



annual 2008 report

A Publication of
The Arc of Maryland

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NOW

NOW is the time to contact Governor O'Malley about the critical need for funding for people with developmental disabilities.

The Governor is working now on his next budget for the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), which begins a year from now (FY 2010).

YOU can help! Inside this newsletter is a postcard. Just sign your name and address, add a stamp, and mail to the Governor.

NOW!

Developmental Disabilities Day at the Legislature



Former Rosewood Center residents and self advocacy leaders presented Governor Martin O'Malley with long-stemmed yellow roses, symbols of friendship, caring, and freedom. Roses were also presented to: Senator Delores Kelley, Delegate James Hubbard, Department of Disabilities Secretary Cathy Raggio, and Department of Health & Mental Hygiene Secretary John Colmers for their leadership.

It was Developmental Disabilities Day in the General Assembly in February 2008, and more than 350 people attended the event at the State Senate in Annapolis. The Governor and key state leaders were greeted with a receiving line of former Rosewood residents who each presented them with yellow roses, in recognition of the decision to close the facility in Owings Mills. "Each and every person in our State has the opportunity to be an integral and productive part of our communities," said Governor O'Malley before a standing ovation of the crowd. "Working together we can make that possible, enabling every citizen to work and achieve at their greatest potential, giving people the freedom,

training and support needed to pursue their goals of employment and independent living."

DD Day at the Legislature is an annual event that brings together individuals with developmental disabilities, families, service providers and advocates to educate and inform members of the General Assembly about the issues facing the developmental disabilities community.

Sponsored by The Arc of Maryland, Maryland Association of Community Services, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, People on the Go and MDLC, the event included briefings on the Transitioning Youth program, Waiting List and Cost of Living Adjustments for service providers and other issues under consideration by the General Assembly.

END THE WAIT NOW! CAMPAIGN

Waiting List Grows to Over 18,000 Children and Adults

www.endthewaitnow.com

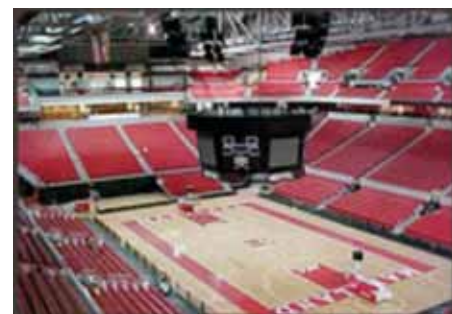
**Growing Up Won't Wait...
Life Won't Wait...
Dreams Don't Wait...
End the Wait NOW!**

New Waiting List numbers were released in July 2008. There are now 18,024 children and adults and their families on the DDA Waiting List for Community Services, per the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). (The numbers grew by nearly 400 in just the past 4 months.) That's a growth of 86% from 2004 to 2008 in the past 5 years.

51% of these individuals are deemed by the state to be in crisis categories; 43% have a current

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Over 18,000 people need DDA Community Services. They could fill this stadium!



president's column

by Ed Worff



I have been honored to serve five years as President of an organization which is the real go-to source in Maryland for all matters related to cognitive and developmental disabilities. I have had an opportunity to work with a team of dedicated volunteer Board members and an equally amazing, dedicated, and energetic staff.

There have been some challenges along the way because, like many families, we don't always see eye-to-eye on all matters. But The Arc has strong, meaningful core values and I believe that those values give us a guide to help us determine the right course of action when we come to differences of opinion. They help us to keep from compromising on issues and point us in the right direction when we make decisions regarding issues that might have long lasting effects on the population that The Arc strives to serve.

The recently announced closing of the State Residential Center, Rosewood, is an example where The Arc did not compromise and led the fight for closure because it was the right thing to do.

I have to confess that my initial reason for getting involved with The Arc was for selfish and personal reasons – I wanted to work to ensure that my daughter, Patty, would have a chance at the future that my wife, Pat, and I dreamed for her. I am sure that, as long as The Arc of Maryland exists, there will

be volunteers and staff who will help to ensure that future for her.

The challenge for The Arc's future is to keep it vibrant as us older (OOPS, more experienced) folks move on. We need people who will continue to advocate and create expanded employment, recreational, and housing opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities.

Don't let The Arc be a secret. Tell everyone you know that you are a part of the premier organization in your own county, the state, and the nation working to change minds and change lives for persons with developmental disabilities. Encourage them to consider becoming a part of The Arc. Your family member's future may depend on it.

I want to thank all of the members of the Board

for your support, hard work, and generous gifts of your time, talents, and resources. And thank you to all of the hard working, resourceful, and talented staff, as well. All of you have helped to make my job easier.

Particular thanks to Cristy Marchand for all that you do for The Arc and for persons with Developmental Disabilities and their families in Maryland and beyond. You have made me look good and you certainly educated me in many of the intricacies of working with the legislators in Annapolis.

And finally, thank you to my wife, Pat, for your love and understanding and for generously sharing me with The Arc and allowing me to be actively involved with this wonderful organization.

It has been a rewarding and fulfilling opportunity and I know that I leave it in good hands.

FY 2008 Leadership

(* Denotes person with disability and family members)

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Jackie Ring – Horizon Foundation (Howard County)

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Andrea Walbrook, PhD. – Sheppard Pratt Health System (Prince George's County)

People on the Go of Maryland Representatives

Bill Ohge, Jr.* – US Census Bureau

(Prince George's County)

Philip Weinberg* – O'Melveny & Meyers LLP

(Montgomery County)

Maryland Conference of Executives Representative

Tim Quinn (The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region)

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Education Committee – Nancy Brugh*

Executive Committee – Ed Worff*

Finance Committee – William Oliver

Governmental Affairs Committee – Carol Fried*/

Michele Stutzer

Legal Advocacy Committee – James Rosner*, Esquire

Nominating Committee – Marge Gold*/Ed Worff*

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Finance Assistant – Judi Buehler

Office Manager – Shaneka Harris

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Advocacy – Erin Gibson

Ask Me! Project Manager – Judy Volkman*

Self Advocacy Network Project Manager – Tracy Wright*

W. Regional Ask Me! Coordinator – Nolie Rife

Central Regional Ask Me! Coordinator – Barbara Moore*

Support to Central Regional Coordinator – Mahalia Lewis*

E. Regional Ask Me! Coordinator – Joanna Weaver*

Support to E. Regional Coordinator – Suzy Fletcher*

S. Regional Ask Me! Coordinator – Diana Stewart*

People on the Go Public Policy Coordinator – Ken Capone*

Ask Me! Telephone Interviewer – Marianne McNally*

End of the Wait! Now Campaign

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need for services; 6% have a future need for services. Many are living with elderly caregivers, single parents or young families with no help. Many have been waiting years.

22,000 people currently receive services from DDA. However, many have outdated and under-funded budgets that do not meet their current needs, including people who face growing needs due to changing medical and aging conditions.

The Arc of Maryland has joined with the DD Coalition (made up of the leading statewide advocacy and provider organizations) on the End the Wait Now! Campaign. The campaign is a targeted effort by individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in collaboration with the Coalition. Made possible by funding support from the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, volunteer efforts by families, and the work of the DD Coalition member organizations, the campaign coordinates public education and grassroots advocacy to obtain needed funding. Maryland must make funding for the Waiting List and quality community programs a priority.

Highlights of the Campaign's activities:

- Over 1200 people have joined the Campaign to date
- Training for families to produce YouTube Videos
- Families produced 1-2 minute YouTube videos
- Loyola College students and The Arc of Frederick County worked with families to produce YouTube videos
- Eight regional family grassroots coordinators worked to coordinate families
- Petitions with over 1,300 signatures were sent to the Governor this summer
- Families and the Coalition met this summer with Department of Disabilities Secretary Cathy Raggio and DHMH Secretary John Colmers
- Additional meetings with state officials have been requested
- Post card campaign is underway this summer to contact the Governor for funding in his upcoming FY 2010 budget
- Participated in DD Day & brought others to meet with legislators to advocate for the Campaign, including a bus load from the Eastern Shore
- Held press conference in a Columbia family's home to show first-hand the issues faced by families and individuals on the Waiting List
- Communicated with the print & radio press; letters to the editor were published in newspapers
- Made presentations to parent and other groups to inform them about the Waiting List
- Developed a toolkit for local coordinators
- Waiting List families testified at legislative budget hearings
- Letter writing parties were held to write to the Governor and legislators

**If you'd like to get involved, go to:
www.endthewaitnow.com for the latest
information and to sign up!**

Special thanks to leadership families for their work on the Campaign:

Beth Munro and **Michele Hart** – Statewide Coordinators

Karen Bowers (Montgomery County)

Melonee Clark (Prince George's County)

Rhonda Creecy (Harford County)

Donna DePamphilis (Charles County)

Anita Disbrow/Bonnie Larrimore (Eastern Shore)

Jessica Pearsall (Howard County)

Kim Willard (Baltimore County)

Developmental Disabilities Coalition

Supporting people with developmental disabilities in their communities throughout Maryland

DDA Community Services Waiting List

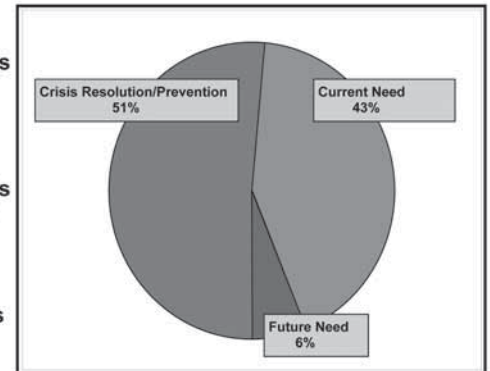
As of July 1, 2008

18,024 individuals requesting services from DDA

• 51% of those individuals are in crisis

• 43% of those individuals have a current need

• 6% of those individuals have a future need



94 % of people need services now

- The number of people on the Waiting List for Community Services **grew by 774 children and adults between January 1, 2008 and July 1, 2008.**
- There are people in every county on the Community Services Waiting List.

	YEAR 2004	YEAR 2008	Numeric Increase/Decrease	Percentage Increase/Decrease
Allegany:	111	204	93	84%
Anne Arundel:	670	1,169	499	74%
Baltimore City:	1,541	2,063	522	34%
Baltimore:	1,336	2,754	1,418	106%
Calvert:	232	429	197	85%
Caroline:	59	135	76	130%
Carroll:	223	368	145	65%
Cecil:	97	265	168	173%
Charles:	516	1002	486	94%
Dorchester:	40	74	34	85%
Frederick:	282	642	360	128%
Garrett:	46	77	31	67%
Harford:	334	617	283	85%
Howard:	409	747	338	83%
Kent:	28	68	40	143%
Montgomery:	1,715	2,840	1,125	66%
Prince George's	1,263	2,843	1,580	125%
Queen Anne's:	35	127	92	262%
Somerset:	41	72	31	76%
St. Mary's:	196	491	295	151%
Talbot:	69	118	49	78%
Washington:	247	422	175	71%
Wicomico:	137	286	149	109%
Worcester:	70	186	116	166%
Out of State		21		0%
TOTAL	9,697	18,024	8,327	86%

Knowledge is Power!

Staff Leadership: Sarah Sorenson, Assistant Executive Director



Knowledge is power!

The Arc of Maryland 2008 Convention was a great success! The theme "Knowledge is Power" was evident throughout by informative speakers, eager attendees and awesome award winners. The two-day convention highlighted environmental health, communication and holistic nursing, awards, exhibitors, a silent auction and raffle, President's reception, Annual Membership Meeting and Elections and a dance.

