

The Arc[®]

of Frederick County

The Link

May 2022

Community Navigators

The Arc of Frederick County supports people with developmental disabilities to live enviable lives. Envable lives are the lives we all lead, filled with purpose and meaning, and with friends and family. Supports are person centered and designed and implemented in a way that promotes families and individuals having greater control over their lives and the services they receive.

Support Coordinators serve as navigators and assist people in leading lives of their own choosing by working to build a circle of support around each individual to provide advocacy, identify natural supports, build safety nets, and locate or create needed services in the community. Support Coordinators help individuals locate ongoing long term supports by working on a one-to-one basis with each individual and by partnering with other community agencies.

Building upon the principles of self-determination, Support Coordinators from The Arc are certified employment specialists and meet people where they are as they reach their employment goals. Career exploration, job development and customization, job coaching, and follow along employment supports can be customized to support a person with incorporating their passions, talents, and interest as they earn a paycheck at work.



Community Collaborations

The Arc of Frederick County provides a Culinary Training Program to prepare people for employment in the restaurant, hospitality, catering, and related fields. The 13 week, hands-on training equips participants with food-preparation, safety, teamwork, and customer service skills so someone can quickly enter the Frederick workforce.

Beginning last summer and continuing throughout the school year, The Arc and Frederick County Public Schools have collaborated so that transitioning youth students from



each high school and secondary program could participate in a week-long Culinary Experience for a vocational interest inventory as part of their transition plans.

These Culinary Experiences were a great way for students to reinforce skills as they emerged from virtual studies. The training is also a way for families and students to see The Arc's adult services in action as they transition from school and make important choices to. This creative partnership promotes self-advocacy and choice and will continue throughout the summer of 2022 and into next school year. The Arc looks forward to continuing our collaborations with Frederick County Public Schools.

Legislative Update 2022

The Maryland General Assembly completed its work for the 2022 Legislative Session and adjourned on April 11, 2022, at midnight. The Arc of Frederick County collaborated with advocates and legislative champions to pass the following highlighted bills that will protect rights as well as expand services for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

SB 0705/HB 1255 – Physical Restraint and Seclusion – Limitations, Reporting, and Training

Prohibiting certain public agencies from using seclusion as a behavioral health intervention for a student; prohibiting a public agency from using physical restraint and a nonpublic school from using physical restraint or seclusion as a behavioral health intervention for a student, except under certain circumstances; requiring the State Department of Education to develop an accountability system to measure compliance with regulations adopted on the use of physical restraint and seclusion; etc.



SB 0636/ HB 1403 Maryland Department of Health - Waiver Programs - Waitlist and Registry

This legislation requires the Department to develop plans to reduce registries and wait lists by 50% in FY24. It includes requirements for the Department of Health to include a review and analysis of current provider capacity and sufficiency of rates to support expansions of services. This bill will allow for an expansion of services from The Developmental Disabilities Administration and through the Autism Waiver

Upcoming Events

Annual Membership Meeting & Board Announcement

The Arc of Frederick County will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Monday, June 20th at 5:00PM. Please RSVP to Maia Carlisle at mcarlisle@arcfc.org. The proposed FY 23 slate is as follows:

FY 2023 Board of Directors

Kathy Laky – President

Wendy Andrews – Vice President

Cindy Kopciak – Secretary

Duncan Barks – Treasurer

Wendy Andrews – Past President

Carol Debow

Grant Kelsey

Denny Weikert

Adriana Toro

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