



Northwest Wayne County

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Inside The Arc

March 2021

March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Advances and Setbacks

By Robert B. Fleming, CELA



In 1987 President Ronald Reagan proclaimed March “Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.” The deinstitutionalization movement of the seventies and early eighties had laid the foundation for significant social change, and the presidential proclamation called upon Americans to provide the “encouragement and opportunities” necessary for people with developmental disabilities to reach their potential.

As those citizens began living within the general community in larger numbers, programs to provide career planning, job coaching and supported employment began to emerge. The idea that individuals with developmental disabilities could become productive members of the workforce was new to many people, and entrenched preconceptions had to be overcome. Advocates recognized a moral imperative to engage individuals with developmental – and other – disabilities. With passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, workplace discrimination against people with disabilities became sanctionable.

The expectations of young people with developmental disabilities and their parents began to shift. Productive, self-directed lives within the community increasingly became the goal, and (increasingly) an obtainable goal. At the same time, due to improvements in healthcare, people with developmental disabilities were living longer, leading to questions about the lifestyle of “retirement-age” individuals. In short, the national conversation began to address the full spectrum of services needed for people with disabilities to live secure, fulfilling lives.

Passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

with its guarantees of early intervention, special education and services to transition high schoolers into adulthood, IDEA opened a world of possibilities.

I wish that I could say that, as a result of all these changes, stereotyping has decreased. Some observers might be encouraged by sensitive portrayals of people with disabilities in film, literature and onstage. At the same time, though, bullying of students with special needs has become a serious—and growing—national problem. Stereotypes remain, undoubtedly contributing to the continued high unemployment rate among people with disabilities. Hurtful words are too commonplace, and we are far from free from experiencing incidents of abuse and neglect. Taxpayer-funded programs for people with disabilities, always under pressure, are more at risk in today’s economic environment. Discussions at all levels of government threaten the advances made during the past 25 years. School districts across the country are faced with shrinking budgets, and sometimes they complain about special education mandates. Medicaid, which has funded many employment and community-based residential programs, is under fire.

Yes, more than a quarter century after the establishment of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, the world has changed in important ways. Much, though, remains to challenge us. In the coming years, we’ll need to fight not only for more advances but to retain the accomplishments of past decades. It is a fight in which we must all engage.





The Arc
Northwest Wayne County

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www.thearcnw.org

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Achieve with us.



United Way
for Southeastern Michigan

From The Executive Director

Dear Friends,

March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness month. This is a time to be mindful of the ways people with developmental disabilities connect with, and contribute to, their communities. It's also a time to raise awareness of barriers to full inclusion that still exist.

I hope you watched the inauguration of President Biden and Vice President Harris. One of my favorite parts of the ceremony was hearing Amanda Gorman recite her poem "The Hill We Climb." The youngest poet laureate ever, she brought us hope that greater inclusion is happening NOW! She writes,



Amanda Gorman

*...We will rebuild, reconcile and recover
and every known nook of our nation and
every corner called our country,
our people diverse and beautiful will
emerge,
battered and beautiful
When day comes we step out of the
shade,
afire and unafraid
The new dawn blooms as we free it
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it
If only we're brave enough to be it*

(taken from www.thehill.com 1/26/2021)

She gives us an amazing vision of what our nation, and our world, look like when everyone is valued and included. She also calls us to action to not just see the light inclusion brings, but to be "brave enough to BE it". What a powerful image of a world where everyone is an equal citizen, "afire and unafraid".

Not only does Ms. Gorman speak words of inclusion, she strives to *be* those words. In an interview with NPR, she shared that like President Biden, who stuttered as a child, Gorman grew up with a childhood speech impediment. "She had difficulty saying certain letters of the alphabet — the letter R was especially tough — which caused her to have to constantly 'self-edit and self-police,'" reports NPR. She still struggles and sometimes has to re-write parts of her poems before reciting to ensure she can pronounce her own written words. She is an example of how any of us, regardless of our uniquenesses and disabilities, have a place and a voice to be the light, afire and unafraid. (Taken from www.npr.org, Morning Edition 1/19/2021)

For 60 years The Arc NW has carried forward this message of full inclusion. In her poem, Ms. Gorman states that we are not striving to be perfect, but toward purpose. May our purpose continue as we are brave enough to be the light of inclusion!

With you in bravery,

Gretchen Sanewsky, Executive Director



JUST FUN CLUB NEWS



Happy March to everyone! This is the month when spring begins. Hopefully we will begin to have less snow, more sunshine and daylight.

I have been enjoying seeing many of your Facebook pictures celebrating winter activities, Super bowl football celebrations and Valentine's Day parties. Its been fun seeing the different at home projects that many of you have been making with your staff. What creative and talented folks we have!

At this time, we have no news about our Just Fun Club. No gathering or dances allowed. I do hope that many of you will be able to get signed up for your vaccine shots to help keep all of you safe.

Continue to stay active exercising, walking or talking on the phone with your family and friends. We MISS all of you very much!