Keynote speaker Dave Hingsburger from Canada was phenomenal and shared knowledge and language with everyone about bullying, teasing and sexuality that we will not soon forget! He spoke of strategies for dealing with bullies and bullying behavior that can help everyone live more safely and happily in the community. Dave also defined a Ring of Safety that empowers people with the knowledge to protect themselves and recognize good relationships.

Saturday's luncheon speaker was Joe Meadours, Executive Director of People First of California. He spoke about relationships and supporting people with developmental disabilities to have the tools needed for healthy relationships.

The post-convention session featured Universal Design for Learning (UDL) with national experts from the CAST Program based in Massachusetts and the Na-



Vice President Steve Pyles Presents Award to Senator Kasemeyer (pictured on left) for Transitioning Youth and COLA.

tional Down Syndrome Policy Center. Experts presented a framework for designing curricula that enable all students to gain knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm for learning, demonstrating how UDL provides rich supports for learning and reduces barriers to the curriculum while maintaining high achievement standards for all. This session was made possible by funding support from the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council.

Thanks to the Convention Committee, Awards Committee, speakers and presenters for an outstanding convention!

Mary Dugan



The Arc lost a long-time friend, advocate, and mentor with the passing of Mary Dugan on February 18. Mary served on the boards of directors of The Arc of Prince George's County and The Arc of Maryland for a total of 18 years, and held the position of President with The Arc of Prince George's

County and Vice President and Secretary for The Arc of Maryland. She played a crucial role in the governmental affairs arena, serving as Chair for both the state and her local chapter, coordinating families' telephone calls and visits to legislators, and was well known and admired in Annapolis for her energy and commitment to people with developmental disabilities. When Mary testified at the legislature about the right to live in the community, housing rights, and the waiting list, everyone listened as she gently, but firmly pressed her points. Mary lost her son, Tommy, eight years ago, yet remained active and involved in opening doors and bettering lives for individuals with developmental disabilities. The Arc will miss Mary greatly and will work hard to fulfill her vision of full participation in the community for all people with developmental disabilities.

"Together We're Better" Essay and Poster Contest

"Nothing is better than working together and helping each other day by day.

We're all different when it comes to learning but one thing is the same we never exclude.

Together we're better than being just one. It can help us a ton.

To accomplish a task you have to work together and it just might be fun.

We try our best to include each other each day. We know that when you exclude you can make someone feel bad and when you include you can make someone glad."



Winning 2007 Poster

Maryland celebrates National Inclusive Schools Week with the Annual "Together We're Better" Essay and Poster Contest. National Inclusive Schools Week is designed to draw national recognition of the diverse abilities of all students and highlights the importance of providing equal and opportunities for children with disabilities. In Maryland, our focus is on celebrating how all students benefit from inclusive education, as reflected in position statements of The Arc. The original dream of Tonia Ferguson, former Director of Legal and Education Advocacy for The Arc of Maryland, the event is co-sponsored with the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education, Maryland Department of Disabilities, and Maryland State Department

of Education (MSDE). Funding support this past year was generously provided by the Council, MSDE, and Maryland Department of Disabilities.

The contest has three levels: (1) Poster Category for Elementary Schools, (2) Essay Category for Middle School students, and (3) Essay Category for High School Students. The poster competition is a class project; essays are individual submissions.

Elementary Class Poster Winners:

- **First Place:** Rosa L. Parks Elementary School (Prince George's County), Eileen Cave's 5th Grade Art Class
- **Second Place:** Mechanicsville Elementary School (St. Mary's County), Yvonne L. Patton's 3rd Grade Class

- **Third Place:** James Ryder Randall Elementary School (Prince George's County), Andrea Moore and Judy Seversen's 2nd Grade Class
- **Honorable Mention:** Manchester Elementary School, Mr. Fitzsimmon's 3rd Grade Class and Cranberry Station Elementary School, Ms. Rollin's 4th Grade Class – both of Carroll County.

Middle School Essay Winners: All from Carroll County

- **First Place:** Austin Fry, Grade 7, Oklahoma Road Middle School
- **Second Place:** Meg Heffner, Grade 7, Oklahoma Road Middle School
- **Third Place:** Sammy Showman, Grade 7, Oklahoma Road Middle School

High School Essay Winners: All from Frederick County

- **First Place:** Sabrina Biddinger, Grade 11, Tuscarora High School
- **Second Place:** Alyssa Fowler, Grade 11, Tuscarora High School
- **Third Place:** David Dulberger, Grade 12, Middletown High School

National Inclusive Schools Week will be celebrated the first full week of December 2008. We are very excited to announce that the contest is expanding this year to include poetry entries for elementary students, as well as art and media entries for middle and high school students.

The Arc's First Legacy Gala Honors Lorraine Sheehan

"What began as a "pet project" has become a life long pasison—advocacy on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families. That passion, coupled with intelligence and personality, has made Lorraine Sheehan Maryland's leading advocate for individuals, and indeed, one of the nation's most influential disability rights advocates. Lorraine has educated policymakers and the general public, and her efforts have resulted in communities where all people are valued."

—**Maryland Women's Hall of Fame**



Lorraine and John Sheehan

"Well Behaved Women Rarely Make History!"

Please join Honorary Co-Chairs Frances Hughes Glendening (former First Lady of Maryland); Governor Harry Hughes; and The Honorable Stephen Sachs (former Attorney General of Maryland) in celebrating Lorraine Sheehan and the history she has made as the first Legacy Honoree of The Arc of Maryland in an evening of entertainment and fun.

When: October 16, 2008
6:30 – 9:30 P.M.

Where: Baltimore Renaissance Hotel

What: Cocktails, Dinner, Entertainment and Tributes

Tickets are \$125 per person and must be purchased by October 2, 2008

For more information, contact Shaneka Harris at sharris@thearcmd.org

Seeking The Road Less Traveled

Lorraine Sheehan has blazed many paths in her life since she first made the choice to go the road less traveled when doctors told her it would be best to place her young son John in an institution because of autism.

The path Lorraine chose would launch her into a career of advocacy and politics. She committed herself to creating a more inclusive world for her son — and for all of us. Our world is a better place because of this woman.

Lorraine has been called a "collaborator, mentor, and bridge builder." She has brought together people and groups who might have otherwise viewed each other with skepticism, all with the common ground of combating discrimination. She has been called a "legend" and "influential force" as she works tirelessly for all who face a life made more challenging by low income, health issues or societal stereotypes.

Her legacy is a personal and professional passion to changing our world so her son John and all citizens with developmental disabilities can enjoy rich lives in their communities, indeed for everyone who faces discrimination and limitations in their lives — education, employment, health care, rights, housing or poverty.

Raised in New Hampshire, Lorraine came to call Maryland home when she moved here with her family in 1965. In 1974 she began her political career when elected to the Maryland House of Delegates. She was re-elected in 1978 and 1982. During this time, she served on the House Judiciary and Ways Means Committees, concentrating on funding and rights of persons with disabilities, women and family issues. She introduced the first bill, which Governor Harry Hughes funded, to serve people on the waiting list. In 1983, Governor Hughes appointed her Secretary of State.

After leaving that post, Lorraine would remain active serving in a variety of key roles from Commissioner to the Anne Arundel County Housing Authority to Public Policy Director for the Maryland Disability Law Center and during legislative session, representative for nonprofit organizations/associations in the State Capitol. She helped found the Civil Rights Coalition of Marylanders with Disabilities, an alliance of 15 disability organizations.

Lorraine gives tirelessly to The Arc joining first as a member and volunteer for The Arc of Prince George's County. She is past President of The Arc of the United States, The Arc of Maryland and The Arc of the Central Chesapeake Region.

What began as a "personal project" became a life-long passion — advocacy on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families. Add her vibrant personality and keen intelligence, and Lorraine has long been called Maryland's leading advocate for individuals with disabilities, and indeed, one of the nation's most influential disability rights advocates. Her legacy is also the mentoring and guidance she has provided for countless new and upcoming leaders in the disability rights movement.

Lorraine invites all who would choose the road less traveled to do so and for all to help provide the resources that allow these travelers to make transformative change.

"Change happens through the culmination of small efforts by many people."

—**Lorraine Sheehan**

The Arc Legacy Makers Fund ... Create a Legacy of Change

She gives us vision, leadership, advocacy, and dignity.

What would we give to the legacy of Lorraine Sheehan?

A Fund to Change Minds & Change Lives

The Arc Legacy Makers Fund honors and celebrates the work Lorraine Sheehan and leaders like her have made for those with developmental disabilities. The Fund will pave the way for others to follow in her steps and make transformative change in our neighborhoods, state and country.

The Arc Legacy Makers Fund is established to provide funds for projects that change minds and change lives. These are programs that empower persons with disabilities and members of their families; that focus on the individual needs, preferences and rights; and that drive inclusion of all persons with developmental disabilities in the life of the community.

Congratulations!



*Assistant Executive Director
Sarah Basehart Sorenson
& John Sorenson
on the birth of their daughter*

**Amelia Katherine Sorenson
June 2, 2008**

Governor O'Malley Announces Rosewood Center to Close

Most Residents to Relocate to the Community, Process to Occur Over Next 18 Months



On January 15, 2008, Governor Martin O'Malley signed an Executive Order to close Rosewood Center, a state-run facility for individuals with developmental disabilities in Maryland for more than 100 years. At one time, Rosewood was home to nearly 3,000 individuals. As January 15, 156 individuals live at Rosewood. The process to relocate residents is expected to take 18 months. Most of the residents of the facility will be offered individualized placements in community settings. The Department will work with each individual to identify the most appropriate services and setting.

"Over the years, much progress has been made in caring for individuals with disabilities and helping people live to their fullest potential as active members of their community. The physical conditions at Rosewood no longer allow us to provide the level of care that every individual deserves," Governor O'Malley said. "As we move forward, we will work with direct-care workers who have given so much of themselves at Rosewood, the residents, families and advocates to provide the highest quality of care."

"This will be a thoughtful, deliberative and open process," said DHMH Secretary John M. Colmers. "Our commitment has been, and remains to work individually with each resident to provide the best possible care and services without interruption both now and in the future."

The decision by the state to shut down the facility comes in the wake of reports of serious cases of abuse and neglect over the past several years. Rosewood has been plagued by a number of problems that have affected the safety and well-being of its residents. New admissions were banned at Rosewood three times. Poor conditions at the center placed it at risk of losing federal funding. The Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) revealed many disturbing findings. In September 2006, OHCQ issued an "immediate jeopardy" letter to the facility that outlined critical problems that required immediate attention. Unnecessary restraints, wrong medication doses, missed feedings of residents that were intubated, and assaults between residents are some of the abusive and neglectful incidents that reportedly occurred. In January 2007, admissions to Rosewood were halted

after another immediate jeopardy. In February 2007, the Maryland Disability Law Center issued a report about Rosewood that included information about injuries, neglect, and the unnecessary and lengthy isolation of some of its residents.

DHMH submitted a report to the General As-

sembly (Plan for Services to Residents – HB 970 by Delegate James Hubbard) that found that the overwhelming majority of the residents can live in community settings. The report assessed each resident at Rosewood, identified his or her needs, and determined the appropriateness of community placement.

"The Governor's announcement of the closure of the Rosewood Center is a good first step in at long last securing the rights of persons with developmental disabilities to receive humane treatment — free from abuse and neglect. We look forward to the new lives and possibilities people will now have as they rejoin society and our communities to fulfill their potential." —**Ed Worrff, President, The Arc of Maryland**

Anna Burkett, a former Rosewood resident who now lives in Annapolis and a Board Member on The Arc of Maryland Board of Directors, was on hand at the Governor's announcement: "I want to thank you, Governor O'Malley, so much for closing Rosewood and letting the people be free in the community."

