

**The Arc of Illinois and
The Executive Forum Leadership Conference
Virtual - February 9 - 10, 2022**



Wednesday, February 9, 2022

9:30 - 9:45 a.m. - Welcome and Agenda Review

Michael Glanz, Executive Forum Chair and CEO of The Arc of the Quad Cities and Amie Lulinski, Executive Director, The Arc of Illinois
Amie will review the objectives of the conference.

9:45 - 10:45 a.m. - "Re-Building a Direct Support Workforce in a Post-Pandemic Environment"

Presented by Joseph Macbeth, CEO, National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals
Over the course of the past year (or more), direct support professionals re-defined their jobs without a road map, supporting social distancing, educating about the needs of personal protective equipment, dealing with issues pertaining to daily schedule changes, using new technology to build relationships, and of course, keeping people who are three times more likely to die from the COVID-19 virus, healthy and safe. As with all crises, they rose to the occasion and exceeded expectations. As we emerge from these dark days, how will the I/DD system, funders and policy makers recognize these "heroes"? What public policy opportunities are there to finally address this decades-long workforce "crisis"? This session will provide reflection from the pandemic and provide solution-driven ideas to finally create the hallmarks of a meaningful career for our workforce.

10:45 - 11:00 a.m. - Break

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - "The Staffing Struggle is Real: A Data-Driven Approach to Employee Engagement"

Presented by Doug Golub, Medisked
This session will examine the staffing crisis and provide tips for employee engagement in the altered service environment. It will draw on ARPA funding and CMS' support of creative endeavors for capacity building.

12:00 - 12:30 p.m. - Lunch Break

12:30 - 1:15 p.m. - Division of Rehabilitation Services

Presented by Rahnee Patrick, Director, Division of Rehabilitation Services
Director Patrick will share an update on DRS and share the findings from the "Let's Talk" series.

1:15 - 1:30 p.m. - Break

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. - "Update on Illinois's Budget"

Presented by Ralph Martire, Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability
The budget for Illinois is an issue of great concern. Sustainable funding for essential services is in question. Various revenue sources have been considered in the General Assembly—some good, some not so much. Learn what the current fiscal climate really is in Illinois and what it portends for public services, education, and pensions.

2:30 - 2:45 p.m. - Break

2:45 - 3:30 p.m. - Division of Developmental Disabilities

Presented by Allison Stark, Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities, DHS
Director Stark will share updates from the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

3:30 - 3:45 p.m. - Break

3:45 - 4:45 p.m. - "Ligas Consent Decree Update"

Presented by Ronnie Cohn, Ligas Court Monitor and Barry Taylor, Equip for Equality
Ronnie Cohn and Barry Taylor will share the current status and implementation of the Consent Decree. There will be time for Q&A.

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*Presented by
The Arc of Illinois
and The Illinois
Executive Forum*

Thursday, February 10, 2022

9:30 - 9:45 a.m. - Good Morning! Michael Glanz, Executive Forum Chair and CEO of The Arc of the Quad Cities

Lessons Learned and Objectives of the Day

9:45 -10:45 a.m. - “2022 Federal Legislative and Administrative Update”

Presented by Bethany Lilly

Bethany Lilly, Senior Director, Income Policy for The Arc of the United States will share the latest from DC including key legislation and implementation of rules and regulations.

10:45 - 11:00 a.m. - Break

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - “View from Springfield”

With Phil Milsk and a Panel of State Legislators

Join a panel of elected leaders in the Illinois House and Senate as well as The Arc’s lobbyist, Phil Milsk, to discuss the spring legislative session and possible opportunities and challenges with advocating for increases to community living.

12:00 - 12:30 p.m. - Lunch Break

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. - “Systemic Failure and Exploitation: The effects of COVID19 + decades long direct support workforce crises”

Presented by Amy Hewitt, PhD, Director, Research & Training Center on Community Living

We have moved far beyond a crisis regarding the direct support workforce. The situation we find ourselves in is a direct result of ignoring the problem for far too long. In the early 1990's we knew that by 2020 there was going to be a severe challenge in having enough people to fill the jobs required to support people in the community. These predictions were based solely on demographics of the U.S. population and increased demand due to life expectancy and Baby Boomer aging, leaving the workforce and needing long term support and services. No one anticipated a global pandemic would also hit in 2020. What we are experiencing is a catastrophic system failure. The realities of the effects of COVID19 on the lives of Direct Support Professionals has been significant and their employers are struggling in a context that at times seems impossible to navigate as nearly every industry is struggling to find employees. Federal legislation has provided states funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and most states are using portions of the funding to support the workforce. But, are they putting a bandaid on the problem or building systemic infrastructure to really build solutions? If Build Back Better (BBB) passes there is significant resource going to address the workforce challenges. But, are you prepared to shape how your state uses these resources? This session will present recent research on how COVID-19 has affected DSPs and the implications for organizations and systems in the context of the great resignation for ensuring ARPA and BBB (fingers crossed) maximize workforce sustainability.

2:00 - 2:15 p.m. - Break

2:15 - 2:45 p.m. - “Illinois State Budget”

Presented by Todd Maisch, Illinois Chamber of Commerce

Todd will share an update on the general state of the Illinois economy, workforce issues, state budget, and state and federal legislative priorities/funding.

2:45 - 3:45 p.m. - “From What We’ve Learned, Building a New Future”

Presented by John Dickerson

John Dickerson reflects on the past year and shares his positive viewpoint of how to move forward. His focus will be thinking outside the box for future opportunities.

3:45 - 4:00 p.m. - Wrap Up and Next Steps

Visit The Arc of Illinois website for additional information, including speaker bios.
<https://www.thearcofil.org/executive-leadership-2022-conference/>