

State Planning for Transitions in Medicaid Waiver, Employment Services

In January 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published regulations to define the settings in which states can provide Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). The final rule became effective March 17, 2014.

In Indiana, Medicaid waiver programs for people with developmental and physical disabilities under review include:

- Community Integration and Habilitation (CIH) waiver
- Family Supports Waiver (FSW)
- Aged and Disabled (A&D) waiver
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) waiver

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
PERMIT NO. 1715

Goals for Changes in Home and Community Based Services

The CMS regulations require states to design and implement Home and Community Based Services that meet the following goals:

- integrated in the community
- offered with full access to the greater community
- provided in settings selected by the individual
- ensure privacy, dignity, respect, and freedom from coercion and restraint
- optimize individual initiative, autonomy, and independence in making life choices
- facilitate individual choice regarding services and supports

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) Statewide Transition Plan to comply with the new rule was submitted to CMS in December 2014. In October 2015, CMS responded to the plan with a request for additional information. Indiana submitted a modified plan in April 2016 and is on target to submit an amended plan by September 30, 2016.

What will HCBS Changes Mean to Individuals with Disabilities?

In meetings held around the state in September, FSSA noted that changes should lead to:

- New or different service options
- Greater emphasis on person-centered planning and supports
- Future changes in state policy and practices

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

At the same time that FSSA is planning for changes in Home and Community Based Services, they are also planning on changes in employment services to align Indiana's programs with the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

What does WIOA Do?

- Aligns Federal funds to support job seekers and employers
- Establishes unified strategic planning across "core" programs, including Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs; Adult Education and Literacy programs; the Wagner Peysers Employment Service; and Vocational Rehabilitation.

What Does WIOA mean for Individuals with Disabilities?

In meetings held around the state in September, FSSA noted that the goals of WIOA are to:

- Increase access to high-quality workforce services to prepare individuals with disabilities for competitive integrated employment
- Require better employer engagement and promote physical and programmatic accessibility to employment and training services for individuals with disabilities
- Provide students with disabilities extensive pre-employment transition services to obtain and retain competitive integrated employment
- Ensure all avenues for competitive integrated employment

Election Guide



To help you be an informed voter, this issue of The Arc News in Indiana includes a special Election Guide. We invite you to read, learn, share and discuss – and then be sure to vote at an early voting site, by absentee ballot or at the polls on November 8th.

Page 3	Election Guide Overview
Pages 4-5	Candidates for Governor
Pages 6-7	Candidates for U.S. Senate
Pages 8-9	Important Voting Deadlines
Pages 10-11	Candidates for State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Page 12	Candidate for President of the United States

are explored before being employed at sub-minimum wage

Learn More at The Arc of Indiana Conference

Changes in Home and Community Based Services and Employment Services will be a focus at The Arc of Indiana's conference. We hope you will join us for the conference and Impact Awards Luncheon on Friday, November 18 at the Horizon Convention Center in Muncie, Indiana. Full details will be posted on our website at www.arcind.org.

Self-Advocates of Indiana President's Corner

Melody Cooper, President
Self-Advocates of Indiana



Melody Cooper

It was a great summer for SAI, and we are looking forward to a full fall schedule of activities. We have been really busy doing presentations at agencies, community organizations and summer camps, working on policy issues and celebrating self-advocacy at our annual picnic.

We had over 615 self-advocates, staff and community members attend this year's picnic, and it was a great day. We had a lot of games, good food, Zumba, a voting registration booth run by Indiana Disability Rights, an art tent and fitness stations run by Special Olympics Indiana. We also were able to hear from Representative

Ed Clere, Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz and Lieutenant Governor Candidate, Representative Christina Hale. All three touched on the importance of self-advocates voting in this year's election.

Self-Advocates of Indiana also hosted its annual conference, *Our Voice, Our Story*, on September 14 at The Palms Banquet & Conference Center in Plainfield. The event was co-located with the Direct Support Professionals of Indiana (DSPIN) conference and included breakout sessions, the SAI annual meeting and an awards luncheon.

As we get closer to Election Day on November 8, we want to make sure all of our self-advocates are registered and ready to vote! We have partnered with The Arc of Indiana, INARF, and DSPIN to host the Count Us In! Voter Registration Campaign. Our goal is to have a voter registration event in each of Indiana's counties between September 6 and October 11, the Indiana deadline to reg-

ister to vote. We have created a toolkit that can be found on the SAI website. If you are hosting an event, we'd love to hear about it! It is vitally important that self-advocates have the opportunity to use their voice to speak about issues that matter to them.

Be sure to follow us on social media for more updates in the weeks and months to come.



Congratulations to Danie'l Mize, Darcus Nims Self-Advocate of the Year.



Kim Dodson

Executive Director's Column

The Arc of Indiana officially celebrated our 60th anniversary on September 25th, marking 60 years of working closely with fami-

lies and people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, our goal being to create opportunities for people with disabilities to live, learn, work and play in communities throughout the state of Indiana.

Oh, how things have changed. In 1956 gas was only 23¢ a gallon. Elvis made his television debut on the Ed Sullivan show. "The Ten

Commandments" was the top show at the box office. And unfortunately, if you were a person with a disability, you were considered "disposable" and "worthless."