EXECUTIVE ORDER • 01.01.2008.01 • Rosewood Center



WHEREAS, The Rosewood Center has a rich history of meeting the needs of its residents. It was founded in 1888, at a time when the prevailing treatment service model for individuals with developmental disabilities was institutionalization;

WHEREAS, Over its century of being a residential facility for individuals with developmental disabilities its role and mission have changed;

WHEREAS, The residents of the Rosewood Center have family members in the surrounding community who are engaged in the development of their plan of care;

WHEREAS, Today, the Rosewood Center serves 166 residents with a broad range of service needs, including 30 who are in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's care due to their involvement with the criminal justice system;

WHEREAS, Over decades, the conditions at the Rosewood Center have deteriorated to unacceptable conditions as identified through a series of audits conducted by the Office of Health Care Quality, the most recent of which was concluded in August 2007 with follow up reviews in November 2007;

WHEREAS, Treatment models have evolved significantly since Rosewood's establishment and studies overwhelmingly demonstrate that individuals with developmental disabilities thrive and do better living with home and community-based supports;

WHEREAS, The policy of the State, expressed in the Developmental Disabilities Law, Health-General Article, Section 7-102, is to support and provide resources to operate community services to sustain individuals with developmental disability in the community, rather than in institutions;

WHEREAS, The U.S. Supreme Court concluded in the 1999 case of *Olmstead v. L.C.* that, subject to certain conditions, individuals with disabilities residing in institutions have a right to live in the most integrated setting appropriate to the individual's needs, and states should endeavor to facilitate such placements as available resources permit;

WHEREAS, This Administration seeks to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities are included in all aspects of community living and seeks to continue Maryland's ongoing efforts to increase community placement options for residents of the State's mental health and developmental disability facilities;

WHEREAS, Analysis conducted by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as directed by Chapter 445 of the Acts of 2007 concludes that 153 of the current 166 Rosewood residents could be adequately served in the community;

WHEREAS, The Rosewood Center: Plan for Services to Residents Report acknowledges that community capacity will need to be expanded to accommodate 153 Rosewood residents; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland State Disabilities Plan calls for Maryland citizens with long-term care needs to be served in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

- A. The Department shall develop and implement a plan to close the Rosewood Center by Fiscal Year 2010.
- B. The plan shall provide for the transition, on or before June 30, 2009, of all residents of the Rosewood Center to services and settings appropriate to their needs.
- C. Residents of the Rosewood Center shall transition to treatment services and settings, which may include safe home- and community-based services and a secure residential facility, in accordance with an individualized assessment.
- D. The plan shall include a strategy for identifying the needs of the forensic population and creating a safe, long-term residential setting with appropriate services and supports as identified in The Rosewood Center: Plan for Services Report
- E. The Department shall:
 - (1) Develop an individualized plan for each resident, with input from the resident, family members, the interdisciplinary team and others identified as important by the resident in the planning process, to ensure development and implementation of an appropriate transition where all residents are assured continuous appropriate services and settings;
 - (2) Implement service models that comply with best practices in evaluating and supporting residents;
 - (3) Aggressively implement changes to address the deficiencies identified at the Rosewood Center and to operate with appropriate programs to serve the needs of its residents until the right placement can be found;
 - (4) Provide assistance to state employees of the Rosewood Center during the transition, identifying vacant positions within the Department or other state agencies, and offering retraining if necessary and desired; and
 - (5) Work collaboratively with the provider community to create more options in the community with different types of programs designed to meet the needs of Rosewood residents.
- F. The Department shall complete implementation of the plan on or before June 30, 2009.
- G. On or before April 1, 2008, January 1, 2009, and January 1, 2010, the Department shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with Section 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on its progress in implementing the plan.
- H. In determining whether to sell or find an alternative use for the property, the State shall seek input from legislators and local county officials, community representatives, and other stakeholders, as appropriate.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 9th Day of January, 2008.

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Mapping Out a Path to a Full Life

Believing in Possibilities and Realizing Dreams

By Christine Walton and Gloria Quinn, The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region



... From Rosewood

James Wise was born on March 12, 1959. He was the 4th of six children. James has shared that he had experienced some very difficult times as a young boy, including getting a skin graft on his hand that was injured in a washing machine wringer. At the age of 6, the Department of Social Services decided that his mother was not able to care for her children and they were sent to separate foster homes. The foster families reported that James was unmanageable and, at age 9, he was admitted to Rosewood. At age 18, James had acquired a level of independence that could not be denied, and so he was referred to the Brook Forest Residential Program. Over the years, James saw his mother intermittently and occasionally had contact with one or two of his sisters. When James was approximately 28 years old, he moved to Aberdeen and lived with eight other people supported by The Arc and who, like James, worked at NMARC, a sheltered workshop. James's mother died in 1992 and James remembers going to her funeral, but thinking of her still makes him very sad. After James's mother passed away, James lost pretty much all contact with his family members and is currently unable to find any of them. He was able at one point to connect with a popular former professional basketball player who shared his last name, but they were unable to determine if they were actually related. They did determine that they would commit to being brothers anyway, and they agreed, "It doesn't matter if we're blood relatives; we'll always be brothers of the heart." Unfortunately, even the basketball player's life has taken him away from James. James has learned how to make new friends through his super-sized heart, boisterous personality, and contagious sense of humor.

... To Success at Work

James moved on from the sheltered workshop to real jobs. He worked at Wendy's, Bata Shoes, Pizza Hut and had other employment in his community. James is a man who likes variety, and so has currently settled into a sign-posting job and volunteering for Meals on Wheels. He is a strong self-advocate and

has lived with his current roommates, Louie and Joe, in their own home for over 12 years.

... Love

James looks forward to one day fulfilling his dream of marrying his girlfriend, living in his own home, traveling, and continuing to share his gifts of humor, friendship, music, and art.

... To Giving Back to the Community

James does volunteer work and enjoys his favorite pastimes of dancing, fishing, music, bowling, basketball, and painting. James is a conscientious Church member and an unofficial ambassador of The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region.



... To A Full Life

James's journey has taken him from Rosewood to his current life of challenges, adventures, and dreams and possibilities.

... To a Home of My Own

James has recently been recognized for his persistence in advocating for the closing of Rosewood. He presented a yellow rose to Governor O'Malley thanking him for making the closing possible, and the Governor gave James a letter of commendation and gratitude. More recently, James was recognized for his artistic ability and prints of one of his paintings, "The Faces Collection" that was awarded to people who have contributed their time, efforts, and resources to support Arc projects, home renovations, and other opportunities.



FY 2008 Activities and Accomplishments

Education Committee Chair: Nancy Brugh
Staff Leadership: Erin M. Gibson, Esq. – Director of Public Policy, Education & Children's Issues

- The Arc of Maryland provided testimony at legislative hearings on the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) budget, Maryland Legislative Youth Advisory Council, Task Force to Study System Variables that Impact Student Achievement in Underperforming Public Schools, Truancy Rates-Positive Behavioral Interventions & Behavior Modification Programs, Multiple Suspensions, Fitness & Athletics Equity for Students with Disabilities Act, Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation- Policy and Disciplinary Standards, Student Bullying- State and School Policy, Student Behavior Interventions-Use of Time Out, Restraint, and Seclusion, State Board of Education Members- Qualification. Additionally, The Arc of Maryland closely monitored bills regarding Children in a Home School Setting, Children in Informal Kinship Care Relationships, School Construction- State Superintendent Approval- Exemption, Public Schools- Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System Passive Parental Consent, Scholarship Program for Children with a Disability, Local Boards of Education- Harassment and Intimidation in Schools, Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation- School Policy, High School Assessment Requirement, Compulsory Attendance-Age of Withdrawal.
- The Arc of Maryland held a seminar on the Universal Design for Learning at the annual convention in April 2008, with funding support from MSDE and the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council. Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a framework for designing curricula that enable all individuals to gain knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm for learning. UDL provides rich supports for learning and reduces barriers to the curriculum while maintaining high achievement standards for all. Participants of the session learned the principles of UDL and advocacy strategies. The session included state and national speakers and worked toward action initiatives to make this concept a reality throughout the state of Maryland.
- The Arc of Maryland served on the following committees, task forces, coalitions: The Arc of Maryland Education Committee, Education Advocacy Coalition, Special Education State Advisory Committee, Legislative Policy Conferences, IDEA Partnership Meetings, Modified High School Assessment Stakeholder Committee, State MSDE Conference Planning Workgroup, Maryland Youth Leadership Forum, Least Restrictive Environment Strategy Group, Quality Education Workgroup and



Task Force for the Review of High School Assessment Options. Erin Gibson was recently elected Vice Chair of the Special Education State Advisory Committee.

What's next?

UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING

Universal Design for Learning is a research-based guideline for designing curricula for students. This concept maintains high achievement standards for all students while providing an amalgam of supports for learning and reducing barriers that many students have to the curriculum. Universal Design for Learning gives all students a more equal opportunity to learn and helps teachers meet the challenge of diversity by providing flexible instructional materials, techniques, and strategies that allow teachers to meet the varied needs of their students. (For more information please visit www.cast.org or contact egibson@thearcmd.org). The Arc of Maryland will collaborate with other state organizations to work towards action initiatives to make this concept a reality throughout the state of Maryland.

SPECIAL EDUCATION REGULATIONS

The Arc of Maryland is collaborating with locations throughout the state in order to provide edu-

education advocacy

cational and training seminars regarding the implementation of the new IDEA regulations. Additionally, presentations will be offered specifically on inclusion policies and how to use the new Online IEP forms. Please contact us if you would like more information on how to schedule a seminar in your area!

DISPROPORTIONATE DISCIPLINE and DROPOUT RATES

Children with disabilities continue to dropout and are suspended in disproportionately large numbers. The Arc of Maryland, through its membership with the Education Advocacy Coalition, continues to pursue strategies to change this situation for Maryland students.

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS (HSA)

Starting with the class of 2009, students must pass the HSA to graduate and receive a diploma. MSDE convened a task force to address the concerns regarding the linkage of the passage of the HSA to receiving a diploma. The Arc of Maryland served on the Task Force for the Review of High School Assessment Options and will continue to monitor this issue and provide input as it comes into reality this year. The Arc of Maryland advocates for all children to have an adequate opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge.

A BAN ON THE USE OF PRONE RESTRAINT AS A STUDENT BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION

The time is long overdue for Maryland to ban the use of prone restraints to prevent the possibility of further injuries and deaths attributable to this archaic type of restraint. The fact is that face-down (or prone) restraints have been shown to cause serious harm and even death when utilized to physically restrain individuals. The cause of the serious harm or death is attributed to respiratory arrest due to decreased oxygen during a time of increased oxygen demand. Because of the high risk associated with this type of hold, The Arc of Maryland will continue to advocate that schools will be banned from using methods of physical restraint that places a student face down, puts pressure on the student's back, obstructs the airway in any way affecting the student's ability to breathe, prevents staff members from viewing the student's face or restricting the student's ability to communicate their distress.

Schools to Open Fitness and Athletic Programs to Students with Disabilities

By Lauren Young, Esquire, Maryland Disability Law Center

The Fitness & Equity Act for Students with Disabilities became law on July 1, 2008. Sponsored by Senator Jim Rosapepe and Delegate Ann Kaiser and others, the bill was supported by many organizations including sports and disability advocacy organizations, PTA, Girl Scouts, Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Disability Law Center, Women's Sports Foundation, Special Olympics Maryland and the Department of Disabilities. Surrounded by Maryland athletes playing bocce, wheelchair basketball, adaptive tennis, goal ball and other sports activities, Governor Martin O'Malley joined representatives from the Maryland Department of Disabilities, Maryland State Department of Education, and members of the disabilities community to celebrate the passage of the 2008 Maryland Fitness & Athletic Equity Act for Students with Disabilities at a press event at the Ravens Stadium on July 21.

