

## Celebrating 75 Years of Brilliance

Honoring Our Legacy & Embracing Our Future

The Arc of Illinois 75th Annual Convention April 22 - 23, 2025

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 9:15 - 10:45 am

### "Navigating The Terrain of Change (without losing our way or sanity!)"

Presented by Alonzo Kelly, PhD



An intentional focus on communication and critical thinking will assist with navigating crucial conversations with one another and those we serve. Civil discourse does not require a lack of civility in the process. This full participatory discussion is designed to introduce communication skills when those around us may be slow or resistant to change. We should not lose sight, nor our sanity, in situations where others may not be interested or willing to evolve their thinking or attitude with an ever evolving community and world.

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 9:00 - 10:00 am "We Are The Arc of Illinois" Presented by Samantha Alloway

A presentation on the urgent need for family voices to lead system change in Illinois. It explores how lived experiences drive policy improvements and why the time for change is now.



Wednesday, April 23, 2025 1:00 - 2:00 pm

"Better Together: A Community as a Catalyst for Social Change"

Presented by Emily Holl, MFA, MSW



The landscape of services and supports for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) and their families has evolved over the past 75 years, thanks largely to the advocacy of people with disabilities and their families. As the service system has grown, so has the community of people working tirelessly to shape it to meet the needs of people with disabilities and their loved ones. Self-advocates, parents, and siblings have joined together to share stories, lend support, celebrate victories, and demonstrate that no one is on this journey alone. While today the need for advocacy is

as strong as ever, so are our communities of advocates. This presentation will tell a story that begins in Illinois in 2006 about finding a community of sibling advocates who became lifelong friends and sparked a career path to create sibling support around the world.

		ILLINOIS 75TH AN TUESDAY, APRIL 2		ION	
8:00- 9:00 am	Registration, Continental Breakfast Visit with Exhibitors, View Art Exhibit				
9:00-9:15 am	Welcome, Kimberly Johnson, Board President, The Arc of Illinois (Live Streamed)				
9:15 - 10:45 am	KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: "Navigating The Terrain of Change (without losing our way or sanity!)" Presented by Alonzo Kelly, PhD (Live Streamed)				
10:45- 11:15 am	Break				
11:15 am - 12:00 pm Breakout Sessions	Session #1 (Live Streamed) Tareema Jean-Baptiste STAR NET Region V  "Understanding Behavior: How we can offer supports to help children where they are"  This training is a comprehensive introduction to the function of behavior and explores how sensory can affect behavior. Participants should expect to leave with a deeper understanding of behavior, an introductory knowledge of sensory systems, and a different perspective on how to support a child with challenging behavior.  Sesión #5 En Español (Transmisión en Vivo) Robert Guzman scaleLIT	Session #2 Jesus Chuy Campuzano Blue Tower Solutions Timotheus "T.J." Gordon, Jr IDHD at UIC Stephanie Kanter Office of the Illinois State Treasurer  "Self-Advocates Make It Happen with an IL ABLE Account"  Self-advocates/IL ABLE Account Owners will share how an IL ABLE Account has given them greater control over their money and empowered them to save money for current and future expenses.  "Conexión con los of the control	Centers apoyan a su comunidad. sonas con discapacidades intelectu- os con los mismos derechos y re-	Session #4 Geno Bagnuolo Trinity Services, Inc. Angelica Tobias, M.Ed S.I.B.S.  "How I Managed My Brother's Mental Health Crisis: A self- advocate's storywith support from our family's service provider". This presentation is about navigating my brother's dual diagnosis as someone with depression.  Session #5 - Presented in Spanish Learn how the American Job Centers support your community. All languages matter, and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are citizens with the same rights and responsibilities as other citizens.	
12:00 - 12:15 pm	Break, Visit with Exhibitors, View Art Exhibit				
12:15 - 1:45 pm	Lunch 12:45 - 1:30 pm PLENARY (Live Streamed)	SESSION: Katy Neas, The	e Arc of the United State	s	
1:45 - 3:00 pm	PLENARY SESSION: The Programs of The Arc: How Can We Support You and Who Does What The Arc of Illinois Team (Live Streamed)				
	The Arc of Illinois offers several programs targeted to specific members of the disability community and their families. This presentation by the directors will describe each program in detail. Program staff will also join to share the roles that state agencies play in providing services to people with IDD in Illinois.				