Thank goodness for the pioneering families in the 50's who said "ABSOLUTELY NOT!" to the doctors who told them to put their child with a disability in an institution and go on with their lives. These pioneers joined together to find a way to make sure their child continued to be a part of their family and had opportunities like any other child. And through their courage and perseverance, The Arc of Indiana was established.

Two of our founders, Ilene Younger Qualkinbush and Dorothy Burnside, are two of the strongest women I have ever met. I would have loved to have been at the State House in the days they went to educate legislators and demand services and supports for their children. I have been told that they always wore hats so they would be noticed. Knowing them a little bit, I think they would have been just as noticed without the hats – they were determined to fight for their children's rights.

Today, Indiana does not have a single state-run institution for people with intellectual or other

developmental disabilities, and we have come a long way with IDEA, the ADA, and Medicaid Waivers. Yet, most certainly, we still have a long way to go.

A lot may have changed since 1956, but the mission of The Arc of Indiana is as strong as ever. We continue to fight for better services and supports and work to empower self-advocates to be a part of important conversations regarding critical issues.

And to all of those pioneers of the past, including Ilene and Dorothy, "Our Hats Are Off to You!" Thanks for blazing the way!

Derek Nord Named New Director of the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community at Indiana University

Derek Nord, Ph.D., began his new role of director of the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community at Indiana University on July 1, 2016. He came to the Indiana Institute from the University of Minnesota where he was the associate director of Research and Training at the Center on Community Living, a part of the University of Minnesota's Institute on Community Integration.

Nord comes to Indiana with extensive experience providing and

managing direct supports for people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities. He also has an extensive background in researching and improving community services and policies. Nord is author and co-author of numerous journal articles, book chapters and reports mainly related to employment and community living for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities. He is also the current president of the Association for

People Supporting Employment First, advocating for competitive employment.

When asked why he came to the Institute on Disability and Community at Indiana University, he said, "The organization has been on the cutting edge of advancing service, supports and policies affecting people with disabilities forward for many years. Joining the team was an easy decision. The expertise and collaborative environment within



Derek Nord

Indiana University and the broader community allows for integration of best practices across the state."



2016 Election Guide

The Arc of Indiana's 2016 Election Guide is part of the statewide effort to help families, people with developmental disabilities, caregivers and providers register to vote and be engaged in the 2016 elections. Our role is not to endorse candidates or tell you how to vote. Our role is to provide you with information and resources so that you can be an informed voter.

The Election Guide includes statements from major candidates for national and state office, including U.S. Senate, Governor of Indiana, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Statements from Presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump were also requested. At press time, no statement had been received from Donald Trump. Candidates were asked to respond to this question:

“People with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) want to be active members of the community who are valued and provided opportunities to receive an education, have a job and live a full life. How will you use your office to support and advance issues important to people with I/DD, their families and the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who work with them.”

Their responses, as well as photos submitted by their campaigns, are included in the guide.

On pages 8 and 9 of the guide you will find important information on registering to vote, voter id requirements, absentee voting and accessibility for voters with disabilities.

As Election Day nears, we encourage you to seek out opportunities to meet your candidates for state and federal office and talk with them about issues important to you and your family. No matter what the issue is, you have the right to know where candidates stand to help you decide how you will cast your vote.

Following are questions on major topic areas of concern that you may choose to ask your candidates:

Employment

The unemployment rate for people with disabilities is nearly 80% although many people with disabilities want to work and can work. What will you do to create opportunities for people with disabilities to have access to job training and careers that will increase independence?

Public Transit

Accessible transportation continues to be a major barrier for people with disabilities to get to work, as well as medical appointments. What would be your plan to address the need for increased mass transit that people with disabilities could utilize?

Managed Care

There are a lot of conversations taking place regarding managed care for people with disabilities. What would be your priorities and/or goals for a managed care system?

Medicaid Reimbursement Rates/DSP Crisis

There is currently a shortage of qualified Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) to provide personal, critical care to people with disabilities. Indiana's current Medicaid reimbursement rates for most services provided to people with disabilities were recently restored to the rates of 2010 (they had been cut significantly over the last 10 years). These rates do not allow community providers to hire qualified, dedicated staff. People with disabilities are seeing high turnover of the people who provide very personal care. What would you do to address the crisis we are facing in the shortage of DSPs across the state?

Education

K-12 education for students receiving special education services is critically important as it paves the way for a future filled with independence. What would your administration do to ensure that students receiving special education services have every opportunity to be successful in school with the needed resources that helps them earn a high school diploma, be fairly tested and learn aside their peers?

Guardianship/Supported Decision Making

Too often parents rush into guardianship although the person with a disability is capable of making many decisions on their own. Supported Decision Making is an alternative to guardianship that allows people with disabilities to remain in charge of their own decisions but allows them access to support should they want it. What would you do to make sure that families have alternatives in supporting their children with I/DD to help them maintain independence while getting some support they need in making important decisions?

Crisis

Unfortunately, the need for crisis intervention exists. Indiana currently does not have a crisis system in place for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities who also have a mental health issue. When people have a crisis situation too often the emergency room or police are our only options. What would your administration do to help provide services for people in crisis situations who have co-existing conditions?

We hope you find this guide informative and helpful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

The Arc of Indiana
317-977-2375 • 800-382-9100
thearc@arcind.org

John Gregg

Democratic Candidate, Governor



The issues that people with I/DD face are too often overlooked. A Gregg/Hale administration will work for ALL Hoosiers. Our door will always be open – to listen and learn about how we can make Indiana a more welcoming place for people with I/DD. This campaign is focused on inclusivity, and we will make sure that all stakeholders have a seat at the table.

