

## Meet The New Arc of the US CEO

A longtime disability rights champion, Katherine “Katy” Neas comes to The Arc from the U.S. Department of Education, where she served as deputy assistant secretary in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. Prior to that role, she was executive vice president of public affairs for Easterseals and the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). She is widely regarded for her bipartisan and collaborative work, earning her roles including past chair of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD).



Katy shared, “Stepping into this role as CEO of The Arc feels like coming home. Throughout my career, I’ve been lucky to work arm-in-arm with fierce advocates and caring providers to drive progress. That open collaboration and trust is what makes The Arc so special—never losing sight that we do this WITH people with disabilities, not just FOR them. I’m in awe of The Arc’s profound legacy, from pioneering special education access to spearheading

community living. Now, I’m honored to continue that legacy into the future, but we won’t rest on past wins. Together with families, self-advocates, and partners, we’ll build an even stronger organization to meet the challenges ahead. I can’t wait to listen and learn from every corner of this community and lead inclusively into the next era of success. The Arc’s brightest days lie ahead.”



## Become a Member of The Arc Empowering People. Inspiring Change.

In 2024 two issues of The Arc News in Indiana will be sent to our statewide membership, supporters, and partners electronically and two issues will be mailed.

If you are a member of The Arc through a local chapter or at the state or national level, we thank you for your support.

If you are not yet a member, we invite you to join our network of over 30,000 Hoosier members and thousands of members nationwide.

[arcind.org/get-involved/membership](https://arcind.org/get-involved/membership)

## Medicaid Waiver Changes

The Family and Social Services Administration has submitted waiver amendments for proposed Pathways for Aging, Health and Wellness (H&W), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Community Integration and Habilitation (CIH), and Family Supports (FSW) Waivers. A concerning proposal would stop the practice of reimbursing parents of a minor child for providing attendant care to medically fragile children through the Health and Wellness, (formerly A&D Waiver) and TBI Waivers. They would be required to shift to a service called Structured Family Caregiving, at a lower rate, use a family member who is not an LRI, or use an attendant placed through an agency.

We have created a [2024 Medicaid Waiver Changes](#) page on our website to provide clarity and share information. It includes [information on submitting public comments](#) by the February 16 deadline and a [Call to Action](#).

Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch has called on FSSA to pause implementation of this change and has called on the General Assembly to address this issue. We appreciate the Lt. Governor’s advocacy as well as the support of many legislators.

We are very concerned that this proposal will harm medically fragile children. We continue to work with FSSA, state leaders and legislators to identify solutions that do not harm people with disabilities and their families.

## Message from The Arc of Indiana CEO

**Kim Dodson**

### Our United Impact

As the current chair of the National Conference of Executives of The Arc (NCE) steering committee, I have the opportunity to serve on the executive committee of The Arc US board of directors. This experience offers a unique perspective into the broad and diverse chapter base that makes up The Arc network. The Arc has nearly 600 state and local chapters across the country and they vary widely in size and structure. Even though our chapters look very different, there is synergy in our values and an increasing belief that we all benefit from our combined strength.

The Arc of Indiana, collectively, continues to provide leadership and serve as an example to other states as they strive to learn from and replicate our success. Our public policy efforts, broad statewide chapter presence, and unique programming and advocacy efforts continue to catch the attention of national and local leaders and we are consistently asked to provide guidance and support to chapters looking to replicate our impact.

We are acutely aware that our success is not accomplished in a vacuum and understand that The Arc of Indiana is what it is because of the special relationships we have built and maintained with our membership and stakeholders. Interest in The Arc continues to grow in Indiana. During our 2023 membership campaign, we encouraged our 46 local chapters to Empower People and Inspire Change. They exceeded our expectations by adding nearly 5,000 new members! In addition, legislators, veteran and new, continue to reach out to The Arc to align with us on legislative efforts - a compliment beyond measure. We are certainly stronger, better, and more effective when we are united.

### Challenges Ahead

2024 presents challenges. Indiana faces a nearly \$1 billion deficit in Medicaid funding. At the same time, we are on the brink of a very much needed re-design of Indiana's Medicaid Waiver program that cannot be put off any longer. It will be difficult to find ways to balance this shortfall without impacting supports to the thousands who desperately need them.

### Connect with Us

I encourage you to stay informed and connected with us by signing up to receive legislative updates, calls to action, and our weekly e-newsletter, as well as following us on social media. You can find links to connect with us at [arcind.org/get-involved/connect-with-us](https://arcind.org/get-involved/connect-with-us). Thank you for all you that you do to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and please watch for important information we will share throughout the year on issues impacting people with IDD and their families.



## Circles of Support

*Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.*

The Arc of Indiana has served as the state's leading advocacy organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for over 65 years. Our advocacy efforts continue to be the core of our mission. Key to that mission is The Arc Advocacy Network's team of family advocates who work tirelessly to provide a critical circle of support to families and people with disabilities.

Thank you to the key organizations and trusted partners who join in support of our advocacy efforts through our Circles of Support initiative.

#### Mission Circle

The National Bank of Indianapolis  
CareSource  
CICOA  
IPMG  
KCARC  
Quillo Connect  
Sertoma Star Services

#### Dream Circle

ICEARC

#### Ally Circle

Duke Energy  
Hylant  
Katz, Sapper & Miller  
Tilson  
United Health Care

#### Friend Circle

Prolific  
Special Olympics Indiana  
Stone Belt Arc  
The Arc of the Wabash Valley  
Wabash Center

To learn more,  
including joining our  
Circles of Support initiative,  
contact

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[arcind.org/about-the-arc/circles-of-support](https://arcind.org/about-the-arc/circles-of-support)

## Report from the Statehouse



The 2024 session of the Indiana General Assembly began January 8 and must end by March 14. We have been there every day, supporting and monitoring legislation impacting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. As the session reaches its halfway point, we are pleased to report success with two of our priority bills.