Please visit the Annual Convention Sponsor & Exhibitor Hall

https://www.thearcofil.org/75th-annual-convention/



Savings for People with Disabilities

# THE ARC OF ILLINOIS 75TH ANNUAL CONVENTION TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025

3:15 -4:00 pm Breakout Sessions Session #6
(Live Streamed)
Laura Fine
Andrea Siwik
Stevenson High School

"Empowering Parents for Transition Planning: Starting Early for Lifelong Success"

Early, comprehensive transition planning for students with disabilities is essential. Collaboration between families, educators, and agencies is key to achieving successful post-school outcomes.

Session #7
Hannah Magrum
Michele Westmaas

Financial topics for families with IDD

Special needs moms, as well as financial advisors Michele Westmaas and Hannah Magrum, explore financial topics for our families.

> No products sold. Session not recorded.

Session #8
Jersey-Shabazz Hosier
Access Living

"Legislative Advocacy"

Jersey-Shabazz Hosier, an experienced advocate, lobbyist, and community leader, will discuss the significance of legislative advocacy and its impact on empowering communities and influencing public policy for positive change. Session #9

Sesión #10 En Español (Transmisión en Vivo) Ruth Aguilar

The Arc of Illinois

Fabricio E Balcazar, PhD

UIC

Consuelo Puente

Family Matters

"Microempresa - Está En Tu Futuro?"

Esta un microempresa en tu futuro? Ven y conoce los recursos que estan disponibles para ayudarte a decidir si un microempresa es tu futuro.

Session #10 - Presented in Spanish "Micro-Enterprise—Is it in your Future?"

Come and learn about resources that are available to help you in deciding whether a micro-enterprise is in your future.

4:00 -4:15 pm Break

4:15 -5:00 pm Breakout Sessions Session #11
(Live Streamed)
Alexandra Baig
Companions on Your Journey

"What an Inclusive

Postsecondary Education (IPSE) Program Can Do for You"

Learn how students with intellectual disabilities can

intellectual disabilities can attend college and learn on-campus alongside their neurotypical peers to build employment and independent living skills, including how to pay for the education.

Session #12 Brian Rubin, JD Benji Rubin, JD

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.

Session #13
Patrick Gale
Pearce Services
Russel Houser

RUSSEI HOUSER
BASES Autism Services

""How are You Doing?": A Check-In on Our Mental Health"

Mental health is incredibly important in our daily lives. As self-advocates, we will cover both of our journeys towards self-care. We will also discuss strategies to maintain personal wellness and promote positive well-being.

Session #14

Family Social

Meet and gather with families and individuals attending the Convention. This is a chance to learn from other families and build connections for the future.

Sesión #15 En Español (Transmisión en Vivo)

Maria Castillo
Family Resource on Disabilities
Consuelo Puente
Family Matters

"los derechos de las personas con discapacidades del desarrollo cuando interactúan con la policía en la escuela y su comunidad"

En esta presentación los participantes aprenderán sobre los derechos de las personas con discapacidades del desarrollo cuando interactúan con la policía en la escuela y su comunidad.

Session #15 Presented in Spanish
"Police & Individuals with DD/ID: In
School and the Community"

In this presentation participants will learn about the rights of individuals with I/DD when they interact with police in school and in their community.

5:30 -7:30 pm **Awards Reception** 

Stay and enjoy light appetizers, watch a performance, and meet other Convention attendees. The Arc of Illinois Annual Convention Awards will be presented to the winners.