What follows is only a few of many issues that deserve greater attention. First, we need to make sure that Direct Support Professionals are paid a competitive, living wage, so that we can address the massive turnover rate, which is around 70% annually. A person's home should not be a revolving door of different caregivers. We need wages that will professionalize DSPs and draw-in high-quality applicants. We also need to reinstate funding for the DSPs Project that was discontinued in 2010, which gave DSPs training in best practices, and provided opportunities for skill advancement through certification from Ivy Tech and other community colleges.

Next, a large part of our vision for Indiana deals with educational opportunities. Indiana needs to increase and streamline our workforce training, so that we can more easily build and retain a skilled labor force. People with disabilities are a part of this, with too many people relegated to the sidelines. That's something we need to change desperately. We must make sure that students with I/DD are able to receive high school diplomas, with more options available in order to fulfill necessary requirements. We need federal and/or state legislation that makes it illegal to pay people with I/DD less than minimum wage. And we need more institutions such as The Arc's teaching hotel in Muncie, The Erskine Green Training Institute. This first in the nation program gives individuals with disabilities a chance to better themselves, their communities, and obtain a long-term, fulfilling job.

The issues that people with I/DD face are too often overlooked.

A Gregg/Hale administration will also support self-advocacy and supported decision making. We must make sure that the wishes of people with I/DDs are always taken into consideration. We will work with The Arc and the Department of Adult Protective Services to make sure that the rights and wishes of individuals are protected and supported.

Furthermore, the state of Indiana spends less on adult protective services than the city of Indianapolis spends on animal control. That's a travesty. The average casework load of DCS is 12, yet adult services is over 300. Some elderly Hoosiers and adults with disabilities are never seen. There are even instances of people "collecting" the lonely that have nobody else in order to cash in their social security and disability checks. As caregivers and baby boomers age, these problems will only grow. Christina Hale and I will make this a priority, as we must protect those Hoosiers who cannot protect themselves.

Eric Holcomb

Republican Candidate, Governor



It is important that we continue to develop and deliver services that provide all Hoosiers real avenues to self-sufficiency and self-reliance.

It is my conviction, one shared by all Hoosiers, that people with disabilities are unquestionably valued members of our communities and certainly ought to have the very same opportunities available to them as anyone else to live full lives. This Administration and the Legislature took significant steps last session to give these individuals and their families more robust tools to offset certain expenses they incur without putting their benefits at risk. The ABLE tax advantage savings accounts, managed under the Treasurer of State, are tax free and can be used for education, housing, healthcare, and even employment training.

This important step built a framework that begins to give Hoosiers with disabilities greater flexibility and independence while allowing them to maintain other critical resources on which they currently rely. As this program unfolds, I look forward to supporting it fully to ensure that the complete scope of its intent is realized and the maximum number of Hoosiers can utilize it.

Additionally, I'm looking forward to working alongside my team at the FSSA's Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services to better align existing resources and bridge connections between Hoosiers with disabilities and local vocational rehabilitation counselors. This is an important aim of the Employment First initiative, and it is one I will continue to champion when I am Governor. Any Hoosier who wants to work ought to have the chance to find employment, and I will ensure that agency-level programming is in tune with community-level needs when it comes to helping these individuals identify opportunities.

It is important that we continue to develop and deliver services that provide all Hoosiers real avenues to self-sufficiency and self-reliance. Allowing people to direct more of their own tax dollars into services they know to be important gives them greater control over their own lives, and ensuring that programs are reaching Hoosiers where they live is critical to their sustainability. I look forward to supporting innovative programs like these and building upon their successes.

Evan Bayh

Democratic Candidate, United States Senate



It is my hope that we can work together as Hoosiers to protect the rights of the I/DD community and help provide its members with greater opportunities.

Throughout my career in public service, the needs and concerns of Hoosiers with intellectual and developmental disabilities have been a priority for me. As your Governor, I implemented the First Steps program, which guaranteed early intervention services for infants and toddlers with special needs and served over 4,000 children per year.

I made consumer-focused care a centerpiece of my agenda, launching the Hoosier Assurance Plan to bolster community-based care, improve access to mental health services, and ensure greater accountability through the development of provider profiles. I initiated and expanded Medicaid waivers to serve the aged and disabled, children with autism, and medically fragile children in their own homes and communities, rather than in hospitals and institutional settings.

As your Senator, I fought for legislation to protect the civil rights of individuals with disabilities. I was proud to co-sponsor the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Amendments Act of 2008, which restored broad protections for members of the disabled community, and the Family Opportunity Act of 2003, which provided middle class families with the opportunity to purchase health care coverage under Medicaid for their children with disabilities.

Additionally, I authored the Spina Bifida Health Care Program Expansion Act, which provides comprehensive health coverage for children born with spina bifida due to paternal exposure to Agent Orange during military service. I also co-sponsored Rosa's Law, which changed all references in federal law relating to "mental retardation" to "intellectual disability."

However, I realize that there is still more work to be done, and I will continue my work as an advocate for people with disabilities as your Senator. Access to affordable, quality health care is a priority for individuals with I/DD and their families, and I will work to support Medicaid and community-based health care services.