The impetus for the law was the advocacy by Tatyana McFadden and her family. Assisted by the Maryland Disability Law Center, Tatyana challenged school policies that prohibited her from participating in high school track and field competitions. After extensive negotiations with the State Department of Education, some agreements were reached, leading to enactment of the new law.

Starting July 1, Maryland secondary schools must provide students with disabilities equal access to physical education and athletic activities. To the maximum extent possible students with disabilities need to be in programs with students without disabilities. (Exceptions are made if a specific youth presents an actual danger to others from their inclusion or if inclusion requires a fundamental alteration of the activity.)

Schools must provide reasonable accommodations. Examples of reasonable accommodations can include allowing a swimmer with one hand to be exempt from a two hand touch rule; modifying rules in wrestling to provide for "constant contact" to permit participation of a visually impaired wrestler, or providing an interpreter to ensure a deaf or hard of hearing student can play basketball.

The law also recognizes that some students with disabilities cannot fairly compete or participate in physical activities and that other program opportunities need to be developed. All school systems have programs that can be adapted or developed. For instance, a school can readily modify a track and field program to include students of varied abilities. Different divisions may be established based upon abilities, times, or other classifications. Swimming and golf are also readily adaptable. Physical education and intramural programs can be modified to offer new programming focusing on including students with and without disabilities in competitive play. Examples include Special Olympics Unified Sports® programs such as unified soccer, basketball or bocce programs. Schools should

review the numbers, ages and types of students with disabilities whom they serve, conduct outreach to these students and their families, and develop opportunities for participation. Adapted physical education teachers and various community programs for youth with disabilities are valuable resources (e.g. Maryland Chapter of Disabled Sports, USA).

MSDE is required to provide model policies and technical assistance to help schools implement the law. MSDE has authority to adopt regulations and must collect data on the inclusion of students with disabilities in physical education and athletic programs. Beginning February 2009, school systems must begin reporting numbers of students served and initiatives to develop new opportunities.

The Surgeon General reports that physical activity reduces the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and is important in combating childhood obesity. Yet we know that persons with disabilities are



Tatyana McFadden

not getting the same amount of physical activity as do individuals without disabilities. The Board of Education declared that school-based sports programs are an integral part of educational programming. Participation in physical activity promotes healthy living, teaches skills like teamwork, winning and losing, goal-setting and the pursuit of excellence in performance. Schools use tax money to provide athletic and physical activities because of the benefits such programs provide to students. Students with disabilities can benefit from physical education, physical activity and sports participation just like anyone else. This bill was created to ensure that they get the chance to do so.

Let's Talk! It Takes Two to . . . TANGO!

By Beth Munro

You've seen the commercials: the cool young Mac user talking to the old guy – the PC user. There is a new communication device – the TANGO! – that contrasts similarly in the world of Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC).

Developed by the dad of a son with autism in collaboration with experts in the fields of AAC, language and literacy, the TANGO! is sleek, accessible, user-friendly and has features not seen on other devices.

When the TANGO! came out last year, I viewed and interacted with it at www.blink-twice.com and then had a chance to try it in person at a conference. I wanted one for my 14 year-old daughter, Caroline, in a visceral way. The TANGO!, I thought, was built for Caroline and would provide her the opportunity for meaningful conversation.

At the time, Caroline, who has cerebral palsy, was using a computer mounted to her wheelchair for schoolwork, to read books and to play games. Communication boards were available on her computer, but rarely, if ever used. Caroline accesses the computer via 2 switches which allow her to scan and select content. Communication was limited to pre-programmed voice output switches or use of eye gaze to select from 2 options.

I thought it was time for a dedicated communication device and hoped that with the TANGO!

Caroline would be rewarded and empowered by the experience of bona fide conversation.

The experience was "right out of the box". We gave Caroline a day or two to explore and discover the potential of TANGO!. (There are 2,500 pre-programmed phrases in categories such as Hallway Talk, Morning Talk, School Talk and Hanging Out.) She used it appropriately right away, quickly finding some favorite phrases. And yes, sometimes she is inappropriate, returning again and again to phrases that have earned her a laugh or special recognition but easily gets back on track with direction or if she has something she wants to say or comment on.

The TANGO! carries a digital camera on board which is useful for personalizing content, adding pictures of family and friends or to create a record of the day's events. We also see it as an opportunity to be on the newspaper or yearbook staff at school. Maybe even a career!

One of my favorite features is the digitized voice output along with voice morphing capability. An adult can record their voice and then morph the voice to sound like a young boy or girl – no more sounding like a grown-up! Caroline gets her own voice.

So... how does it feel to have your teen look at dinner and say "this sucks"? Unimaginable. Let's keep talking.

continued on page 10

TANGO!

www.blink-twice.com

- Sleek but durable
- Light and portable, can be mounted to a wheelchair
- Intuitive to use and program
- Phrase based content makes the TANGO! accessible to non-readers
- Traditional alphabet boards are still available
- Choice of "characters" as well as language suitable for a child or teen
- Digital voice output with voice morphing
- Good volume control and battery life
- Digital camera on board for personalization
- Excellent technical assistance and support from Blink Twice.



Self Advocacy Seeks New Energy

Vicki Mills and Bill Ohge

People On the Go of Maryland has been noticing a change lately and we are doing something about it! The leadership has seen decreasing membership and participation in self advocacy across the state. Members fear that social activities will take over strong self advocacy efforts. Facilitator support to groups has been changing as well.

Leaders of People On the Go of Maryland will not accept this and choose to make self advocacy stronger and more active in the future. We are working on action steps to remind stakeholders in Maryland of the important need for self advocacy. These steps could include hosting training for group facilitators; participating in conferences or meetings to explain the significance of self advocacy; and working to connect self advocates statewide on a common issue.

One way in which the group seeks new energy



is through a Youth Grant from the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council. Mini-grants were given to three local self advocacy organizations: Working Together of Frederick County; Charles County People On the Go; and STAND Together of Montgomery County. Each of these groups attended a training session and has begun

work on attracting youth and young adult members. The goal is to bring new young members into the local self advocacy groups and mentor them to become involved. All three local groups will be talking with new young members about challenges they want to work on, since they may be different from the more experienced members.

People On the Go looks forward to continuing to grow strong self advocacy across the state through the young, upcoming members and by reminding people who support disability rights that self advocacy is key.

Ask Me!sm is:



- A statewide survey funded by the Developmental Disabilities Administration and managed by The Arc of Maryland (View entire annual report at www.ddamaryland.org)
- A survey of and by people with developmental disabilities about their quality of life through peer interviews.
- Ask Me!sm Survey started in FY 2002 after a pilot project (FY 1998- 2001).
- Quality of Life Survey measures people's perceptions of the quality of their lives. Ask Me!sm is NOT a consumer satisfaction survey about a particular service.
- Ask Me!sm was developed by and with persons with developmental disabilities. The title comes from People on the Go's Signs of Quality: "Did you ask me?"

Using Ask Me!sm Results – The Power of Information

- At individual provider level – statewide trainings, individual consultations/technical assistance, agency Quality Assurance plans, continuous program improvement.
- For individuals who receive services and families to advocate for choice of supports and self determination – Ask Me!sm Unleashed.
- At state level for systems wide improvement

Here's how you can use the Ask Me!sm Data. Choose the domains that are important to you...

- Physical Well-Being • Rights
- Interpersonal Relationships • Social Inclusion
- Personal Development • Emotional Well-Being
- Material Well-Being • Self Determination

Now that you know what domains are important to you and your family, you can look at the provider agency's data in that domain. The data from each provider are on the DDA website. You can access the Ask Me!sm most recent data at: <http://www.ddamaryland.org/ReportableInc/Ask05report.pdf>

How to read Ask Me! agency information:

- Top 20% of agency scores across the state
- ◐ Middle 70% of agency scores across the state
- Bottom 10% of agency scores across the state

Things to think about:

1. The people the provider serves give answers that make the score in each area.

2. How happy are people in the areas that are the most important to you?
3. Is the provider doing a good job in that area?

Feel free to ask questions to provider agencies about their Ask Me! scores and individual domains on the survey. If you would like more information about Ask Me!sm, contact Judy Volkman at The Arc of Maryland – jvolkman@thearcmd.org.

Facts about Ask Me!sm

- ✓ In FY07, 1,172 individuals were interviewed in 43 agencies.
- ✓ 73% of those interviewed answered for themselves, including 25% of those classified with profound mental retardation.
- ✓ Rights scores increased significantly between FY02 and FY07.
- ✓ Quality of life differs among agencies, very positive at some, but negative at others. People need to ask agencies what they are doing to enhance quality of life.

In the future:

- ✓ We want to stay current and fresh so we are now considering new questions for the survey. Focus groups with families of young children, transitioning youth, agencies and national experts are being held. The new survey would be used beginning FY09.
- ✓ Training individuals in Michigan to conduct the Ask Me!sm Survey
- ✓ Presentation by Dr. Gordon Bonham in Vienna, Austria to a consortium of European Nations using a quality of life survey.
- ✓ Possibilities of connections with people in Canada and Australia as they develop a Quality of Life survey.

Self Advocacy Network

Staff Leadership: Tracy Wright/Judy Volkman, Barbara Moore/Shirley Townes, Joana Weaver/Suzy Fletcher

The Self Advocacy Network began as a dream of members of People On the Go of Maryland. They felt that people with disabilities need to be in charge of helping other people with disabilities learn about their rights and be able to speak up for themselves – self determination! Funded by the Developmental Disabilities Administration, SAN now has four regional offices throughout the state.

In FY 2008, 12 training sessions were held, reaching a total of 171 individuals: 111 persons with disabilities and 60 staff. Training is provided around four “toolkits” developed by SAN: Disability 101; Treat Me Right (Rights); Building a Great Life (for staff training); Getting to Know Me (planning).

Fifteen peer mentor matches were made. This coming year’s focus is connecting people who are transitioning from state institutions with community peer mentors as they leave state institutions. Funding is provided through the Money Follows the Person Grant.

I Love Chocolate!

It’s your time once a year to tell your family and friends what you like!

No, this is not your birthday wish list. It’s your annual Individual Plan meeting. The idea is that you share what you like and want to do and your team helps you turn this into reality. Let’s get started!



You: I love chocolate!!!

Team: I’m sorry. That’s not an appropriate choice. You’ll gain weight and get more zits. Besides, we had a dietician develop a healthy eating plan for you.

You: But I love, love chocolate!!!

Team: Let’s choose something else, okay?

You: Sigh – okay. Another thing I really like to do is meet boys. I want a boyfriend.

Team: You know you don’t know how to act appropriately around members of the opposite sex. Besides, does your mother know about this? I don’t see how we can possibly support you to have a boyfriend.



There is just too much that you need to know first and we don’t think you’re ready to handle this.

You: Double sigh – well, okay. I guess I like to take walks and see nature.

Team: That’s a good one! You are gaining weight and it would be a good idea for you to take off some of those extra pounds. We’ll get an exercise program started for you!

You: Well...that’s not really what I meant. But if you think this is best, I will try.

Team: Great! We can get started now on developing a program and goals for you! These meetings are great to have every year so you can choose what you want to do.

You: Yeah, sure.

What if...this is what we had to go through to get the support and encouragement do what we enjoy? SAN provides training to provider staff, self advocacy groups and family support groups to open their eyes and find better ways!

self advocacy

SAN Announces Training Opportunities

Is your self advocacy group, family support group, or agency staff interested in training about self advocacy? The Self Advocacy Network (SAN) offers training on SELF DETERMINATION, RIGHTS, COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS. Training is developed and presented by people with developmental disabilities and available for groups and agencies in Western and Southern Maryland. For more information about scheduling a training and cost, contact Tracy Wright at twright@thearcmd.org.