### **House Bill 1073 – Special Education, Regarding Seclusion and Restraint in Schools**

Passed the House 73-24. Among other provisions, the bill requires schools to have electronic recording equipment in each designated special education classroom, seclusion area, sensory room, and time-out area not later than January 1, 2025. It also requires electronic recording equipment to be active and recording when certain areas are in use and requires school corporations to employ at least one behavioral interventionist not later than January 1, 2025. Language regarding cameras in classrooms remains a big concern.

### **HB 1380 – Various Education Matters, Regarding Special Education Due Process Hearings**

Passed the House 91-7 and moves to the Senate. This bill provides that schools have the burden of proof rather than a parent in due process hearings. It also provides that parents do not have to enter into a nondisclosure or non-disparagement agreement as part of a resolution of a due process hearing or a dispute. HB 1073 and HB 1380 now go to the Senate.

### **Legislative Priorities**

Following is the status of additional legislative priorities that we will continue to focus on in the second half of the legislative session. All House bills now move to the Senate.

### **House Bill 1156 – Report on Medicaid Behavior Analysis Services**

Requires the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to prepare and submit a report to specified entities concerning data on the provision of applied behavior analysis services in the Medicaid program.

### **House Bill 1067 – IDD Task Force**

Requires the task force for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities to establish a subcommittee to make recommendations to the task force regarding the Medicaid buy-in program and benefit related barriers to employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Changes the expiration date of the task force from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2024.

### **House Bill 1187 – Special Service Review Team and Emergency Placement**

Establishes the special service review team to review denied applications and applications for which a determination has not been made for the community integration and habilitation waiver. Makes changes to the situations in which an emergency placement priority may be provided for individuals under a Medicaid waiver.

### **Your Voice Matters!**

Get involved! Scan the QR code or visit [arcind.org/get-involved/sign-up](https://arcind.org/get-involved/sign-up) to sign up for our e-newsletter, public policy updates, & action alerts!





## IU Health Awards Major Grant to Expand EGTI to Riley Hospital for Children

Indiana University Health has awarded The Arc of Indiana Foundation's Erskine Green Training Institute \$487,500 over three years to create a workforce training program for individuals with disabilities at Riley Hospital for Children.

EGTI, founded in 2016 by The Arc of Indiana Foundation, provides post-secondary vocational training to people with disabilities in hospitality, food service, and healthcare in Muncie, IN. Through the Lacy Family Healthcare Program, EGTI students train for a variety of jobs onsite at IU Health Ball Memorial, including kitchen cook, nutrition services, environmental services, patient transport, and inventory distribution.

The Arc of Indiana Foundation Executive Director Andy Kirby said, "EGTI has developed a tremendous partnership with IU Health and values the work we do at Ball Memorial and the relationships we have developed with the team there. Over 30 EGTI graduates have been hired at IU Health sites across the state. We are thrilled that IU Health's faith in us will allow us to expand training to Indianapolis at Riley Hospital for Children."

Students enrolled in EGTI's program through Riley Children's will attend class, master key job skills, and gain valuable work experience through an internship at Riley. In addition to hands-on job training, students will learn critical soft skills, including workplace etiquette, teamwork, taking direction, and effective communication skills.

"This year's grants connect IU Health to additional community partners who share our desire to make a positive difference in the lives of Hoosiers. We are excited about the impact this grant will have in growing EGTI's program to train individuals with disabilities to work in the IU Health system," said IU Health President and CEO Dennis Murphy.



### Will You Join Us In Making a Difference?

Your support, no matter the amount, makes an impact on many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across Indiana.

Simply scan the QR code or visit [arcind.org/get-involved/donate](https://arcind.org/get-involved/donate) to give a gift online.



  
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## Congratulations to Our Impact Award Recipients

The Arc of Indiana and Self-Advocates of Indiana were honored to recognize our 2023 Impact Award recipients at our annual Impact Awards Celebration in December. It is wonderful to celebrate good people doing good things to make a difference in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Thank you and congratulations to all our honored recipients.

### The Arc of Indiana CEO Award

Stan Keepes and Ted Brown

### Family Advocate Award

Cody Mullen

### Self-Advocates of Indiana President's Award

Hannah Carlock

### The Arc of Indiana President's Award

Dick Rhoad

### Chapter Membership Awards

The Arc of Shelby County & LOGAN Community Resources

### Legislator of the Year

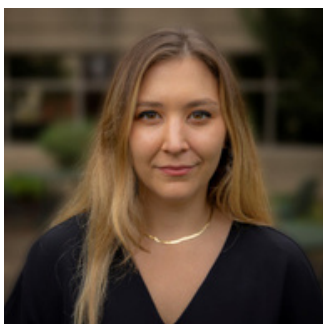
The Honorable Julie Olthoff

### Media Award

Lee Gaines, WFYI

### Darcus Nims Self-Advocate of the Year

Lexi Westerfield



“

**We Want  
to Hear  
Your  
Story!**

[ARCIND.ORG/SHARE-YOUR-STORY/](https://arcind.org/share-your-story/)