I will stand up for measures that ensure that individuals with I/DD have access to educational opportunities and mentorship programs, and push for employment programs that provide support during the transition period, job counseling and training. I will also fight for measures to protect Social Security, ensuring that this vital social safety net remains in place for years to come.

It is my hope that we can work together as Hoosiers to protect the rights of the I/DD community and help provide its members with greater opportunities.

Todd Young

Republican Candidate, United States Senate



I've created legislation to improve the way in which we attack social problems. The Social Impact Partnerships to Pay for Results Act directs funding to social programs that can show they are improving people's lives.

My wife Jenny and I have four beautiful children. We want for them what every Hoosier wants: a good education, safety and security, and the chance at a good job and a bright future. I'm running for United States Senate to ensure that all Hoosiers have that same chance.

As I've traveled the state campaigning, nothing has encouraged me more than seeing Hoosiers coming together to affect change in their communities. I'm inspired by their acts of selflessness and generosity, and as your United State Senator, I would like to create an environment where individuals and charitable organizations can do even more.

I've created legislation to improve the way in which we attack social problems. The Social Impact Partnerships to Pay for Results Act directs funding to social programs that can show they are improving people's lives. This legislation will lead to a better-informed social policy and ultimately improve outcomes through rigorous evaluation. Rather than measuring our compassion by how much we spend, Social Impact Partnerships reward what works based on evidence.

One of the best features of this concept is the focus on encouraging more charitable giving. Under this system, when an individual invests into a social program that meets certain success benchmarks, the government pays the investor a return. So instead of investing on Wall Street to make money, Hoosiers will be incentivized to



invest in effective social programs to make a difference.

There are several programs currently operating that are already succeeding in their mission. RecycleForce, based out of Indianapolis, runs a workforce training program to equip formerly incarcerated individuals with the skills needed to thrive.

Another program already succeeding is Nurse-Family Partnership, run by Goodwill Industries of Indiana. Nurse-Family Partnership connects low-income pregnant women with registered nurses who provide proper pre-natal and post-birth care. Since the program's implementation, ninety percent of these mothers' babies were born at

healthy weights, and two-thirds of mothers who were smokers had quit.

Under this system, Direct Support Professionals and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have more options and more confidence that the programs that are offered can produce results.

In my short time in Congress, I have sought to work in a bipartisan fashion to address the issues. I hope you allow me to continue to craft unique and innovative solutions to some of society's most dire issues as your next United States Senator.



October 11
 Deadline to register to vote or to transfer your registration to a new address.

October 12
 First day a voter may cast an absentee ballot in person at the county clerk's office or satellite office.

October 2016						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

October 31
 Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot to vote by mail. The request must be received by the county clerk's office by 11:59 p.m.

October 20
 First day that a voter who is confined to his or her home, voter with a disability, or a voter who is a caregiver can vote absentee at his or her residence.

Voter Identification Requirement

Indiana law requires that voters show a government issued photo ID, with an expiration date, when they go to the polls to vote. Accepted government IDs include:

- Valid Driver's License
- State Identification Card
- Valid Passport Issued by the U.S. State Department
- Valid U.S. Military Identification Card

If you do not have a photo ID, you can go to any Bureau of Motor Vehicles office/License Branch to obtain a photo ID.

How to Vote Absentee

Absentee In-Person Voting/Early Voting

All registered voters in Indiana are eligible to vote “absentee in-person” (also called “Early Voting”) at their county election board office beginning Wednesday, October 12 and ending Monday, November 7 at 12:00 noon.

Absentee Voting by Mail

Applications to vote absentee by mail must be received by the county election board by October 31, 2016. Absentee ballots must be received at the post office by noon on Election Day, November 8, 2016.

Registered voters can apply to vote absentee if:

- You expect that you will not be in the county where you live on Election Day.
- You have a disability.
- You are age 65 or older.
- You are scheduled to work the entire time the polls are open.
- You will be confined due to illness or injury.
- You will be caring for an individual confined due to illness or injury.
- Your religion prevents you from voting while the polls are open.
- You are a member of the military or a public safety officer.
- You will have official election duties outside of your voting precinct.

Absentee Voting at Home

Voters who expect they will be confined due to illness or injury, voters who expect they will be caring for a person who is confined at a private residence on Election Day, and voters with disabilities who believe their polling place is not accessible can vote “absentee-by-traveling board.” Contact your county election board to make this request by noon on Monday, November 7, 2016.

Absentee Voting Applications are available at: www.in.gov/sos/elections. If you do not have access to the Internet, call information or look in the blue pages of the phone book to find the number for your County Clerk/County Election Board.

Absentee voters are NOT required to show or provide a photo ID when they submit their absentee vote.

November 8 Election Day!

Polls are open for voting from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Remember to bring a government issued photo ID that has an expiration date.

Remember, if you are voting absentee by mail, your absentee ballot must be received at the post office by noon on November 8th.

November 2016						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



November 7

Noon deadline to vote absentee in person at the county clerk’s office; deadline for voters who are disabled and voters who are caregivers to request to vote at home.

Accessibility for Voters with Disabilities

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) requires at least one accessible voting machine be placed in each polling place in addition to making the facility physically accessible.

If you have a complaint about accessibility at your polling location, call the Hoosier Voter Hotline to report the issue at 866-IN1-VOTE (866-461-8683). You can also call Indiana Disability Rights at 800-622-4845.