Eastern Shore Regional Office

Staff Leadership: Suzy Fletcher/Joana Weaver

The Arc of Maryland’s Strategic Plan calls for outreach to underserved areas, especially the Eastern Shore and Western Maryland. In response, The Arc of Maryland and The Arc of the Central Chesapeake Region partnered in creating a new office in Easton, Maryland (Talbot County) in the Upper Shore. Our staff person Suzy Fletcher served as Chair of the Accessibility Committee for the “disAbility Coalition of Talbot County.” The Committee produced an accessibility guide for the Talbot County area for persons with disabilities to know which restaurants, hotels, etc. are accessible. The Guide was a great asset at the Eastern Shore Waterfowl Festival which brings people from all over the state as well as Virginia, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The Arc also co-sponsored an outreach series with The Arc of Central Chesapeake Region to provide free classes for individuals, parents, workers, and friends of persons with developmental disabilities giving information and resources. We continue to be a source for information & referral and are researching to reach further into other counties.



The Eastern Shore Monitoring Project is in the second year of a new three year grant. Funded by a grant from the Eastern Shore Regional Developmental Disabilities Administration Office, this is a survey tool used to discover individuals’ with disabilities views about their quality of life and satisfaction in agencies funded by DDA. The information is used to develop recommendations to the Regional Office and agencies for quality improvement. In the past year seven agencies on the Lower Shore were surveyed with 170 people with disabilities interviewed. We are presently conducting interviews in the Mid Shore counties – 133 people will be interviewed. Two teams of two interviewers and one sign language interpreter have been trained and hired for the three years to protect the continuity and integrity of how the surveys are conducted. Feedback from individuals interviewed has been positive and they appreciate the opportunity to share their views. New data will be analyzed in the coming months and can be viewed at <http://www.ddamaryland.org/>.

Legislature Adopts FY 2009 Budget

- 3% COLA for DDA Community Programs Contingent on Lottery Proceeds
- Transitioning Youth Fully Funded
- Maryland Infants & Toddlers Program Receives Additional \$4.6M for Total \$10.4M
- DORS Waiting List Initiative Receives \$2.3M for 1,600 Individuals
- Community Services Reimbursement Rate Commission Legislation Passes

*Leadership: Carol Fried/Michele Stutzer, Governmental Affairs Committee Co-Chairs;
Cristine Marchand, Executive Director*



Governor O'Malley at DD Day at the Legislature

The 2008 Session of the Maryland General Assembly adjourned on April 7. DDA Community Programs will receive a 1.5% COLA in FY 2009 with the potential of an additional 1.5% increase, thanks to leadership by Senators Kasemeyer (Howard/Baltimore Counties) and Madaleno (Montgomery County) that identified additional funds projected by Over-Attainment of Lottery Proceeds for the COLA (\$13M)! These funds are available only if the lottery over-attainment reaches \$13, which will be known in late August/early September.

Full funding for 625 Transitioning Youth (\$12.3M) was approved. This important program ensures that students who exit school at age 21 years in May-June 2008 will be able to continue skill and habilitation training, career development, and job support. DDA must complete a report by September 1, 2008, about how it prioritizes services to people on the Waiting List and Transitioning Youth. \$3.1M for 50 crisis/emergency placements was funded. The budget falls far short for the over 18,00 people on the DDA Waiting List – \$2.7M for 40 people from the Waiting List Equity Fund. The Waiting List Equity

Fund prioritizes funding to the most elderly caregivers – DDA reports the fund is reaching caregivers in the 70's.

The Arc is pleased to honor four legislators whose leadership stood out this year: Senator Edward Kasemeyer, Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton (Charles County), Delegate Peter Hammen (Baltimore City), and Delegate James Hubbard (Prince George's County). These awards were presented in April at The Arc State Convention.

It's difficult to adequately express our appreciation to the many, many chapters, families, people with disabilities, staff leaders, and board members who devoted so many hours to reviewing legislation, presenting testimony, and contacting legislators on behalf of priority legislation and budget items. The Arc's grassroots body is amazing. Thank you... Thank you... thank you!!!

PRIORITY LEGISLATION

Bills Supported by The Arc of Maryland:

- SB 305/1059 (Senator Middleton/Delegate

MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE

wrap
up

2008

Hubbard) – Community Services Reimbursement Rate Commission was passed by both Houses and enrolled. The legislation extends the operations of this important commission that recommends rates and COLA for community Developmental Disabilities and Mental Hygiene programs.

- **SB 557/HB 589 - Lead Poisoning Prevention Act** passed/signed by Governor.
- **HB 40 – The Flexible Leave Act** – Legislation passed/signed by Governor. The legislation requires businesses with 15 or more employees that already offer sick leave to allow qualified employees to use sick leave for illness of the employee's child, spouse or parent. Employees may only take sick leave time they have already earned and accrued – the legislation does not force employers to increase the sick leave time.
- **SB 849/HB 1411 – Fitness & Athletics Equity for Students with Disabilities Act** – passed/signed by Governor. School systems must ensure that students with disabilities have equal opportunities to participate in fitness and athletics programs, schools must develop programs and policies, and report data. The State Department of Education will develop model policies, offer technical assistance, develop regulations, investigate grievances of parents/students, and submit annual reports to the General Assembly.
- **SB 1 – Maryland Youth Advisory Council** – passed/signed by Governor. The Arc and People on the Go were successful in adding an amendment to the bill that will include issues pertaining to students with disabilities.
- **HB 199 – Public Schools – Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation – Policy and Disciplinary Standards** – passed/signed by Governor.
- **SB 96/HB 285 – Education – Truancy Rates – Positive Behavior Intervention & Support Programs and Behavior Modification Programs** passed/signed by Governor.
- **HB 216 – Hereditary and Congenital Disorders – Newborn Screening** passed/signed by Governor.
- **SB 918 – Long-Term Care Insurance – Pro-**

- hibited Acts – Genetic Information or Genetic Services passed/signed by Governor.
- **SB 612/HB 881 – Procurement – Preference Procurement Program – Individual-with-Disability Owned Businesses** – passed/signed by Governor. Beginning July 1, 2008, individual-with-disability owned businesses will be able to secure contracts under the PPP. Maryland Works reports that Maryland will be the first and only state to open its Preferred Provider Program to consumer-owned businesses.
- **SB 368/HB 805 – Procurement – Preferences – Employment Works Program** – passed/signed by Governor. Key elements of the legislation include elimination of outdated “sheltered workshop” language, expansion of the Pricing and Selection Committee Membership, delineation of coordinating entity duties, and re-naming of the program.
- **HB 280 – Tax Credits for Qualifying Employees with Disabilities – Sunset Extension** – passed/signed by Governor. The Tax Credit for employers who hire individuals with disabilities was due to “sunset” (end) July 1, 2008. In light of the State’s fiscal crisis, the Legislature opted to only extend the credit for one year. This issue will need to be taken up again in the 2009 Legislative Session in order to continue the credit after July 1, 2009.
- **SB 273 – Assistive Technology Guaranteed Loan Program and Fund – Technical Changes** – passed/signed by Governor.
- **HB 114 – All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Task Force** – passed/signed by Governor. Head injuries kill and disable more people younger than 50 than any other type of neurological damage. Head injuries may result in cognitive and communication problems. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, ATV-related injuries in children under age 16 more than doubled from 1995 to 2005 with 40,400 children treated in hospital emergency rooms nationwide in 2005. Child fatalities resulting from ATV accidents have nearly doubled since 1995 with 120 reported deaths in 2005.
- **HB 450 – Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Behavioral Health and Disabilities** – passed/signed by Governor. The legislation adds a deputy secretary to DHMH for the departments of Developmental Disabilities, Mental Hygiene, and Addictions.
- **SB 45/HB 118 – State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life – Membership** – adds the Secretary of the Department of Disabilities and was passed/signed by Governor.
- **SB 792 – Housing Visitability** legislation to expand physical access to new construction did not pass.

Bills Opposed by The Arc of Maryland:

- The prospect of land use of the Rosewood Center after it closes resulted in bills aimed at the property. All failed to pass. HB 785 would have created a state park, thus bypassing typical state agency sale and land procurement processes that could result in proceeds to the Community Services Trust Fund for people on the DDA Waiting List.

- **HB 1234 – State Residential Centers – Study – Services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities** – failed to pass in Committee. The bill required a study on the role of SRCs, staff training and ratio requirements, and other uses of SRCs.
- There were a series of bills to establish a Provider Complaint Hotline at OHCQ, a new Provider Advocacy Group to review licensure revocations by OHCQ, a study on minority participation in contracts for DDA-licensed group homes, and repeal of provisions to allow certain family members to be paid through the Community Attendant Services & Supports Program that were all killed. (HB 553/HB 773/HB 774/HB 783)

Following are bills of interest to the disability community that were passed by the General Assembly and became law.

EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION



SB 1 – Maryland Youth Advisory Council

Establishing the Maryland Youth Advisory Council; providing for the appointment, selection, membership, terms, and duties of the Council; establishing an executive board; providing for the development of an application process; requiring the Council to work with the State Department of Education regarding the granting of school credit for Council service; requiring the Council to hold public meetings, conduct public hearings, propose legislation, and conduct a public awareness campaign; etc.

EFFECTIVE: June 1, 2008
 Senator Lenett

SB 77/HB 169 - Education – Children in Informal Kinship Care Relationships

Requiring a superintendent of schools of a county to allow a child to attend a public school in a school attendance area other than the school in the school where the child is domiciled with the child’s parent or legal guardian if the child lives with a relative in the school attendance area in an informal kinship care relationship due to a serious family hardship and the relative verifies the informal kinship care relationship through a sworn affidavit; requiring affidavits to contain a specified notice; etc.

EFFECTIVE October 1, 2008
 Senators Kelley et al/Delegates Jones et al

SB 96/HB 285 – Education – Truancy Rates – Positive Behavioral Interventions Support and Behavior Modification Programs

Requiring a county board of education to require a school that has a truancy rate that exceeds specified standards to implement a positive behavioral intervention and support program or an alternative, research-based, positive, and effective behavior modification program in collaboration with the State Department of Education; etc.

EFFECTIVE July 1, 2008
 Senators Pugh et al/Delegates Kaiser et al

SB 600/HB 653 - Schools – Early Intervention – Hearing and Vision Screenings

Altering a timeframe when county boards of education & county health departments are required to provide hearing and vision screenings; authorizing further screenings in accordance with policies adopted by a county board of education or a county health department; requiring parents or guardians to report specified information to the county board or the county health department; etc.

EFFECTIVE October 1, 2008
 Senators Conway et al/Delegates Hixson et al

SB 849/HB 1411 – Fitness and Athletics Equity for Students with Disabilities Act

Requiring county boards of education to ensure that students with disabilities have equal opportunities to participate in physical education programs and try out for and, if selected, to participate in mainstream athletic programs; providing for exceptions; requiring county boards to provide specified accommodations; requiring county boards to provide opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in specified competition; etc.

EFFECTIVE July 1, 2008
 Senator Rosapepe/Delegate Kaiser

HB 139 – Task Force to Study Issues related to Students Subject to Multiple Suspensions

Establishing a Task Force to Study Issues Related to Students Subject to Multiple Suspensions; establishing the membership, duties, and designation of the chair of the Task Force; requiring that the Task Force study and report on the feasibility and the fiscal impact of mandating that local school systems throughout the State establish student services teams to provide case management to students who incur one or more suspensions in a school year that result in the student’s absence for 10 or more school days; etc.

