

2020 SLI PROGRAM SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

July 14

General Session

Maintaining High Energy Through Challenging Times: We Learned, We Survived, and We Are Stronger for it!

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET

[Alonzo Kelly](#), Principal, Kelly Leadership Group

As COVID-19 spread and governments and businesses issued closures and work-from-home directives, many experienced fear, sadness, and anger. In the face of so much uncertainty, it was easy to lose composure—but keeping calm and focused enables leaders to step back, critically evaluate, and face problems head-on. In this session, you will learn tips and lessons for staying composed during challenging times and how to be prepared for future crises that may affect your organization.

Breakout Sessions

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm ET

Myths and Magic: Finding and Retaining DSPs and Other Staff

[John Nash](#), Executive Director, The Arc of North Carolina

In a world where direct support professional turnover is outrageously high and enormously expensive, the task of finding, retaining, and inspiring quality staff weighs heavy on us all. It is the challenge of our time, with no easy solutions. This session will explore the myths of what it takes to find staff as well as the magic that you can employ to hold onto to successfully lead and inspire these critical members of your team. Presenters will discuss the costs and impacts of turnover; what you can and cannot control; common mistakes and how to avoid them; and strategies for creating a measurable impact.

Building Full Lives: A Blueprint for Service Transformation

[Shannon Webb](#), Consultant, InControl Wisconsin; [Molly Cooney](#), Employment Outreach Specialist, Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

In this session, learn about the efforts of the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities to collaborate with other organizations in the state to develop a best practice model of community-based services. The service model supports people to safely explore, connect, and contribute to their communities while developing specific life skills. It has also been used by organizations to create a community of practice and mentorship, as well as transform from facility-based to community-based services. In this presentation, the essential elements of the Building Full Lives service model will be shared, as well as success stories, lessons learned, and advice from organizations in Wisconsin who have been transforming their organizations using it.

WEEK 2

July 21

General Session

Provider Services: How Did We Continue to Provide Direct Services During a Crisis?

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm ET

[Amber Nelson](#), Director of Arts and Education, The Arc of the Capital Area; [Gabrielle Szarek](#), Director of Transition Services, St. Louis Arc; [Stanford Perry](#), Executive Director, AHRC Nassau; [Teri Hawthorne](#), Executive Director, The Arc of the Greater Beaumont

Adapting to the disruption caused by COVID-19 has forced many providers to review, innovate, and redesign infrastructure to continue providing services and support to people with disabilities, their families, and employees. In this session, you will learn how some chapters of The Arc quickly responded to the crisis, lessons learned, and what they might do differently in the future.

Breakout Sessions

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm ET

Paid Leave Proposals: What Does It All Mean?

[Bethany Lilly](#), Director of Income Policy, The Arc

Congress passed an emergency Paid Family and Medical Leave program for the first time as part of the response to COVID-19, following the nine states that have passed and improved paid leave programs over the past several years. What have we learned about making sure that paid leave programs work for people with disabilities and their families? What issues should state and federal policymakers pay attention to when crafting new policies? Learn about the impact of recent paid family and medical leave policy changes, major differences between the federal emergency and state programs, what paid leave issues are being considered by federal policymakers, and related advocacy opportunities.

Out of the Comfort Zone: Using Self-Awareness to Develop Staff

[Pam Verbarq](#), Executive Director, The Arc of Greater Boone County

In this session, participants will learn about a program being utilized to build internal capacity and develop employees at all levels of the agency. The program focuses on not only continued development of leadership within the agency but providing tools to employees at all levels for personal and professional growth. The program is built to develop leaders, as well as develop employees to perform at optimum levels in their current positions. This program is unique and differs in its approach from others, as self-awareness is at the core for development of each employee plan for growth. Each employee's journey is driven by them personally, as are the outcomes.

WEEK 3

July 28

General Session

Impact of COVID-19 on Policy and People in the Disability Community

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm ET

The Arc of the United States Public Policy Team
[Julie Ward](#), Senior Executive Officer of Public Policy;
[Nicole Jorwic](#), Senior Director of Public Policy;
[Bethany Lilly](#), Director of Income Policy;
[Molly Burgdorf](#), Director of Rights Policy;
[Annie Acosta](#), Director of Fiscal and Family Support Policy; [Mike Nagel](#), Program Associate

The growing impact of COVID-19 on our economy has resulted in many legislative solutions from states and the federal government. The Arc's Public Policy team will discuss what The Arc is doing at a federal level to engage and educate legislators and how chapters and other disability organizations can intensify their own grassroots advocacy efforts. Legislation around home and community-based services, paid leave, Social Security, access to medications, supplies and PPE, and care rationing will be discussed.

Breakout Sessions

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm ET

21st Century Membership Organizations: Protecting Services and Growing New Leaders

[Edison McDonald](#), Executive Director, The Arc of Nebraska; [Sarah Swanson](#), Assistant Professor UNMC/MMI, Family Support Coordinator, Munroe Meyer Institute

Membership organizations are radically changing, and we need to adapt. Through a quantitatively driven conversation, we will walk through how to help evolve your organization into the 21st Century that is ready for new generations of engagement. We will be looking at Nebraska's Campaign to #EndtheList as a key case study.