Glenda Ritz

Democratic Incumbent, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

Since 2012, I have been your Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction. As a licensed special education teacher, I am committed to ensuring that people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities receive an education to support their goals of having a job and living a full life. Below is an update on the promises I made to you in *The Arc of Indiana's 2012 Election Guide*.

- **Support early learning.** Under my direction, the Department of Education has worked to support our public preschool special education programs and to expand our public preschool programs for all children. Learning standards have been completed and more high-quality preschool programs have been created as a result of our efforts working with the Family & Social Services Administration.
- **Monitor services and streamline the process of Individual Education Plans.** The Department has streamlined IEP technology and is currently taking steps to address the needs for those students who earn a Certificate of Completion. Additionally, our efforts to support the work of local districts and educators has led to significant improvement in student performance and graduation rates for students with disabilities.

Because of sustained efforts in this area, after years of being labeled as “needs assistance” by the federal Department of Education, Indiana’s Office of Special Education now ranks top in the nation under the new, more rigorous national accountability system.

- **Provide high quality training and professional development for teachers.** The Department works closely with higher education pre-service training programs and we provide professional development to teachers in partnership with INSource. In 2015, I established a bipartisan *Blue Ribbon Commission* to address Indiana’s teacher shortage. As part of this work, we recently received a 5 million dollar grant to partner with the IU Center for Teacher Quality to address the teacher shortage in special education.
- **Increase the opportunities for graduation and career pathways.** During my first term, I expanded Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses in our high schools, achieving a 95% graduation rate among those who participated. As I visit schools around the state, I

see firsthand students with disabilities taking advantage of these opportunities that can lead them to fulfilling jobs. The Department is working towards individualized graduation plans for all students.



- **Work with community agencies to identify and increase support for families.** I developed the Outreach for School Improvement during my first year in office, and it has expanded each year to now include a Systems of Care Coordinator for the state. This individual is focused on identifying community supports and removing barriers to ensure families can access community supports. We have started our work in Austin, Indiana and plan to take this level of support statewide.
- **Support legislation that improves public policy and funding.** I work closely with The Arc of Indiana to promote legislation. In the last session, I supported the law that was passed to ensure all students, including those with disabilities, have access to all diplomas offered in the state. Current legislative support focuses on replacing the ISTEP test with a new individualized student-centered testing system.

Please visit *Imagine 2020* at glendaritz.com/Imagine2020 to see my vision for all of Indiana’s children. I look forward to future work with The Arc of Indiana to make the possibilities become realities.

As I visit schools around the state, I see firsthand students with disabilities taking advantage of these opportunities that can lead them to fulfilling jobs.



Jennifer McCormick

Republican Candidate, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction



I began my career as a special education teacher nearly twenty years ago. Working with students who have intellectual and other developmental disabilities has always been dear to my heart. I first began working with students with special needs when I was in high school. That experience ignited my passion to work with this special population. Even today, as the Superintendent of Yorktown Community Schools, I am very involved with our special education program. It is one of the most rewarding aspects of my job, and special education continues to be a passion of mine.

The Indiana Department of Education has a great responsibility to help support students with intellectual and other developmental disabilities as well as their families, teachers, paraprofessionals and therapists. The IDOE must work in partnership with each group and provide quality, meaningful tools and resources so students receive what they need in order to succeed. The IDOE should foster a teamwork approach with stakeholder groups in which everyone is focused on individual student success.

Good communication will be of the utmost importance. The Office of Special Education must also be supported by the Indiana Department of Education so it can function at its best.

The IDOE must provide schools with essential professional development opportunities that focus upon student equity and access. Equity and access are two important keys for improving student success. The passage of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) will allow for a greater focus on student outcomes. For example, it will provide flexibility related to alternative assessments. Lastly, assessment literacy should be provided as a core professional development piece as individual student data helps to guide quality instruction and programming. Understanding data is critical as it is used for decision-making purposes related to each student.



The passage of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) will allow for a greater focus on student outcomes.

Hillary Clinton

Democratic Candidate, President of the United States



We should acknowledge how the disabilities community has played such an important role in changing things for the better in our country.

Last year, in speaking about the Americans with Disabilities Act, I noted that the ADA made our country more inclusive, our economy stronger, and our society fairer. This landmark law opened educational opportunities, expanded transportation, ensured equal access to public buildings and outlawed employment discrimination on the basis of disability. The ADA enables people with disabilities to participate more fully in their communities and live more inclusive lives.

We should acknowledge how the disabilities community has played such an important role in changing things for the better in our country.

As president, I will:

- **Work to fulfill the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act.** I am committed to realizing the promise of the ADA and continuing to expand opportunities for the more than 50 million Americans living with a disability—because we’re stronger together.
- **Expand support for Americans with disabilities to live in integrated community settings.** Many people with disabilities are denied the choice to receive at-home care and support services. I will fight to pass Senator Schumer’s “Disability Integration Act” so that

Americans with disabilities who are receiving long-term services and supports have the option to do so in home – and community-based settings whenever possible.

- **Ensuring that every child, no matter his or her background, can get a high-quality education.** Under existing law, school districts must provide students with disabilities a free, appropriate public education. I will fight so that students with disabilities are safe, empowered, and learning at school.
- **Improve access to competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities.** People with disabilities have the same right to work at a job that pays them minimum wage or more, in a place where they will interact with non-disabled individuals, and with the same opportunities for promotion as workers without disabilities. I will fight to eliminate the subminimum wage, increase access to competitive integrated employment, and ensure that a fair day’s work earns a fair day’s pay for all Americans.