#### THE ARC OF ILLINOIS 75TH ANNUAL CONVENTION WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025 8:00 -**Registration, Continental Breakfast** 9:00 am Visit with Exhibitors, View Art Exhibit 9:00 -Welcome and Keynote Presentation, "We Are The Arc of Illinois" 10:00am Samantha Alloway, Executive Director, The Arc of Illinois (Live Streamed) 10:00 -**Break** 10:30 am 10:30 -Session #16 Session #17 Session #18 Session #19 (Live Streamed) Brian Rubin, JD **Tracey Hawkins** Allan Bergman 11:15 am Safety and Security Source Susan Agrawal Benii Rubin, JD Breakout The Arc of Illinois Rubin Law, A Professional Corporation Sessions "Empowering the IDD "Customized Employment with Lauren Schrero Fidelity Results in Zero Reject Community: Practical AI & **Equip for Equality** "Guardianship & the Many Cybersecurity Strategies for and Zero Failure" **Erica Stearns** Alternatives to Guardianship" UIC—Division of Specialized Care for Children Everyday Life' During this session, you will learn Brian Rubin, a parent, and Benji the significant differences Learn actionable strategies to "Repurposing Your Skills to Rubin, a sibling, of Mitchell Rubin between customized employment safeguard individuals with IDD Create Meaningful Change' who has Autism, will explain with fidelity and supported and their families from scams, Guardianship (Limited and employment. Supported fraud, and AI cyber threats We all have skills to create Plenary), and the alternatives, Employment is about supports while fostering safer and more meaningful change! Join this including Supported Decision inclusive online spaces. after finding a job. Customized interactive session as Making (new law), Powers of Employment is about a great deal panelists share how they of work before finding a "good fit" Attorney, and related matters. transformed their skills into employment situation and then impactful work supporting providing supports. caregivers and the disability Session #20 "Los Estudiantes Inmigrantes & Transición" Presented in Spanish Sesión #20 "Immigrant Students & Transition Planning" En Español Los estudiantes inmigrantes presentan oportunidades y obstáculos (Transmisión en Vivo) únicos en el proceso de planificación de la transición. Los partici-Immigrant students present pantes en esta sesión aprenderán sobre los recursos disponibles unique opportunities and Maria Castillo para estudiantes inmigrantes y la mejor manera de abordar los obstacles in the transition Family Resource on Disabilities obstáculos planning process. Participants in **Consuelo Puente** this session will learn about **Family Matters** resources that are available for immigrant students and how best to address obstacles. 11:15 -Break, Visit with Exhibitors, View Art Exhibit 11:30 am 11:30 am -Lunch 1:00 pm 12:00 - 12:45 pm PLENARY SESSION: DHS/DDD Update 1:00 -**KEYNOTE PANEL PRESENTATION:** 2:00 pm "Better Together: A Community as a Catalyst for Social Change" Presented by a Emily Holl, MFA, MSW (Live Streamed) 2:00 -**Break** 2:15 pm

### Please visit the Annual Convention Sponsor & Exhibitor Hall

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## THE ARC OF ILLINOIS 75TH ANNUAL CONVENTION WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025

2:15 -3:00 pm Breakout Sessions Session #21 (Live Streamed) Joyce Clay

"Developing Partnerships to Facilitate Successful Medical Transition in Persons with Complex Care Medical needs"

This presentation discusses strategies needed to navigate transition from the pediatric to adult health care settings in children with multiple medical needs. Successful and problematic life scenarios in the transition process will be shared.

Session #22 S.I.B.S.

"Connecting Siblings: Supporting the Whole Family"

Three adult siblings of brothers and sisters with IDD will tell their stories. They will share their journeys becoming advocates and share resources for siblings across the life span.

Session #23

Nancy M. Aguirre, MSW, LSW, Kristin Gharst, Kimberly L. Johnson, Chelsey Smith

Michelle Burgess, Natasha Croff

"Family Resources Information Session"

Join the Community Residential Services Authority and Chicago Public Schools Parent Involvement Specialist for a great information resource session that will provide more information and resources to add to your Advocacy toolbox. These two organizations are where you can find FREE advocates to help you on your journey as you navigate the special education and mental and behavioral health services across Illinois.

