

THE ARC OF ILLINOIS 72ND ANNUAL CONVENTION WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

9:00 - **President's Welcome**
9:10 a.m. **Leanne Mull, Board President, The Arc of Illinois**

9:10 - **Presentation from VIP Sponsor**
9:15am **The Autism Program of Illinois**
As the largest comprehensive statewide program in the country dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with ASD and their families, TAP provides a variety of resources and services. As a collaboration of agencies, TAP is able to offer services that respond to the unique needs of different communities across Illinois.



9:15 -
10:15am
Breakout
Sessions

Breakout Session #1
Jay Bohn
Medicaid Administration, DDD
Megan Forristall
Social Security Administration

“Benefits”

This benefits presentation will cover both Medicaid programs and Social Security Income (SSI) and Supplemental Security Disability Income (SSDI).

Breakout Session #2
Katie Arnold
UIC

“Family Support: Voices of Adults with IDD”

Learn what adults with IDD have to say about support they get from and give to their parents and siblings. Findings from a qualitative study will be shared and presenters will discuss what it means for families, providers, and policies.

Breakout Session #3
Karen Neville
Kelly Neville
Special Sparkle

“Be Your Own Boss”

Kelly, a young woman with Down Syndrome, and her mom created a business 10 years ago. They will talk about the benefits and challenges of becoming an entrepreneur.

10:15 -
10:30am

Break
Rubin Law, A Professional Corporation Sponsor



Special Needs Legal & Future Planning
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10:30-
11:45am

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:



Presented by Secretary Grace Hou, Department of Human Services, and Director Allison Stark, Division of Developmental Disabilities
Secretary Hou and Director Stark will share updates from the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

11:45am -
12:15pm

Lunch Break
Comcast NBCUniversal Sponsor



**We hope you enjoy The Arc of Illinois
20th Annual Art Exhibit & Contest.**

<https://convention2022.givesmart.com>

Browse and enjoy all the marvelous art work on display from April 11 - 18, 2022.

Cast your vote on your favorite work of art. All artists will receive a ribbon and certificate.

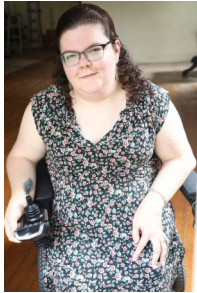
**THE ARC OF ILLINOIS 72ND ANNUAL CONVENTION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022**

12:15 -
1:15pm

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:

“Supported Storytelling: A Powerful Tool for Advocacy and Change”

Presented by Emily Ladau



Even informed advocates and allies can still fall into the trap of speaking either for or over disabled people rather than centering their authentic stories and experiences. But as the popular mantra of the disability community goes, "nothing about us, without us." This presentation will empower both people with disabilities and people who work with the disability community to embrace the power of storytelling and effectively communicate their messages to push for progress and change.

1:15-
1:30pm

Break
ACES\$ Sponsor

1:30 -
2:30pm
Breakout
Sessions

Breakout Session #4
Kish Pisani
Michael Roush
National Disability Institute

*“Five Key Strategies to
Financial Wellness - What’s
Your Vision?”*

Discover five key strategies to financial wellness and first steps that individuals can take to build one’s financial future and how to implement a vision board in planning.

Breakout Session #5
Dick Malone
Molly Bulger
Kathy Lyons
Cynthia Witherspoon
Center for Independent Futures

*“Independent Futures:
Listening, Learning and
Leading”*

Staff and self-advocates from Independent Futures will share how technology, virtual opportunities, and creative attitudes resulted in new ways to learn, socialize, improve skills, build community and find new jobs!

Breakout Session #6
Casey Burke
IDHS/DDD

*“Obtaining and Maximizing
Employment Services and
Supports ”*

This session will focus on how individuals, families, and provider organizations initiate and maximize employment supports for persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The primary topic will be engagement with the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS).

2:30 -
2:45pm

Break

**Please visit The Arc of Illinois
Sponsors and Exhibitors at**

<https://www.thearcofil.org/72nd-annual-convention/>



**THE ARC OF ILLINOIS 72ND ANNUAL CONVENTION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022**

2:45 -
3:45pm
Breakout
Sessions

Breakout Session #7

Brian Rubin
Benji Rubin
Rubin Law, A Professional Corporation

***“Special Needs Trusts, ABLE
Accounts, Letters of Intent,
and Related Topics”***

Brian Rubin, a parent, and Benji Rubin, a sibling of Mitchell Rubin who has Autism, will present the basics of special needs planning, including special needs trusts, ABLE accounts, selecting the future team of trustees and guardians, impact of divorce and law-suit settlements, educating the extended family, letters of intent, and many related topics.

Breakout Session #8

Erica Stearns
The Arc of Illinois, Atypical Truth
Emily Ladau
The Accessible Stall

***“Disability Community
Building through
Podcasting”***

Explore the benefits of using a podcast to widely broadcast our stories and conversations; building a virtual community, sharing information, and emotional support for individuals with disabilities and caregivers.