- **Break down barriers to voting.** Twenty-six years after enacting the ADA, many people with disabilities continue to face barriers to voting. I will fight to ensure that people with disabilities have a full and equal opportunity to vote.
- **Expand Social Security by counting the hard work of family caregivers and giving them the benefits they deserve.** Family caregivers provide \$470 billion per year in unpaid care—hard, essential work that benefits our entire economy. But when Americans take time off to care for a relative, they do not earn credits toward Social Security retirement benefits. I will fight for tax relief and Social Security expansion for the millions of families caring for loved ones with chronic illnesses or disabilities.
- **Provide tax relief to family members who care for elderly relatives, including those with disabilities.** I will offer a 20 percent tax credit to help family members offset up to \$6,000 in caregiving costs for elderly family members, allowing caregivers to claim up to \$1,200 in tax relief each year.

Statements were requested from both presidential candidates, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. At press time no statement had been received from Donald Trump. If it is received at a later date, we will post it on our website at www.arcind.org.

Celebrating Chapters of The Arc

The following stories exemplify the good work that is happening throughout the state thanks to the 43 chapters of The Arc in Indiana. To find a chapter in your area, visit: www.arcind.org/about-the-arc/local-chapters

Achieva Resources Corporation The Arc in Wayne, Fayette, Franklin and Union Counties



Sisters Brittany, Cassandra and Samantha, and friend Lora, receive support and guidance through Achieva Resources Corporation's guardianship program. Each young woman has goals and aspirations for what they want to achieve. Brittany gets her inspiration from music, fashion and cosmetics. Cassandra loves music, movies, and spending time

with friends and family. Samantha enjoys writing, music and movies. Lora loves to write poetry and short stories. They all aspire to one day work, live on their own, get married and start a family. Their determination shows anything is possible.

Passages The Arc in Whitley County



In 2015, Passages, The Arc in Whitley County, founded a performing arts program in collaboration with the University of St. Francis. Program participants adopted "Spotlight Avenue" as their official name. Participants, including Jerrit Coffing, enjoy working with musical instruments, singing, acting, choreographed movement, storytelling, and visual art. The goal is to build upon the ideas and skills learned in each session, leading to a performance at

the end of each season. "Spotlight Avenue" got its start with support from an AWS Foundation grant.

The Arc of LaGrange County



The connection between Duel Weimer and Susie Huss shows how one person can make a difference in an individual's life. During Duel's senior year of high school in LaGrange, Indiana, Mrs. Huss, the school secretary/treasurer, agreed to teach Duel on-the-job office skills. Duel had spent the first three years of high school never looking directly at others and avoiding interactions. Mrs. Huss knew this would not serve Duel well in the work world. She would tell Duel, "Don't be looking at your shoes. There's nothing to see down there!" Soon, Duel was not only looking people in the eye, but also talking, laughing and joking

with them. In his senior year, Duel was voted prom king by his peers. Duel is proud that his hard work in focusing on his academics allowed him to graduate with a diploma. And although he has moved on from the high school, he and his mentor remain friends.

The Arc of Vigo County



Jessica Meeker has been associated with The Arc of Vigo County for 13 years. Jessica takes pride in her job at Walmart, where she has worked in the maintenance department for three years. Her cheery disposition towards customers and co-workers is an inspiration to all those who encounter her. The success of her placement in this position has been and continues to be an inspiration to The Arc and its employees.

2017 EGTI Class Schedule Now Available

The Erskine Green Training Institute, developed by The Arc of Indiana Foundation, provides postsecondary vocational training that successfully prepares individuals with disabilities for employment in the hospitality, food service and health care industries. After receiving training at EGTI, individuals apply those skills through an internship at Courtyard Muncie at Horizon Convention Center, Thr3e Wise Men Brewing Co., or IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital.

The 2017 class schedule, tuition and fees, and calendar of events information is now available on the Erskine Green Training Institute (EGTI) website. Included for 2017 are all of the current program selections, along with a new 13-week training program for servers.

If you've been considering EGTI for post-secondary vocational training, now is the time to get started. Your checklist should include:

- Appointments with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor in your area to learn if you qualify for VR funding to pay for the program in which you are interested in applying

- Review of Independent Living Skills Prerequisites
- Four to five Online Letters of Recommendation
- Completed Student Application Packet
- Online payment of \$25 application fee
- Mark your calendar for 2017 application deadline dates

2016 has been proven to be a huge success with demand growing as each enrollment period approaches. The September session was completely full and a few students were deferred to 2017 to begin their programs the next time they are offered.

Please consider getting your applications in early as space is limited to 20 students per session. Check the website for details: www.erskingreeninstitute.org

Prospective students and guardians, educators, counselors, case managers and other service pro-



viders are offered opportunities throughout the year to attend a scheduled facility and EGTI tour. To reserve space for a general tour, visit our online calendar to view upcoming general tour dates and provide your contact information and party size.

The Arc Insurance Advocacy Resource Center Leads to Significant Accomplishments in Insurance Reform

The Arc Insurance Advocacy Resource Center (INARC) works to assist families who have a loved one with a developmental disability navigate their private insurance policies and increase knowledge of basic health insurance issues, including the Affordable Care Act.