Session #24
Jessica Schuyler-Weir

"Illinois Assistive Technology Program Services and Programs"

This breakout session will provide an overview of the numerous assistive technology programs and services available to Illinois residents through the Illinois Assistive Technology Program.

Sesión #25 En Español (Transmisión en Vivo)

Elida Elizondo

"Descripción General del Seguro Social por Discapacidad Social y la Seguridad de Ingreso Suplementario"

La presentación brindará una descripción general del Seguro Social por Discapacidad y la Seguridad de Ingreso Suplementario (SSI), incluidos los requisitos de elegibilidad y el proceso de solicitud. La presentación también destacará los servicios en línea del Seguro Social. Session #25
Presented in Spanish

"Overview of Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income"

Presentation will provide an overview of Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) including eligibility requirements and application process. Presentation will also highlight Social Security online services

3:00 -3:15 pm Break

3:15 -4:00 pm Breakout Sessions Session #26 (Live Streamed) Samantha Alloway Susan Agrawal, PhD

"Advocating for Medicaid"

Join this session to understand the importance of Medicaid and learn the best practices in advocating to your Congressional and State legislators. How can you get your message across on this vital program. Session #27 Timotheus "T.J." Gordon, Jr UIC IDHD Jae Jin Park

"Virtual Future is Now: An Online Future Planning Curriculum for Adults with IDD"

As families develop their plan for the future, the adults with IDD increase their participation in the planning process, gain self-confidence, and a sense of inclusion and empowerment in their life decisions.

Session #28
Tammy Foster
Illinois Respite Coalition
Tina Yurik

llinois Respite Coalition

"Getting connected to lifespan Respite and other supports the IRC provides"

What is lifespan respite? What is the free statewide virtual respite training and database? How can caregivers get connected to respite support? Learn more about respite and the Emergency Respite Care stipend.

Session #29 Megan Mutti Family Matters

"Key Questions to Ask to Improve your IEP"

This session equips parents with essential questions to ask during IEP meetings to ensure their child's educational needs are effectively addressed. Participants will learn how to frame questions that promote meaningful parent-school collaboration, ensure the IEP aligns with their child's strengths and challenges, and advocate for appropriate services and supports.

Sesión #30 En Español (Transmisión en Vivo)

Dinayra Sorando Rivera

"El Futuro Virtual es Ahora: Un Plan de Estudios en Línea para la Planificación del Futuro de Adultos con Discapacidades Intelectuales y del Desarrollo y sus Familias"

El propósito del entrenamiento virtual El Futuro es Ahora es ayudar a los adultos con discapacidades intelectuales y del desarrollo (IDD, por sus siglas en inglés) y a sus familias a planificar para el futuro. A medida que las familias desarrollan su plan, los adultos con IDD aumentan su participación en el proceso de planificación, ganan confianza en sí mismos y sienten una mayor inclusión y empoderamiento en las decisiones sobre su vida. Establecer planes puede reducir el estrés, abrir más oportunidades de conexión, ayudar a que toda la familia se sienta más unida y brindar mayor claridad para todos los involucrados.

Session #30

Presented in Spanish "Virtual Future is Now: An Online Future Planning Curriculum for Adults with IDD"

As families develop their plan for the future, the adults with IDD increase their participation in the planning process, gain self-confidence, and a sense of inclusion and empowerment in their life decisions.

4:00 pm

Pick up Auction items



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#### **GENERAL INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FAQ'S**

#### This is a hybrid event.

**Virtual Attendees:** You will receive your Zoom link and reminders starting one (1) week before the Conference. Only the presentations marked "Live Streamed" will be available for virtual attendees. This includes the welcome, keynotes, plenary sessions, and two breakout sessions - one session presented in English, one session presented in Spanish. The rest of the breakout sessions will be recorded and shared **after** the Convention.