EFFECTIVE June 1, 2008
Delegates Stukes et al

HB 199 – Public Schools – Bullying, Harassment, Intimidation – Policy and Disciplinary Standards

Requiring the State Board of Education to develop a model policy prohibiting bullying, harassment, and intimidation in schools; requiring that the model policy include specified information; requiring county boards of education to establish policies prohibiting bullying, harassment, and intimidation in schools based on the model policy; defining “bullying, harassment, or intimidation”; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008
Delegates Rice et al

SB 473/HB 536 – Public Schools – Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System – Passive Parental Consent

Requiring the State Department of Education to require local school systems to utilize passive parental consent before administering the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System survey; requiring local school systems to provide parents with specified statements and forms; requiring that for the year during which the survey will be conducted, denial of permission forms be part of the card that requests emergency contact information; etc.

EFFECTIVE October 1, 2008
Senator Garagiola et al/Delegate Dumais

SB 551– Children in Need of Assistance – Custody Determinations – Prohibition Against Consideration of Disabilities

Prohibiting a court, in determining whether to grant custody and guardianship of a child in need of assistance to a relative or a nonrelative, from considering a disability of the relative or nonrelative, unless the court finds that the disability causes a condition that is detrimental to the best interests of the child.

EFFECTIVE October 1, 2008
Senator Gladden

HB 576 – Children, Youth and Families – Local Coordinating Councils – Membership

Removing the local office of the division of rehabilitation services from the required membership of local coordinating councils for services to children with special needs; and adding a nonvoting representative of the local office of the division of rehabilitative services to represent individuals who are 16 years old or older.

EFFECTIVE October 1, 2008
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HOUSING

SB 305/HB 1059 – Community Services Rate Reimbursement



Commission – Termination Date – Extension and Modifications

Extending the termination date for the Community Services Reimbursement Rate Commission; authorizing the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint a specified number of members to the Commission for a fifth consecutive term; altering a requirement that the Commission assess changes in wages paid by providers to require the Commission to assess the level of and changes in wages paid by providers to direct support workers; etc.

EFFECTIVE July 1, 2008
Senator Middleton/Delegates Hubbard et al

HB 54 – Property Tax – Credit – Accessibility Features

Authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county or of a municipal corporation to grant a tax credit against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on real property equipped with any specified accessibility enhancing design feature; authorizing the county or municipal corporation to provide for the amount and duration of the credit; applying the Act to taxable years beginning after June 30, 2008; etc.

EFFECTIVE June 1, 2008
Delegate Guzzone

HB 218 – Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Living at Home Waiver

Renaming the Community Attendant Services and Support Program to be the Living at Home Waiver Program; transferring the authority for administering the Program from the Department of Human Resources to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; altering the eligibility age to at least 18 years old and under 65 years old for eligible individuals under the Program; etc.

EFFECTIVE July 1, 2008
Chair, Health and Governmental Operations Committee

HEALTH CARE, PREVENTION AND MEDICAID



SB 45/HB 118 – State Advisory Council on Quality of Life at the End of Life – Membership

Requiring the State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life and the Maryland Health Care Commission to jointly undertake a study relating to services for children with life-threatening medical conditions and make recommendations; etc.

EFFECTIVE October 1, 2008
Senator Lennet/Delegates Frush and Hubbard

SB 304/HB 589 – Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations – Influenza Vaccines – Study

Requiring the Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations to study the current availability and anticipated future availability of single-dose influenza

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vaccines for use in the State and evaluate the cost differential between single-dose and multi-dose influenza vaccines; and requiring the Commission to report its findings to committees of the General Assembly by December 1, 2008.

EFFECTIVE June 1, 2008
Senator Middleton/Delegates Kullen and Kipke

SB 557/HB 589 – Lead Poisoning Prevention Act

Requiring a specified application form for a contractor license to require lead paint abatement accreditation number and expiration date if the applicant provides specified lead paint abatement services; requiring a licensee applying for a license renewal to submit to the Maryland Home Improvement Commission a lead paint abatement accreditation number and expiration date if the licensee performs specified lead paint abatement services; etc.

EFFECTIVE October 1, 2008
Senator Gladden/Delegates Oaks et al

SB 682/HB 1452 Medical Assistance Program – Long-Term Care Eligibility – Consolidation Plan

Requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Human Resources, in consultation with specified groups, to develop a plan related to the determination of eligibility for Medical Assistance Program long-term care services; requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Human Resources to submit a report on the implementation of the plan to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before October 1, 2008; etc.

EFFECTIVE July 1, 2008
Senator Middleton/Delegates Weldon et al

SB 828/HB 438 – Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Birth Defects Research – Medical Information

Requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to appoint epidemiologists and parents/guardians of children with birth defects to a committee that makes reports to the Department of Health

and Mental Hygiene concerning children born with birth defects; requiring hospitals to submit reports to the Department within 1 month after the date of release of the child's mother from the hospital; etc.

EFFECTIVE October 1, 2008

Senator Conway/Delegate Hubbard

**SB 918 – Long-Term Care Insurance—
Prohibited Acts – Genetic Tests, Genetic
Information, or Genetic Services**

Prohibiting a carrier or insurance producer of a carrier that provides long-term care insurance from requesting or requiring a genetic test or from using a genetic test, the results of a genetic test, genetic information, or a request for genetic services to take specified actions with regard to long-term care insurance; etc.

EFFECTIVE October 1, 2008

Senator Forehand

**HB 62 – Lead-Containing Children's Products
– Prohibition**

Prohibiting the manufacture, sale, offer for sale, importation, or distribution of specified lead-containing children's products by any means, including through a sales outlet or the Internet; providing that provisions of the Act do not apply to specified electronic devices, specified distribution operations or activities, or specified vehicles, products, parts, or equipment; requiring the Department of the Environment to give notices under specified circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE July 1, 2008

Delegates Hubbard et al

HB 114 – All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Task Force

Establishing an All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Task Force; providing for the membership, duties, selection of a chair, and staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to identify and study major issues related to All-Terrain Vehicle safety; requiring the Task Force to make an interim report of findings and recommendations to the Governor & General Assembly by December 15, 2008, and a final report by May 31, 2009; etc.

EFFECTIVE June 1, 2008

Delegates Kullen et al

**HB 115-Medical Assistance Programs
and Maryland Children's Health Program—
Statements on State-Issued Check Stubs**

Requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to collaborate with the Office of the Comptroller or the Office of the State Treasurer to form a statement advising individuals who cannot afford health insurance that they may be eligible to enroll in specified medical assistance programs or the Maryland Children's Health Program and print the statement on State-issued check stubs; requiring that the statement include contact information; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

Delegates Tarrant et al

**HB 216 – Hereditary and Congenital Disorders
– Newborn Screening**

Establishing in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene a system for screening newborn infants for hereditary and congenital disorders; establishing the Department's public health laboratory as the sole laboratory authorized to perform the screening tests; requiring the Department to establish protocols for obtaining specimens for testing; requiring the Department to determine screening tests to be performed; requiring the Department to conduct a study and submit a report by December 1, 2008; etc.

EFFECTIVE June 1, 2009

Chair, House Health and Government Operations
Committee

**HB 269 – State Board of Nursing – Powers &
Duties – Licensing, Certification & Regulation**

Authorizing the State Board of Nursing to accept a specified alternate method of criminal history records check under specified circumstances; providing that specified applicants may only be issued inactive licenses until the completion of a specified course or program; authorizing the Board to grant specified extensions of specified licenses and certificates; altering to July 2009 the date on which the Board shall begin a process for requiring criminal history records checks; etc.

EFFECTIVE May 2008

Delegate Nathan-Pulliam

**HB 450 – Department of Health & Mental
Hygiene – Behavioral Health & Disabilities**

Altering the number of deputy secretaries to be appointed by the Secretary of Health & Mental Hygiene with the approval of the Governor; requiring the Secretary to transfer responsibility for specified administrations within the Department to the Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health and Disabilities; requiring the Secretary to develop a system of services for individuals with co-occurring disorders, to address systems change, and to identify and implement specified treatment and supports; etc.

EFFECTIVE July 1, 2008

Delegates Hammen et al

**HB 525 – Advisory Council on Prescription
Drug Monitoring – Study**

Establishing an Advisory Council on Prescription Drug Monitoring in the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene; requiring the Council to study the establishment of a prescription drug monitoring program with recommendations to the Secretary of the Department for establishing a prescription drug monitoring program that electronically collects and stores data concerning monitored prescription drugs; etc.

EFFECTIVE June 1, 2008

Delegates Kullen et al

**HB 535 – Morbidity, Mortality, and Quality
Review Committee – Pregnancy and Childhood**

Requiring the Secretary of Health & Mental

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Hygiene to devise and institute specified means to prevent and control morbidity and mortality associated with pregnancy, childbirth, infancy, and early childhood; requiring the Secretary to establish a Morbidity, Mortality, and Quality Review Committee in the Department; requiring the Committee to conduct case reviews, develop and implement specified interventions; etc.

EFFECTIVE October 1, 2008

Delegates Hubbard et al

HB 1391 – Kids First Act

Requiring the Comptroller to send a notice regarding eligibility for the Maryland Medical Assistance Program or the Maryland Children's Health Program to a taxpayer with a dependent child if income reported on a tax return for tax year 2007 does not exceed a specified income eligibility standard; requiring a taxpayer to report on the income tax return the presence or absence of health care coverage for each dependent child; etc.

EFFECTIVE July 1, 2008

Delegates Mizeur et al

EMPLOYMENT

**SB 314 – State
Employment Opportunity
Credit – Sunset
Extension**

Extending by 1 year termination provisions and dates of applicability for tax credits allowed to employers that hire qualified employment opportunity employees or specified qualifying individuals with disabilities; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

Senators Currie and Kasemeyer

HB 40 – The Flexible Leave Act

Authorizing employees of specified employers to use leave with pay for the illness of the employee's immediate family; providing that an employee may only use leave with pay that has been earned; provid-



ing that an employee who earns more than one type of leave with pay may elect the type and amount of leave with pay to be used; requiring an employee who uses leave with pay under the Act to comply with the terms of a collective bargaining agreement or employment policy with a specified exception; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

Delegate Doory et al

HB 368/805 – Procurement – Preferences – Employment Works Program

Naming a specified preference procurement program within the Department of General Services as the Employment Works Program; clarifying the preference priority for specified providers with regard to purchases of specified supplies and services by the State or by specified other entities; altering the membership of the Pricing and Selection Committee for the Program; defining, altering, and clarifying terms and provisions of law; clarifying provisions relating to a specified coordinating entity; etc.

EFFECTIVE July 1, 2008

Senator Conway/Delegate Weldon, et al

SB 612/HB 881 – Procurement – Preference Procurement Program – Individual with Disabilities Owned Business

Expanding eligibility in the preference procurement program for sheltered workshops within the Department of General Services to include a business owned by an individual with a disability under specified circumstances; defining “individual with disability

owned business” and specifying requirements for the business to qualify to participate in the program; requiring the State or specified State aided or controlled entities to buy supplies and services from specified businesses under specified circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE July 1, 2008

Senators Lennet et al /Delegates Weldon et al

MENTAL HEALTH RELATED

HB 116 – Emergency Evaluation Petitions– Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapists

Adding licensed clinical marriage & family therapists to the professionals authorized to diagnose a mental disorder for purposes of seeking an emergency evaluation of an individual; authorizing licensed clinical marriage & family therapists to petition for an emergency evaluation, to sign and submit the emergency evaluation to peace officers; etc.