Michele Trivedi, INARC Manager, is a long-time autism insurance advocate and mother of a daughter with autism. Michele's work resulted in significant accomplishments in insurance advocacy during the past fiscal year (July 2015 – July 2016).

Individual Family Advocacy

- Provided in-depth assistance for:
 - a. Individual appeals, including assistance with writing appeal letters, meeting with families and providers to discuss strategy for appeals arguments, and attending appeals hearings with families to assist in explaining the appeals argument. Successful appeals, which can take 1-6 months to complete, led to the successful recovery of \$2,500 to over \$85,000 per case in claims paid by private insurance.
 - b. Appeals for families with self-insured (ERISA) companies regarding decisions to exclude autism treatment or the exclusion of ABA therapy from covered treatment options.
 - c. Families facing adverse Independent Review Organization (IRO) external appeals in violation of the Indiana Autism Mandate or Federal Mental Health Parity laws to bring the issue to the attention of the Indiana Department of Insurance (IDOI) for resolution and for review/education for IRO companies on Indiana Mandate Law requirements. One case is pending resolution and one case led to reinstating treatment

for the child, which was denied solely based upon the child's age.

- Provided a resource for questions regarding private insurance policies and how they work with Medicaid.
- Assisted families with understanding:
 - a. Employer based or ACA policy language and coverage
 - b. How private policies interact with Medicaid Waivers and traditional Medicaid
 - c. How the Indiana Autism Mandate, state and federal mental health parity laws may apply to insurance rights in particular situations
- Conducted parent and family training on insurance issues at parent support group meetings and via social media.

Health Insurance Policy and Regulation

- Drafted letter to the US Department of Justice to discuss the effects that pending insurance company "mega-mergers" may have on the autism and developmental disability community in terms of discrimination, lack of coverage, reduced access, increased costs and financial pressure on tax-payer funded services, poor consumer service and protection, and increased financial jeopardy for families.
- Provided testimony and on-going feedback regarding the Medicaid Autism Treatment and ABA policies under EPSDT in the Medicaid State Plan.
- Collaborated with NAMI to address federal mental health parity (MHPAEA) compliance issues in private health insurance plans and Medicaid plans.
- Conducted gap analysis of three major health carrier's benefits and medical review procedures for policies and procedures that appear to be in



Michele Trivedi
Insurance Advocacy
Resource Center Manager

- violation of state and federal law (autism mandate, MHPAEA, ADA, ACA) in collaboration with the Autism Speaks Legal Resource Center, in order to present the findings to the IDOI for review and resolution.
- Addressed concerns over systemic issues of compliance with state and federal law/regulation with the IDOI and directly with the carriers.
 - a. Successfully negotiated with a major national carrier to change its autism policy to remove language that allowed reviewers to reduce ABA coverage by subtracting hours spent in speech, occupational or physical therapy.
 - b. Successfully negotiated with major national carrier to address medical reviewer training issues pertaining to professionalism in addressing parents.
 - c. Successfully negotiated with major national carrier to remove language from their policies that stated that all intervention services for ASD are to be limited to 40 hours per week.
 - d. Negotiations with major national carrier are ongoing to address additional deficits in their policies and procedures.
 - e. Over 200 persons with autism in Indiana are receiving better coverage due to the policy changes negotiated with this carrier.

Mental Health Parity Coverage for Autism and Developmental Disabilities

- Successfully negotiated autism health insurance coverage for all Purdue University employees, starting in January 2016, under Federal Mental Health Parity and non-discrimination. Over 150 individuals with autism are now eligible to access private health insurance coverage for autism treatment.
- Provided gap analysis of major health plans who act as Third Party Administrators (TPAs) for ERISA plans but do not recommend coverage for ABA or autism treatment. Worked in collaboration with Autism Speaks to negotiate for a major national carrier to recommend that all of their ERISA contracts include ABA therapy
- Participated in several meetings and discussions with IDOI regarding enforcement of MHPAEA as it pertains to coverage for autism and other developmental disabilities.

Development of Parent and Family Education Resource Materials

- Finding a Quality ABA Provider
- FAQ on Medicaid Coverage for ABA Therapy under EPSDT
- Funding Sources for ABA Therapy
- Comparison Chart to Evaluate Health Plans – for families to compare private health insurance options including questions to ask about coverage for special needs
- FAQs about the Indiana Autism Health Insurance Mandate for Families and Providers has been drafted and submitted to the IDOI Commissioner

Michele Trivedi

The Arc Insurance Advocacy Resource Center Manager

Michele Trivedi is a graduate of the Xavier University Master's Program in Health Services Administration and was the Senior Director of Quality, Education and Managed Care for a 200+ physician primary care group in Cincinnati, Ohio, before she "retired" to care for her young daughter, who was diagnosed with autism at age three.

Michele worked with the parent-led coalition of autism advocates, The Arc of Indiana, ASI and IRCA to achieve the nation's first comprehensive private health insurance coverage law for autism in 2000. Michele spent 3 years establishing the enforcement parameters of the Indiana Autism Mandate by successfully fighting her daughter's "test cases" for the enforcement of the mandate's provisions, leading her to become the first child in the nation to gain autism treatment coverage under private health insurance. Michele was subsequently appointed to represent consumers on the Indiana Department of Insurance (IDOI) committee to establish Bulletin 136, which outlines enforcement parameters.