Breakout Session #9

Michael Greene
Kimberlie Taylor
Darren Wolken
Danielle Washington
DSC

***“How We Positively Impact
Our Agency’s Hiring
Process”***

Let us show you the ropes!
Advocates will discuss the impact of being involved in interviews, orientation, and the training of new staff within an agency that serves people with disabilities.

3:45 -
4:00pm

Break

4:00-
5:00pm
Breakout
Sessions

Breakout Session #10

Shirley Perez
Ruth Aguilar
The Arc of Illinois

***“PUNS: Understanding
Changes and Updated
Data”***

This presentation will share information about PUNS, the process, changes, connecting with your Independent Service Coordination Agency (ISC), and updates as a result of the Ligas Consent Decree.

Breakout Session #11

Diane Compton
Erin Compton
Parent and Self-Advocate
Susan Hoekstra

***“Building Limitless Mindsets
in Parents, Teachers, and
Students”***

Reuniting a self-advocate with her first reading teacher 13 years later, this presentation focuses on going from a student’s dream to IEP goal writing to limitless possibilities.

Breakout Session #12

Scott Nixon
Life’s Plan, Inc
Consuelo Puente
Matthew Koupal

***“How to Develop a
Micro-Business”***

Competitive employment is not always ideal for every individual with a disability. That does not mean there are not alternative solutions, possibly through the development of a “micro-enterprise” business model. By no means is a micro-business a small task, but through this presentation, the presenters will discuss how to create and develop such a business for a person with a disability that can be immensely productive and meaningful.

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THE ARC OF ILLINOIS 72ND ANNUAL CONVENTION

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

8:00 - 8:45am **The Arc of Illinois Annual Membership Meeting**
 The Arc of Illinois Annual Membership meeting will take place on day two of our convention. The agenda will include a presentation of the slate of board members and a review of the work done the previous year. All members of The Arc of IL are welcome to join us.

8:45 - 9:00am **Welcome**
Amie Lulinski, Executive Director, The Arc of Illinois

9:00 - 10:00am
Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session #13
Brian Rubin
Benji Rubin
 Rubin Law, A Professional Corporation

“Alternatives, One Size Does NOT Fit All: Supported Decision Making, Powers of Attorney, and Guardianship”

Brian Rubin, a parent, and Benji Rubin, a sibling, of Mitchell Rubin who has Autism, will explain Guardianship (Limited and Plenary), and the alternatives, including Supported Decision Making (new law), Powers of Attorney, and related matters.

Breakout Session #14
Daniel Cochrane
 UIC

“The Skills You Need to Self-Advocate for Assistive Technology”

The transition from K-12 education to postsecondary settings require a lot of self-advocacy skills. Self-advocacy for technology use is often overlooked even though it's important for access to the community.

Breakout Session #15
Carole Rosen
 The Arc of Illinois, Going Home Coalition

“Voices for Change: Challenges and Successes Building Community Capacity”

Self-advocates share compelling personal stories interwoven with current data illustrating the ongoing challenges and progress of building community capacity to create a pathway towards closure of Illinois' seven remaining state operated developmental centers.

10:00- 10:15am **Break**
High Tide Press Sponsor

10:15- 11:15am
Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session #16
Carol Nesteikis
 LRIDD

“Supporting People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System ”

A discussion on how too often people with intellectual and developmental disabilities become ensnared in the criminal justice system because of the cognitive difference caused by their disabilities.

Breakout Session #17
Andy Conover
 St Louis Life
Andy Hubble
 Weston Bridges

“Investing in Social Skills for Successful Post-Secondary Outcomes”

Improved social readiness can have a direct impact on a student's success in high school and beyond. This 60-minute presentation will cover how students can increase social skill preparedness.

Breakout Session #18
Rahnee Patrick
 Director, Division of Rehabilitation Services

“Let's Talk”

Rahnee Patrick, Director of the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), wants to meet with self-advocates to hear their opinion about how DRS is doing in serving and assisting people with disabilities.

This session is for self-advocates only.

11:15 - 11:30pm **Break**
IL ABLE Sponsor

Don't forget to place your bids!
The Silent Auction will open Monday, April 11th at noon
and close Monday, April 18th at noon.

<https://convention2022.givesmart.com>

THE ARC OF ILLINOIS 72ND ANNUAL CONVENTION

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

11:30am -
12:30pm

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

“Resiliency, Advocacy and The Fine Art of Parenting”

Presented by Adiba Nelson



Being a parent is one thing. Being the parent of fiercely independent sassafra who just happens to also be disabled is something else altogether! In this talk I'll be discussing the highs and "highers" of learning to be the fierce advocate my child needed, which in turn led to me advocating within my community, and then globally. I'll be discussing the importance of inclusion and accessibility as well as one of the drawbacks of inclusion that I could have never seen coming, but spoke LOUDLY to the importance of being part of a community.

12:30 -
1:00pm

Lunch Break
Life's Plan, Inc.



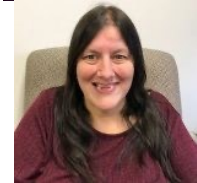
Life'sPlan, Inc.