EFFECTIVE October 1, 2008

Delegates Hubbard et al

OTHER LEGISLATION

SB 686/HB 527 – Task Force to Study the Procurement of Health & Social Services by State Agencies

Establishing a Task Force to Study the Procurement of Health and Social Services by State Agencies; providing for membership and duties of the Task Force; providing for the designation of a chair of the Task Force; authorizing the Task Force to establish specified subcommittees; requiring the departments represented on the Task Force to provide staff for the Task Force; etc

EFFECTIVE July 1, 2008

Senators Rosapepe et al/Delegates Reznik

HB 273 – Assistive Technology Guaranteed Loan Program Fund – Changes

Changing the names of the Assistive Technology Guaranteed Loan Program and Assistive Technology Guaranteed Loan Fund; authorizing the Board of Directors of the Program to provide a borrower with a specified interest rate by either guaranteeing the loan or subsidizing the interest under specified circumstances; repealing a limitation on the total aggregate amount of guarantees; authorizing the Board to annually set the total aggregate amount of loan guarantees to be provided from the Fund; etc.

EFFECTIVE July 1, 2008

Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

HB 505 – Transit Services for Disabled Persons – Criminal History Records Check and Training for Persons Providing Service

Requiring the Maryland Transit Administration & Administration contractors to apply, as specified, for criminal history records checks of their employees who are or will be employed to provide transit service to disabled persons; requiring the Administration to

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ensure that employees & contractors who provide transit service to disabled persons successfully complete training relating to appropriate accommodation for all passengers; etc.

EFFECTIVE October 1, 2008

Delegates Heller and Robinson

HB 767 – Individuals with Disabilities and Parents of Minors with Disabilities – Service Animals

Altering provisions of law establishing rights and privileges for individuals with disabilities to include all individuals with disabilities and the parents of a minor child with a disability; altering provisions of law relating to use of service animals by specified individuals to include all individuals with disabilities and the parents of a minor child with a disability; defining “disability” and “service animal”; etc.

EFFECTIVE October 1, 2008

Delegates Heller et al

HB 1214 – Maryland Not-for-Profit Development Center Program

Establishing the Maryland Not-For-Profit Development Center Program in the Department of Business and Economic Development; requiring the Program to provide specified training and technical assistance services to specified not-for-profit entities; establishing the Maryland Not-For-Profit Development Center Program Fund; requiring the Department to designate a specified number of organizations to implement the Program and providing specified criteria for the designations; etc

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

Delegates Hecht et al

To learn more about specific legislation, you can go to www.mlis.state.md.us. Thank you very much to our local chapters and to the many people who testified at the budget and bill hearings, contacted legislators, responded to action alerts, and attended the Developmental Disabilities Day at the Legislature. Your support was remarkable this year.



We celebrate and recognize outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations to improving the lives of persons with cognitive and developmental disabilities and their families.

The 2008 awards Honorees

President's Cup

This award, selected by the President of The Arc of Maryland, is the Association's highest award and honors an individual who has contributed exceptional leadership to the mission and vision of The Arc and has demonstrated untiring effort and sincere dedication to improving the lives of persons with cognitive and developmental disabilities in the State of Maryland.



Rachel London,
Attorney, Maryland
Disability Law Center—
Baltimore

Legislative Leadership Award

Presented for outstanding legislative leadership in the Maryland General Assembly on behalf of persons with cognitive and developmental disabilities.



**The Honorable
Edward J. Kasemeyer**
Maryland Senate,
District 12 – Baltimore
and Howard Counties



**The Honorable Thomas
"Mac" Middleton**
Maryland Senate, District
28 – Charles County



**The Honorable
Peter A. Hammen**
Maryland House of
Delegates, District 46
– Baltimore City



**The Honorable
James Hubbatd**

Bernard Gould Award

Presented for outstanding volunteer service in governmental affairs.



Carol Fried
Montgomery County

Employer of the Year

Presented to an employer with an exceptional record and ongoing commitment of providing employment opportunities for people with cognitive and developmental disabilities



LOOKS, llc
Howard County

Community Dignity Award

Presented for significant contribution to the dignity of persons with cognitive and developmental disabilities and promoting their inclusion in the community to lead meaningful lives.



Quest Fitness – Harford County

Self Advocate of the Year

Presented to an individual who strives to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, helps others become involved and advocate for themselves.



Jessica Stine
Washington County



Michele Stutzer—
Harford County

Outstanding Advocate of the Year

Presented to an individual who has distinguished him/herself through exceptional advocacy on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities.



Wendy Kronmiller, Director, Office of Health Care Quality,
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Baltimore

Outstanding Professional of the Year

Presented to an individual who has demonstrated professional excellence in

the field of cognitive and developmental disabilities and has made a significant contribution to the support, treatment, and quality of life of persons with disabilities.

The Arc Outstanding Employee of the Year—Administration/Program Management

Presented to The Arc employee in Administration/Program Management who has made the greatest contribution to his/her organization and the mission of The Arc through both personal and professional efforts.



Judy Volkman
The Arc of Maryland

The Arc Outstanding Employee of the Year Gilbert John Zucchi Direct Service Award



Jackie Anderson
The Arc of Prince
George's County

Presented to The Arc employee in a direct service capacity who has made the greatest contribution to his/her organization and the mission of The Arc through both personal and professional efforts.

Stanley S. Sidle Memorial Citizenship Award

Presented to an individual with developmental disabilities for outstanding participation in or contribution to the community. This award is presented to a person who has contributed fully in his or her community in some outstanding way, such as a demonstration of leadership through community service or self-advocacy.



Anna Burkett
Anne Arundel County

Outstanding Media Excellence Award



Deborah Weiner
WBAL-TV News Team – Baltimore

“Light the Fire” Meritorious Service Awards

Presented to an individual or organization that has distinguished itself through a significant programmatic activity benefiting citizens with cognitive and developmental disabilities in Maryland.



Education Partnership Initiative,
The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region – Harford County

Red Wiggler Community Farm

Red Wiggler Community Farm
Montgomery County



The Arc of Howard County Light Enhancement Program

The **2008** awards
Honorees

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR



Doris Rowe
The Arc of Baltimore



Paul Rose
The Arc of Frederick County



Cole Schnorf
The Arc of Howard County



Anna Burket
The Arc of Maryland



Michael McLaughlin
The Arc of Prince George's County



Mark Todd
The Arc of Southern Maryland

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Membership is the heart of The Arc. We are proud of our 7,003 members across the state. Strong local membership results in a strong state and national organization. Thank you to our local membership chairs and each chapter's President and Executive Director for all your hard work

Membership Achievement Award

The Arc of the Central Chesapeake Region
Highest increase in number of individual members for 2007



The of Frederick County
Highest percentage increase in membership for 2007

Membership “Per Capita” Award

The Arc of Southern Maryland
Highest number of members per 1,000 of population in 2007

Certificates of Achievement

Official appreciation for an achievement, gift or act that deserves special recognition.



Shawna Capotosto
Frederick County



Eugene Mark
Montgomery County

***Janet Tanner**
Prince George's County*
(not pictured)

April Annual Meeting Holds Elections for FY 2009 Leadership



Congratulations to the newly elected and re-elected officers and directors-at-large who join the board of directors!

Officers:

President: Steve Pyles* – HD Vest Investment (Prince George's County)

Vice President: Carol Fried* – Psychotherapy Private Practice (Montgomery County)

Secretary: Curtis Royster* – Department of Defense (Montgomery County)

Treasurer: William Oliver – Clifton Gunderson LLP (Baltimore)

Immediate Past President: Ed Worff* – Retired Military (Anne Arundel County)

Directors-At-Large

Nancy Brugh* – Harford County Public Schools (Harford County)

Anna Burkett* – M.A.D.E. (Anne Arundel)

Janice Caro, PhD.* – Columbia Associates in Psychiatry (Montgomery County)

John Follett* – Washington CO. Board of Education (Washington County)

Carol Fried* – Psychotherapy Private Practice (Montgomery County)

Beth Greenland* – Greenland & Associates (Baltimore County)

Michael Mack* – Renegade Graphic Design, Inc. (Montgomery County)

Roger Marcotte* – Capital Guide Services (Montgomery County)

Eugene Mark, Jr. Esq. – First Washington Title (Montgomery County)

Bill Ohge, Jr.* – US Census Bureau (Prince George's County)

Linda Pinos* – Anne Arundel Co Public Schools (Howard County)

Jackie Ring – Horizon Foundation (Howard County)

Michele Stutzer – R.N. (retired) (Harford County)

Andrea Walbrook, Ph.D. – Sheppard Pratt Health System (Prince George's)

People on the Go of Maryland Representative

Bill Ohge, Jr.* – US Census Bureau (Prince George's County)

Philip Weinberg* – O'Melveny & Meyers LLP (Montgomery County)

Maryland Conference of Executives Representative

Tim Quinn (The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region)

Bios for FY 2009 Slate of Officers and Directors

President – Steve Pyles, Prince George's County, Parent

Born in Caswell County, North Carolina, Steve's educational experience includes a BS degree in Physics from Virginia Tech and MBA from Savannah State University. Steve is actively involved in the following community activities:

- Two times political appointee to the Parent Community Advisory Board that has oversight of the Prince George's County Public School Board
- Vice President of The Arc of Maryland; Past President of The Arc of Prince George's County.
- Board Member of the Indian Head Highway Area Advisory Council, protecting the quality of life for those living in the Fort Washington area.
- Appointee to the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council
- Member of numerous civic associations: North-Tantallon Civic Association, American Legion, National Naval Officers Association, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- Member of various professional organizations: World Financial Group, World Group Securities, National Association of Tax Preparers, National Association of Enrolled Agents

After retiring from the Navy where he served for

22 years as a Naval Flight Officer, Steve worked 13 years for Lockheed Martin as a Program Assessment and Integration Manager. He has recently retired from MORI Associates of Bethesda and is now a Financial Advisor with HD Vest Investment.

Vice-President – Carol Fried, Montgomery County

Carol has been active with The Arc of Maryland's Waiting List Campaign for the past three years. In 2006 she became a member of The Arc of Maryland's Governmental Affairs Committee. In 2007 she represented The Arc at legislative hearings and Developmental Disabilities Day. In 2007 she joined The Arc of Maryland's Board of Directors and became the Co-Chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee. She is a clinical social worker in private practice in psychotherapy. Her 22-year old son David has cognitive and developmental disabilities and is her inspiration for her advocacy work.

Carol grew up in Montgomery County, Maryland, and moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan to attend college and earned a Master's Degree in Social Work. She returned to the Metropolitan/ D.C. area to work in Loudoun County, Virginia, as a foster care social and moved back to Montgomery County in 1984. For the past 22 years she has been in private practice as a psychotherapist. During this same period she and her husband have been raising their son David who has significant challenges. Carol has been a perennial volunteer in the school system and community. Carol has brought David to Annapolis to testify in support of DDA Funding for Transitioning Youth and the Waiting List. She has also worked with the DD Coalition as a family spokesperson for the Waiting List Campaign.

Carol believes that The Arc of Maryland's mission statement is a civil rights under-pinning for citizens with cognitive and developmental disabilities. For her, the statement implies a commitment to increasing social awareness and developing laws and community services to make full community integration a reality. "I am passionately committed to changing our world, so that my son David and all other citizens with cognitive and developmental disabilities can enjoy rich, free lives in their communities."

Treasurer – William Oliver, Baltimore County

Bill Oliver is a partner with Clifton Gunderson LLP, where he serves as Partner-in-Charge of the Washington, DC office and also serves as the firm's Director of Federal Government Services. Bill also serves on the firm's Partnership Board. He received his Bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech and has over 28 years' experience in public accounting. His professional interest and expertise includes auditing, financial accounting and reporting, quality control and peer review. Bill currently works almost exclusively with the firm's public sector clients including federal government agencies, state and local governments and not-for-profit agencies.