In 2013, Michele worked with The Arc of Indiana to establish the Indiana Autism Insurance Project, and the Indiana I/DD Insurance Project; two programs to assist families of persons with autism and other developmental disabilities to navigate health insurance issues. In 2016, the project was re-named as The Arc Insurance Advocacy Resource Center (INARC).

Michele has assisted autism advocates in several states in their efforts to develop autism health insurance mandate legislation and establish fair enforcement. She has assisted hundreds of families and providers to secure coverage for medically necessary autism treatment services, and has led efforts in Indiana to establish quality guidelines for ABA providers. Michele advocates for consumers with insurers to establish clinically sound medical necessity guidelines. Michele also assists parent groups to negotiate with their self-insured (ERISA) employers to add autism coverage to their health plans.

Michele presents to advocates, providers and parents at national conferences on autism health insurance mandate implementation, establishing best practices for ABA providers to document medical necessity and appeal adverse medical necessity decisions, navigating the health insurance system, negotiating an autism benefit with ERISA employers, operational best practices for ABA providers, filing appeals and grievances with insurer and health insurance regulators, and selecting a quality ABA provider.




Comparison of ABLE Accounts and Special Needs Trusts

The ABLE Act allows for the establishment of ABLE savings accounts. Following is a comparison of ABLE accounts and special needs trusts.

	ABLE Account	Special Needs Trust
Beneficiary	Must be a person with a disability. Eligible for SSA services if disabled prior to the age of 26	Person with a disability. Eligible for SSA services. No age limitation on age of disability
Age Limit	Disability prior to the age of 26	No age restriction
Contribution Limit	Annual contribution from all donors must not exceed annual gift tax exclusion (\$14,000 in 2016)	Unlimited
Number of Accounts Limit	One	Unlimited
Account Balance Limit	Balance limit may be set by State; accounts that exceed \$100,000 cause suspension of SSI benefit but NOT Medicaid	Unlimited
Medicaid Payback After the Death of the Beneficiary	Required for any funds remaining in account	If self-settled trust, payback required for any funds remaining not retained by the non-profit Trustee. If 3rd party trust, no Medicaid payback. Third party trusts are established by parents to provide for a child through their estate planning
Disbursements	Only Qualified Disability expenses for the sole benefit of account holder. Includes only the following expenses: education, housing, transportation, employment, assistive technology, health & wellness, financial management, legal fees, expenses for ABLE account oversight, funeral and burial, basic living expenses	Any expenses for the sole benefit of the account holder. Includes Qualified Disability expenses; also includes broader range of supplemental need including travel, recreation, entertainment and others to enhance quality of beneficiary's life
Impact on SSI Benefits	Assets not counted for Medicaid (no limit) or for SSI (\leq \$100,000) toward \$2,000 resource limit. No In Kind Support & Maintenance reduction for Qualified Disability Expenses. SSI payments suspended for accounts > \$100,000	Assets not counted toward Medicaid or SSI resource limit. In Kind Support & Maintenance deduction if paying food or shelter expenses
Tax Benefits	Earnings NOT taxable	Earnings MAY be taxable
Funding Source	Account holder or any other individual	Individual's own assets or those belonging to a third party
Trustee	Any person including account holder, corporate or non-profit association or professional trustee	A non-profit agency licensed as d4C trustee or any person excluding the beneficiary

www.thearctrust.org
317-977-2375 • 800-382-9100





IndyCooks for The Arc

Dallara IndyCar Factory
1201 Main St., Speedway, IN 46224
Saturday, October 15, 2016
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM



Tickets: \$50 / person, \$90 for two, or \$450 / Table of 10
(Includes Entry, Food Tasting, 5 Tip Tickets & Cookbook)

www.arcind.org/indycooks







ENTER YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

a 2008 Chevrolet Corvette






\$50 per Raffle Ticket

Winner will be drawn at IndyCooks for The Arc, October 15.
 You do not have to be present to win.

For more information and to purchase your raffle ticket(s),
 visit www.arcind.org/dealing-for-dreams or call 317-977-2375

Indiana Raffle Gaming License #141650

The Arc of Indiana 2016 Conference

Impact Awards Luncheon

Annual Meeting

November 18

Horizon Convention Center
Muncie, Indiana

www.arcind.org

The Arc Utility Support Program

The Arc of Indiana Utility Support Program can help with heating and cooling bills for families with a dependent child, one or more family members with a disability, and income at or below 250% of the federal poverty level.

Eligible Utility Support Services

- Up to two months heating or cooling utility bill assistance
- Deposit assistance to begin services
- Funding to prevent disconnection of services
- Funding to reactivate services
- Funding to cover utility debt back to one year from date of application



For additional information, visit: www.arcind.org/our-programs/the-arc-of-indiana-utility-support-program

To apply for assistance, contact Gina DeWilde, Utility Support Program Coordinator
gdewilde@arcind.org or 800-573-9816

STAY CONNECTED
STAY INFORMED




The Arc of Indiana
 Self Advocates of Indiana (Official)
 A View From My Window with Michelle Fischer
 Erskine Green Institute

@TheArcIN
 @SelfAdvocatesIN
 @MFView
 @ErskineGreen



“A View from My Window”

www.arcind.org/aviewfrommywindow

Visit Us
www.arcind.org
www.erskingreeninstitute.org
www.thearctrust.org
www.saind.org