- Family Support Network, Shirley Perez, Executive Director
  - [shirley@thearcofil.org](mailto:shirley@thearcofil.org)
  - [troy@thearcofil.org](mailto:troy@thearcofil.org) (Family Support Specialist)
  - [shakari@thearcofil.org](mailto:shakari@thearcofil.org) (FSN Liaison)
- Ligas Family Advocate Program, Shirley Perez, Program Director
  - [mary@thearcofil.org](mailto:mary@thearcofil.org) (Northern Illinois Advocate)
  - [megan@thearcofil.org](mailto:megan@thearcofil.org) (Central/Southern Advocate)