Happy St. Patrick's Day,
Jackie Norris

CDC, Ed Department Issue Guidance On Reopening Schools To Students With Disabilities



The Premier Source for
Developmental Disability News

by Michelle Diamant | February 15, 2021

Federal officials are laying out a roadmap for safely reopening schools to in-person learning complete with details on how to serve students with disabilities.

In a pair of documents issued late last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Education are emphasizing that evidence shows schools can safely operate during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic if they take precautions. That means universal masking and social distancing in addition to other measures including hand-washing, cleaning facilities and contact tracing, according to the CDC's newly released operational strategy for schools. Regular testing and prioritizing vaccinations for school staff also play a role, but neither are prerequisites for opening to in-person learning, the agency said.

A separate handbook from the Education Department that serves as a supplement to the CDC document clarifies that students with disabilities shouldn't be left behind as schools resume in-person learning.

In fact, given that their needs are often difficult to meet in a virtual environment, it may be appropriate to prioritize this group, the document indicates.

"Educators and community members should collaborate to facilitate safe in-person learning for the greatest number of students with disabilities feasible,"

And, the agency said that an inability to wear a mask should not preclude children from being served in person.

"The narrow subset of students with disabilities who cannot wear a mask because of their disability, or cannot safely wear a mask, may still safely attend school if other mitigation strategies are able to be followed, including correct masking for others who work or learn with them," the Education Department indicated.

"If a child with a disability cannot wear a mask, maintain physical distance or adhere to other public health requirements, the student is still entitled to an appropriate education, which in some circumstances may need to be provided virtually," the CDC guide indicates.

Welcome New Arc NW Staff!



Please welcome Deanna Reed to The Arc NW staff team! Deanna is the new Payroll Assistant working with our Financial Management Services. She will assist with payroll processing for direct support staff, assist with billing for staffing agencies, and oversee implementation of the electronic visit verification system. We're so glad to have her aboard!

Give your child a
HEAD START

Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency

Now recruiting expectant families
and children (newborn through 5 years old):
NO COST TO YOU!



Children Services

Disability Services
Full Day, Part Day, Home
Based Options
Healthy Meals
High Quality Education

Call NOW to start enrollment:
(313) 388-9799 or (734) 284-6999

APPLY ONLINE:
www.waynemetro.org/headstart



Family Services

Community Resources
Parent Education
Access to FREE Health and
Dental Services



Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency
EARLY HEAD START

Now recruiting expectant families
and children (newborn through 3 years old):
NO COST TO YOU!



Disability Support Services provided

Free resources (car seats, diapers, tax prep,
utility assistance, and more!) to those who qualify

Family & Prenatal Support



Call NOW to start enrollment:
(313) 388-9799 or (734) 284-6999
APPLY ONLINE:
www.waynemetro.org/headstart



After I'm Gone



“Social Security” March 4, 2021

Speaker will discuss how to apply for and the services available to your son or daughter with a disability, including SSI, SSDI, and DAC.

“Transition Planning & Turning 18” March 18, 2021

Speaker will discuss the legal requirements of IEPs regarding transition planning, career and interest assessments, student, family and school responsibilities, community resources, and how to make a smooth transition from school to post-school life.

All sessions will be held on Zoom from 6:00pm to 8:00pm with a virtual happy hour before each session to chat and get help with technology. If you'd like to attend please email:

Chesley Giertz at cgiertz@thearcnw.org

Financial Literacy Workshop

Topic: Spending and Saving

Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Place: Webex virtual meeting platform (Meeting ID provided following registration)

Registration required: Please contact Bettie Cunningham at bcunningham@thearcnw.org or (313) 532-7915, ext .204



#ComeThroughCounties!



A CROSS-COUNTY CALL TO ACTION

To demand immediate COVID-19 Vaccinations for People with Disabilities



HOW YOU CAN HELP?
SEND A LETTER TO YOUR
COUNTY & STATE OFFICIALS.

bit.ly/COVIDVACCINENOW

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES NEED COVID-19 VACCINE NOW!

PLEASE JOIN US IN ASKING GOVERNOR WHITMER AND THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (MDHHS) FOR:

- An immediate upgrade in vaccine priority status, from 1C to 1B, for all Michiganders with disabilities, aged 16-64
- Accessible materials for vaccine education, outreach, registration and delivery
- Fully accessible vaccine distribution sites with free transportation, as well as in-home vaccination options

WHO TO CALL, TWEET or EMAIL:

Governor Whitmer: Call (517) 373-3400 or Tweet @GovWhitmer

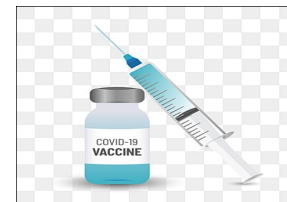
MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel: (517)373-3626/HertelE@michigan.gov

Chief Medical Executive Dr. Joneigh Khaldun: (517) 284-4730 or KhaldunJ@michigan.gov

WHAT TO SAY: Introduce yourself and identify yourself as a person with a disability, or as a family member or other supporter of a person with a disability. Then explain why the Covid-19 vaccine is so important for people with disabilities. **It's because people with disabilities are more at risk for getting and dying of Covid than people without disabilities.** Ask for an upgrade in vaccine priority status for ALL people with disabilities, for easy and convenient ways for people with disabilities to get information about the vaccine, and to get the vaccine itself. Express concern that institutional bias is putting people with disabilities who live independently at greater risk, since people with disabilities in congregate settings with the same disabilities are being vaccinated now.

