

Statewide Listening Tour with The Arc Press Release



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The Arc Maryland Hosts Statewide Listening Tour

Family members of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities invited to meet with The Arc to discuss needs of the community and influence statewide efforts for improved access to services.

Statewide, MD - The Arc Maryland is holding a Statewide Listening Tour, hosting eight sessions spanning December 17, 2019 to January 8, 2020 across Maryland. Sessions will be attended by family members of people with I/DD and leadership from local chapters of The Arc who provide services to individuals with I/DD. The Listening Tour aims to collect stories from families about their experiences accessing services and supports for their loved ones, and provides opportunities for families to share what they want for their loved ones to help guide grassroots advocacy efforts for The Arc Maryland and partnering chapters of The Arc in 2020 and beyond.

Registration for The Arc Maryland's Statewide Listening Tour is open and participation is free to all. Sessions will take place in Aberdeen, Annapolis, Baltimore, Cambridge, Frederick, Prince Frederick, Rockville, and Upper Marlboro. A session will likely be held in Salisbury in the early months of the year as well. Registration for tour sessions can be found at <http://www.thearcmd.org/statewide-listening-tour/> along with details on times, dates, and locations for each session.

"Maryland's Developmental Disabilities Service system is in the midst of a major, multi-faceted and involved transformation, unlike anything we have seen in more than 25 years in our state. It is important that families not only have the opportunity to provide feedback to these changes, but are also actively included in the framing of what is to be; based on what families need now for their children, and what they perceive they will need in the future," said Ande Kolp, Executive Director of The Arc Maryland.

The information collected through the Listening Tour will be used to create a report on the needs and wishes of family advocates that will be available on The Arc Maryland's website by February 2020. Stories will be treated as confidential to source, unless express permission is provided for the sharing of identifying details.

The Arc Maryland is a leading statewide non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to the rights and quality of life of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more information about The Arc Maryland and our work, please view our website at www.thearcmd.org, or contact us by phone (410) 571-9320. ###