Bill is a licensed CPA in Maryland and DC, and is a certified fraud examiner and certified government

financial manager. He has chaired the Maryland Association of CPA's Peer Review Committee, Ethics Committee and currently serves as a member of the Ethics Committee. He is an active member of the American Institute of CPAs and serves on the FASAB Liaison Task Force. He also serves on the Association for Government Accountant's Audit Committee and National Awards Committee.

Bill is active in the community, serving on the United Way of Central Maryland Board of Directors since 1997. He is currently the Vice-Chair and serves on the Executive Committee. Bill also serves on the Board of The Arc of Baltimore. He is a past-president and currently serves on the Executive Committee, Finance Committee and Development Committee. In addition, Bill is the Treasurer of Mays Chapel United Methodist Church.

Secretary – Curtis Royster, Montgomery County, Parent

Curtis Royster, Jr. is married over 22 years and the father of 3 children: 2 sons and 1 daughter. My oldest has Cerebral Palsy who will be 19 this year. My daughter is currently 16 and my youngest is 11. My family goal is for my family members to integrate, play together and be personal friends but have their independent lives as we grow together.

Curtis served as PTA Treasurer for Longview Special School for over 10 years. He was a strong advocate for convincing Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to build a new non-center based school. He worked within the Germantown community to allow the new school to be part of the Germantown environment. He is a strong advocate for the transitioning youth initiative and education areas.

My highlight accomplishment in disability advocacy was: Enacted Maryland State Law and Montgomery County law on Extended School Year (ESY) by leading a class action court case on this matter for over 10 years. Curtis is active with The Arc of Montgomery County, serving on the Board of Directors and its Education and Finance Committees.

Professionally, Curtis is Chief of Architecture, Requirements and Interoperability Assessments, providing Senior Technical Advisory to the Department of Defense Chief Architects. Among his specialties are systems and software engineering, project management, technical architecture views, information technology, IT legislative policy and procedures, functional economic analysis and cost models, and technical assessment and cost estimate.

Curtis holds a Masters degree in Systems Engineering, George Mason University (Sept. 1998); Master's Cert., Computer IT Systems, George Mason University (May 1997); and his B. S. Computer System Science, University of District of Columbia (1982).

Immediate Past President – Ed Worff, Anne Arundel County

Involved with The Arc for several years, Ed Worff has served three terms as President of The Arc of Maryland. Previously, he served as The Arc of Maryland's Treasurer from 2001 to 2003. He is the immediate Past-President of The Arc of Anne Arundel

County, where he served two terms. He has made presentations and advocated on issues related to developmental disabilities before various Maryland legislative committees and the President's Committee on Mental Health and Retardation.

A retired Federal employee, his prior experience includes serving as the Director of the U.S. Navy's Plant Equipment Support Office, with responsibilities for acquisition and management of equipment used in Navy industrial facilities; service in various offices of his community association; and as a member of the Board of Directors of COMHAR, a community-based organization providing services for individuals with disabilities in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

His educational experience after high school includes course work at Temple University, graduation with a certificate in Naval Shipyard Technology upon completion of a four-year apprenticeship as a marine electrician at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, and completion of various technical and management courses offered by the Navy and local colleges as well as attendance at several convention and training sessions sponsored by The Arc of the U.S.

Married to his wife Pat for 39 years, he is the father of two daughters—Patty, his adult daughter who has a developmental disability and lives in her own apartment, and Michele Lowe, who lives in Gaithersburg with her husband and two children.

His principal goals as President are to help to carry out The Arc's Strategic Plan, extend the knowledge of best practices to all local chapters, and expand the visibility of the organization throughout the state.

Directors for 3 Year Positions

Nancy Brugh, Harford County, Parent

After living at Aberdeen Proving Ground on three occasions during her 28 years as an Army wife, Nancy and her family have put down permanent roots in Harford County. She has come full circle (or 'cross state) since her birth during a blizzard in Garrett County a number of years ago. Although she is a West Virginia native, Nancy and her husband Kone have chosen to make Harford County their home because of its friendly, small town atmosphere and the unique opportunities it offers Blair, their twenty-four year-old son with autism and developmental disabilities. Blair has been a consumer at The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region for the last three years, and Nancy has been a Board of Directors member during that time serving as an Elected Director and as Secretary. She also brings an educator's perspective to The Arc as a Transition Resource Teacher for Harford County Public Schools where she facilitates the transition of young adults with disabilities from school to adult support agencies. She serves as the current chair of The Arc of Maryland Education Committee.

Nancy brings a "big picture" perspective to the disabilities arena as a mother, a Board member of The Arc, and as a Special Educator. As well as advocating for people with disabilities, Nancy advocates for her peers: parents and family members of people with disabilities. She is a member of the Autism Society of America and the Council for Exceptional Children: the Division on Career Development & Transition.

Janice Caro, Montgomery County, Parent

Janice grew up in a suburb of New York City and attended both undergraduate (Cornell University) and graduate school in psychology (Syracuse University) in upstate New York before moving to Maryland in 1984. She describes herself as a product of a family that believed in service to the community: "I remember at the age of thirteen, I had my first experience volunteering at a Therapeutic Day Care center which at that time had the revolutionary idea of mainstreaming preschoolers with emotional and physical challenges with their typical age counterparts (it was 1971). I remember only viewing this program as unique when others from all over the New York metropolitan area came to see it. To me it was just a day care center with active and happy preschoolers. Little did I know that 25 years later I would be the clinical consultant to one of two therapeutic nursery centers licensed in the state of Maryland."

Janice majored in English Literature as an undergraduate but filled her summers with work within the field of special education and psychology, including as a lifeguard at a United Cerebral Palsy Day Camp (Westchester, NY). This experience was invaluable many years later when her second child was born with multiple disabilities (including bilateral deafness and quadriplegia cerebral palsy). Prior to her birth, Janice's professional life as a psychologist spanned mental health settings in medical hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, residential treatment facilities, community outpatient, and private practice. "While I viewed myself as a good listener, empathetic, and a good advocate for those I worked with after the birth of my daughter these skills became incredibly sharpened as it became very personal for my family."

"I am beholden to my daughter for making me such a better therapist and child advocate. Through her, our family has been introduced to the world of both deafness and those with significant physical challenges. Often programs serve one or the other and thus the path for finding the right services has been long and hard fought. When there haven't been any services that would serve both of her disabilities, I have had to learn how to broker connections between two services that only saw their mission as serving one of her disabilities."

Technology has been such an essential part of her daughter's growth and development that Janice became associated with the Maryland Assistive Technology Cooperative and serves as a board member.

Beth Greenland, Baltimore County, Parent

Beth has a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and a Master's Degree in Applied Behavioral Science. Currently she manages a consulting firm that focuses on strategic planning, executive coaching, conflict mediation, staff training and development, meeting facilitation and organization development consultation to clients in the non-profit, public and private sectors. Her volunteer work includes serving on the Board of Parents Place, Loch Raven Business Association and American Heart Association – Maryland Chapter.

Beth says the following about her family: "Our family has been so shaped by our son Andy's dis-

abilities – in many positive ways – but we also have experienced first-hand the barriers in the community that people with disabilities face – barriers to acceptance and participation in community activities, barriers in access to events, barriers to self worth as a result of rejection and feeling “less than”, others. I so want to create a community where there is no “less than”, where people with disabilities are appreciated for who they are and what they offer, where they can live full and fulfilling lives in the community.”

Roger Marcotte, Montgomery County, Parent

Roger Marcotte, born May 5, 1945 in Rochester, NH, is the middle child (one of twelve children) of Edward and Theresa Marcotte. Roger has a son Ray, who has Rubinstein-Taybi’s syndrome, an off-setting of chromosome 16, which occurs in one out of every 15,000 persons. Roger is a board member of The Arc of Montgomery County (since 1994). He was President of the Board from 1995-1997. He was a representative of the local chapter on The Arc of Maryland board from 1997 to 2003. He served on the Montgomery County Mental Health Assoc. from 1995-2001. He has attended every National Convention of The Arc from 1998 to 2004. He previously was a staffer for Congresswoman Connie Morella from 1987-2003. He remains active politically and is a strong advocate for disability issues.

Jackie Ring, Howard County

Jackie Ring is the Senior Program Officer for the Horizon Foundation. Prior to joining the staff of the Foundation she had a 30-year career with The Arc of Howard County, having served as Deputy Executive Director, Director of Residential Services and Director of Special Programs. She brings a strong skill set that includes high level program management, fund raising and development expertise, in-depth knowledge of the non-profit community, and the field of developmental disabilities. Her involvement with and commitment to people with cognitive and developmental disabilities became more than a professional interest and over time has become both a personal and family value whereby all people are accepted and included for the gifts and talents they have and bring to the community at large, thus enriching the community for all its members. Jackie is a graduate of the University of Maryland College Park and holds a Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of Maryland Baltimore.

She is a resident of Ellicott City in Howard County where she lives with her husband Mike. She has two daughters who reside in Colorado. Jackie currently serves as the chair of The Arc’s Fund Development Committee and is a member of the Finance Committee.

2009 Nominating Committee

Donna DePamphilis, Charles County, Parent

Donna is a single parent to Rashawn, age 15. Rashawn is the center of her life. She has to overcome many challenges daily due to her disabilities but never

allows them from becoming roadblocks that may stop her from moving forward. While working on her undergraduate degree, Donna was a Direct Care staff and a Habilitation Specialist for New York State Department of Mental Retardation for 8 years. After earning her Masters Degree in Special Education from Adelphi University in New York, she wanted a chance to teach students in their community. Luckily for her there was a job opening in Maryland and 20 years later she still loves her job teaching students with moderate and severe disabilities in Charles County.

Tonia Ferguson, Esq., Baltimore City

Tonia is the parent of a son with Down syndrome who is fully included in a typical first grade class in his neighborhood school. She was a 2006 Kennedy Foundation Fellow and she is currently the Director of Baltimore Families First, a One Stop Resource Center for families parenting or caring for a child and or youth with developmental disabilities, mental health, or behavioral health needs in Baltimore City. Tonia serves on numerous committees and boards including The Arc of Baltimore and The National Down Syndrome Congress. Tonia believes families with dis-

abilities must be supported to pursue their unique hopes and dreams in the community where they live because “Together We’re Better.”

Beatrice “Bea” Rodgers, Prince George’s County

Bea is currently Executive Director of Resource Connections of Prince George’s County, Inc, a private non-profit agency providing resource coordination or case management supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families who reside in Prince George’s County. Formerly, Bea served as the Director of the Governor’s Office for Individuals with Disabilities in the Glendening Administration with overall responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, administration of federally funded programs and disability policy analysis for the State. Ms. Rodgers has close to 40 years experience directing programs and agencies in both the private and public sectors of human services as well as extensive experience in volunteer leadership on various human service boards of directors in Prince George’s County and the state of Maryland.



**THE ARC OF MARYLAND, INC.
Statement of Activities
July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007**

Support and Revenue

Government Agencies	676,212
Direct Public Support	57,710
Membership Dues and Assessments.	232,062
Net Income from Investments	34,213
Special Events	87,244
Other	25,497
Total Support and Revenue	1,112,938

Expenses

Program Services	1,007,826
Management & General	103,093
Fundraising	11,586
Lobbying	23,083
Total Expenses	1,145,588

Change in Net Assets	(32,450)
Net Assets---Beginning of Year	321,313
Net Assets---End of Year	288,863



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2007-2008

FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Louis J. & Ruth G. Herr Foundation
JJ Haines Foundation
The Joan P. Karasik Charitable Lead Trust
Maryland Department of Disabilities
Maryland Department of Education
Maryland Department of Mental Health and Hygiene
Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration
Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CATALYSTS \$1000

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Columbia Triathlon
John Donoho
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Opal E. Gentner
Greenland & Associates
Eugene Mark
Marketing Partners Inc.
Metro Business Systems
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