Using the information on this page, you can quickly send a message or call the offices of the appropriate representatives; let them know that people with disabilities deserve a high priority for access to COVID-19 vaccinations.

PLEASE - Do it today!



2021 - 2022 Event Dates

60th Celebration – February 20th
through February 27th (online)

Annual Meeting – May 2021

Golf Outing – August 15, 2021

Sip & Support – October 2021

Dinner Dance - February 26, 2022



60th Celebration Donors & Sponsors

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Michael Dunn
Michelle Braun
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Mike and Laura Fallat
Monaghan Knights of Columbus
Council 2690
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Nicholas and Elizabeth Soper
Nick and Janice Pagano
Pat and Michelle Driscoll
Patrick and Betsy McRae
Patrick and Bonnie McDevitt
Paul and Anne Doulette
Paul G. Sharrow, C.P.A., P.C.

Rebecca Wenglinski
Richard Quint
Robert and Jennifer Marschall
Robert and Katy Gariepy
Roger and Amy Gassman
Ryan and Allison Maki
Ryan and Danielle Churella
Scott and Jennifer Whitteaker
Standard Wonder Group
George Humphry and State Farm
Insurance
Steve and Doris Winkler
Sumaya Boomgaard
Susan Ahern
Sylvia Kloc
The Bearden Family
The Bookmeier Family
The Detroit Garage
The Henry Family
The Read Family
Thomas & Karen Bellhouse
Thomas DiPonio
Tito's Handmade Vodka
Tom and Chris Lerchen
Wallside Windows
Wilfred and Debra Brunk
Wine Palace - Fine Wine & Spirits
Yuqiong He

Where It is Needed Most






Michael and Lisa Shesterkin
Richard and Seletha Robertson
Dorothy Warren and
Kimberly Adams

Just Fun Club

Natalie Freeburn

March 2021

The Arc NW Board Meeting
Will be Via Zoom on Tuesday the 9th.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>After I'm Gone (AIG) via Zoom 6 - 8pm Must RSVP. To get login, email: cgiertz@thearcnw.org</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>After I'm Gone "Social Security" via Zoom 6 - 8pm MUST RSVP</p>	<p>6</p>	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		<p>Arc NW board meeting via Zoom 5:00pm.</p>				
14	15	16	<p>17</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day</p> 	<p>18</p>  <p>After I'm Gone "Transition Planning & Turning 18" via Zoom 6 - 8pm MUST RSVP</p>	19	<p>20</p> 
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		<p>Financial Literacy Workshop - Online via Webex 6:00-7:00pm Tuesday, March 23 MUST REGISTER—at bcunningham@thearcnw.org or (313) 532-7915, ext. 204</p>				
28	29	30	31	<p>All Sports activities of The Arc NW, as well as The Just Fun Club events have been suspended until a later date, yet to be determined.</p>		
<p>Guys & Dolls Bowling League will not meet for the duration of the 2020 - 2021 season.</p>						

CHECK IT OUT!
The Arc of Northwest
Wayne County's
Web Site
thearcnw.org



THE ARC NW PRESENTS

MEMBER TAKEOVER

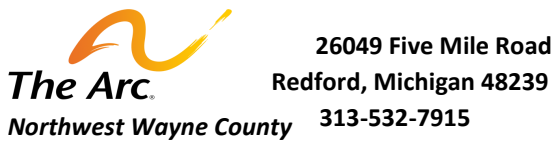
Would you like to share your story on our Instagram? Email Wendy Ernzen at wernzen@thearcnw.org



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Call 313-532-7915 to end your printed mailed newsletter.

Membership Application

Member Name(s) _____

Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Daytime Phone _____
Email Address _____

PHOTO DISCLAIMER: By joining The Arc NW I am agreeing to have my image used for printed and online marketing efforts.

Signature: _____

Membership Dues

- New Member
- Renewing Member
- \$25 Individual Membership** Additional Membership Fees: \$5 to join Just Fun Club \$15 to join Lekotek
- \$50 Family Membership** An individual and his/her family or a group home with multiple residents. Includes additional membership fees for Just Fun Club and Lekotek.
- DONATIONS** \$100
- \$25 \$150
- \$50 \$ ____ Other **\$100 Organization** Businesses, non-profits, community groups, or government entities that support people with disabilities.
- \$75

Achieve with us!