In Person Attendees: The Convention is located at:

Marriott Hotel 201 Broadway Avenue Normal, IL 61761

The Arc of Illinois has reserved a block of rooms at the conference rate of \$169/night. Room reservations can be made directly by calling 309/862-9000. Reservations are under The Arc of Illinois Annual Convention." **The cut-off date for the block of rooms is March 31, 2025.** 

**Parking:** Use the parking garage across the street, entrance on Beaufort St or Fell Ave. If you are staying at the hotel, share your license plate number with the hotel staff when checking in for complimentary parking.

**Travel:** There is an Amtrak train service from Chicago (Union Station) or Carbondale. The Normal train station is less than a block from the hotel. Visit www.amtrak.com or call 1-800-USA-RAIL.

To register: Email, mail or fax this form along with payment to The Arc of Illinois. Or register online, https://www.thearcofil.org/events

If financial restrictions prevent you from paying full registration, hotel, and transportation, consumer stipends for self-advocates and families are available through funding from the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities by contacting The Arc of Illinois at 815-464-1832 or Spanish-speaking extension 815-464-1832 x1024.

#### **CEUs**

11 CEU's available for Clinical Professional Counselor, Clinical Social Worker, Nursing Home Administrator, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Social Worker, and QIDPs.

If attending in person, please use the CEU form located at the registration table.

If attending virtually, please submit a request form. The form is available on the website.

Question? Contact Kim Swanson, kim@thearcofil.org, 815.464.1832 x1024

#### **SILENT AUCTION AND EXHIBITS**

The Silent Auction and Art Exhibit will open Tuesday, April 15th at 12 pm noon and remain open until Wednesday, April 23rd at 2:15 pm.

The Silent Auction will be available online, with items on display during the Convention. The auction is open to all, regardless if you are attending the convention.

You can either pick up your winning items at the Convention or at the office in Tinley Park. If you are unable to pick up your items, they will be shipped to you - shipping fees apply.

#### **EXHIBITORS**

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

https://www.thearcofil.org/75th-annual-convention/

<u>CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS</u> Participants canceling their registration 72 hours in advance will be entitled to a credit or refund. No refund or credit will be given for cancellation less than 72 hours before the conference.



Card Holder's signature: \_

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COST & REC	GISTRATION	
In Person Registration	Virtual Registration	
Both Days:  Professional Member\$ 275.00  Professional Non Member\$ 335.00  Family/Self-Advocate Member\$ 200.00  Family/Self-Advocate Non Member\$ 240.00	Both Days:  ☐ Professional Member	
One Day:  ☐ Professional Member	One Day:  ☐ Professional Member	
Please let us know if you will be participating in the follow ☐ The Awards Reception ☐ The Spanish Breakout Sessions	ving:	
New! Respite is available this year for families attending <a href="https://forms.gle/uSbnu58QCXQv8g2L9">https://forms.gle/uSbnu58QCXQv8g2L9</a> . □ Respite Care - Add \$30 to registration Name of individual receiving respite:		
also register online at www.thearcofil.org/events.	ne and agency will appear on your name tag as it appears on this c of Illinois, 7550 183rd Street, Tinley Park, IL 60477. Make checks and send the fee with the hard copy of this form in the mail. You may	
Name:	A	
Job Title:Address:	Agency: State: Zip:	
Phone:		
NOTE: We must know of any accommodation requests at Please tell us your accommodation needed here:		
Not a member? Introductory Annual Membership discount Yes, sign me up: New Family/Individual Member for \$20 New Professional Member for \$40	t for when you register for the Convention.	
TOTAL ENCLOSED:	METHOD OF PAYMENT:  Check enclosed payable to The Arc of Illinois  P.O. or State Voucher #  Charge to my Credit Card	
Name as it appears on credit card:		
Card Number:	Expiration Date: CVV Code:	
Billing Zip Code:	i de la companya de	



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Annual Convention April 22 - 23, 2025 Hybrid Event!

#### Thank you to our Sponsors!

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#### Inclusion

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