1:00 -
2:00 pm

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

“How Learning and Teaching About Relationships and Sexual Self-Advocacy Increases Healthy, Satisfying Relationships and Helps Reduce Sexual Abuse”

Presented by Katherine McLaughlin, Elevatus Training with Tia Nelis



Self-advocates are telling us that they want and need sexuality education because those topics are important to live a full life and they didn't receive this education in schools or their programs. We also know the rate of sexual abuse among people with I/DD is 7 times higher than the general population. One way to help prevent abuse, and support healthy, satisfying relationships, is with teaching relationships and sexuality education. This keynote will explore the latest statistics on the negative consequences of this lack of education including abuse and learn useful tips and tools for helping people to stay and have full, positive lives. Discussion topics include what is sexual self-advocacy, myths about people with I/DD and relationships, and self-advocate voices about why they want and need relationships and sexuality education.

2:00-
2:15pm

Break

2:15-
3:15pm
Breakout
Sessions

Breakout Session #19
Dani Chitwood
LaTasha Grant
UCP Seguin

“Diversity within Disability”

Presenters will discuss the intersectionality of identities and experiences of people with disabilities and how to expand our understanding and approach to better serve others.

Breakout Session #20
Taylor Sweeting

“Why Can't You Understand Me?”

This presentation will give participants a perspective of autism from an autistic individual's viewpoint. Information contained in this presentation is both knowledge based, statistics, and historical accounts. It also borrows from this presenter's personal journey of living with autism and gives demonstrations of what living with autism is like from his perspective.

Breakout Session #21
Shannon Benaitis
Albatross Training Solutions
Emily Fencl, Sheila Lullo
Clearbrook

“Those Curriculum Binders are Old News: How to be More ‘Current’”

For adults with IDD, meaningful days filled with intentional activities are a frequent target that providers rarely meet. Learn how 16 agencies collaborated to create an online database of 800 fun, purposeful, age-appropriate activities.



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Annual Convention
April 13 - 14, 2022



Featuring the 21st
Annual
Art Exhibit

Call The Arc if you would like to participate!

SILENT AUCTION AND EXHIBITS

The Silent Auction and Art Exhibit will open Monday, April 11th at 12 noon. And remain open until Monday, April 18th at 12 noon.
<https://convention2022.givesmart.com>

Visit the Exhibitor Hall for more information on our Sponsors and Exhibitors,

<https://www.thearcofil.org/72nd-annual-convention/>

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IL ABLE

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11 CEUs available for Clinical Professional Counselor, Clinical Social Worker, Nursing Home Administrator, Social Worker, Occupational Therapist & Assistant, Physical Therapist & Assistant. 11 Training Hours available for QIDPs.



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Turning Silver Linings into Golden Opportunities



Turning Silver Linings into Golden Opportunities

April 13 - 14, 2022

FULL REGISTRATION

(Per person - includes both days)

_____ Professional Members of The Arc	\$130.00	\$ _____
_____ Professional Non Members of The Arc	\$160.00	\$ _____
_____ Self-Advocates/Family Members of The Arc	\$100.00	\$ _____
_____ Self-Advocates/Family Non Members of The Arc	\$130.00	\$ _____

DAILY REGISTRATION

_____ Professional Members of The Arc Per Day	\$80.00	\$ _____
_____ Professional Non Members of The Arc Per Day	\$110.00	\$ _____
_____ Self-Advocates/Family Members of The Arc Per Day	\$60.00	\$ _____
_____ Self-Advocates/Family Non Members of The Arc Per Day	\$90.00	\$ _____

INDICATE WHICH DAYS YOU WILL ATTEND: ___WEDNESDAY ___THURSDAY

INTRODUCTORY YEARLY MEMBERSHIP- **NEW FAMILY/INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS ONLY** (available only for the convention)

___ YES, I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE ARC OF ILLINOIS FOR \$20.00 \$ _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Please print or type all information. Mail completed form to: The Arc of Illinois, 9980 190th St., Suite C, Mokena, IL 60448. Make checks payable to The Arc of Illinois. You may fax this form to 815-464-5292 and send the fee with the hard copy of this form in the mail. You may also register online at www.thearcofil.org/events. **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.**

FULL NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION (if applicable): _____

YOUR MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

- _____ Fax form and send check to The Arc of Illinois
- _____ Check enclosed payable to The Arc of Illinois
- _____ State Voucher or P.O. #
- _____ Charge to my Visa, Mastercard, Discover or American Express

Name as it appears on card: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV Code: _____ Billing Zip: _____

Card holder's signature: _____

ACCOMMODATIONS & STIPENDS

Please contact Heidi Booth at Heidi@thearcofil.org or 815.464.1832 ext 1031 by March 25th for any accommodations and other requests. The **Consumer Stipend program** is available to self-advocates and families to help cover the cost of the event. Contact Karin Mentzer to apply at karin@thearcofil.org or 815.464.1832 ext 1010.

Participants canceling their registration at least 72 hours before the convention may be given a refund, less \$50 administrative cost. No refund will be given for cancelation less than 72 hours before the convention.