Access, Equity, and Inclusion: Modeling Leadership in Uncertain Times

[Ariel Simms](#), Senior Program Manager & Attorney, Access, Equity, & Inclusion, The Arc; [Bianca Anderson](#), Director, ProInspire

People with disabilities are members of various communities, including communities of color and the LGBTQIA+ community. We don't always have a great understanding of how identities may intersect and change an individual's experience. Current leadership models are often white-dominant and do not integrate equity into leadership, including strategic thinking and managing change. This can prevent organizations from moving towards a more inclusive future, especially in a time of crisis. Presenters will share ProInspire's Leadership Competency Model that brings equity into expectations for leaders and provide an overview of resources available to organizations to become leaders in access, equity, and inclusion.

WEEK 4

August 4

General Session

How Do We Continue to Advocate for People With I/DD in Times of Crisis?

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm ET

[Shira Wakschlag](#), Director of Legal Advocacy & Associate General Counsel, The Arc;
[Kristen McKiernan](#), Senior Executive Officer of Communications & Marketing, The Arc;
[Claire Manning](#), Director of Advocacy & Mobilization, The Arc; [Veronica Chavez Neuman](#), Executive Director, The Arc of New Mexico; [Elizabeth Bostic](#), Mother/Advocate

The current pandemic has highlighted more than ever before the disparities that people with disabilities still face in our society. Health care rationing policies induced anxiety and fear. If needed, would people with disabilities be the last to be tested, to obtain personal protective equipment, to have access to ventilators? In this session, you'll learn about how states addressed care rationing, the response of The Arc's national office, and how chapters of The Arc mobilized their grassroots to fight for people with disabilities to receive the same respect and standard of care as anyone else.

Breakout Sessions

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm ET

Are You Ready to Make the Disability Vote Count?

[Claire Manning](#), Director of Advocacy & Mobilization, The Arc; [Stacey Ramirez](#), Executive Director, The Arc of Georgia

Are you ready for the 2020 elections? Come learn about strategies and resources to make the disability vote count! There was a big increase in the number of people with disabilities who voted in the 2018 election. While this is good news, people

with disabilities still face many barriers to casting their ballot. Session participants will learn about the latest tools and materials from The Arc of the United States for voter and candidate engagement, including plain language fact sheets and voter guides. You will also hear from The Arc Georgia on their 2020 outreach plans including grassroots, working with the REV-UP Georgia coalition, and more.

Hot Topics in Education Advocacy: Supporting Students with Disability-Related Behaviors

[Shira Wakschlag](#), Legal Director, The Arc;
[Liz Ford](#), Executive Director, The Arc of West Virginia;
[Tashiana Stafford](#), Notre Dame Legal Fellow,
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights; [Alice Abrokwa](#), Senior Attorney, National Center for Youth Law

This session will explore legal advocacy efforts by The Arc and others to ensure that students with disability-related behaviors receive the supports they need to thrive in the general education environment, alongside their peers without disabilities. The discussion will cover a range of advocacy efforts by The Arc and others as well as addressing the intersection of race and disability with regards to these students. Attendees will also learn how organizations may find ways to partner with journalists who can help uncover systemic issues facing students with disabilities and how their reporting can be used to help achieve reforms.

WEEK 5

August 11

General Session

Developing a Plan to Address the Financial Impact of COVID-19 on an Organization

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm ET

[Lauren Frary](#), Executive Director, The Arc of Somerset County; [Don Redden](#), Executive Director, Dickson Developmental Services; [Vicki Smead](#), The Arc of Multnomah Clackamas;
[Mary Van Haneghan](#), Chief Executive Officer, The Arc of the Capital Area

As closures and quarantines forced programs and revenue streams to grind to a halt, many chapter leaders scrambled to deal with the financial impact while managing staff, programs, and especially the people they serve. In this session, chapter leaders will discuss the plans they developed to address this issue, how they revised their plans as situations changed, and what they would do differently during a future crisis.

Breakout Sessions

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Collaborating to Deliver LTSS to Medicaid Members with Complex Needs

[Michael Hammond](#), Vice President, Product and Partnership Development, Optum Behavioral Health; [Sara Goscha](#), National Director, Complex Care Populations, UnitedHealthcare

Delve into the lessons learned in implementing managed care for long term services and supports (LTSS) for Medicaid complex populations. Presenters will discuss the advantages and challenges regarding service delivery changes under a managed care approach. They will also outline key considerations on how program managers and providers can better work together to best coordinate medical care with LTSS including nursing and intermediate facility care, as well as home- and community-based services (HCBS) for persons with disabilities.

Addressing the Needs of Older Caregivers and Adults with I/DD

[Liz Mahar](#), Director of Family & Sibling Initiatives, The Arc; [Kerry Mahoney](#), Director of Outreach & Education, The Arc Massachusetts

There are many adults with an intellectual and/or developmental disability living around the country with older caregivers that are disconnected from the disability service system. Barriers such as lack of knowledge, fear, difficulty navigating the system, lack of affordable housing and public transportation, and difficult family dynamics prevent families from planning for the future. Learn from staff at The Arc of Massachusetts and The Arc's Center for Future Planning about how your organization can build your family support capabilities and resources. In addition, learn more about ways to leverage existing partnerships and develop new ones specifically in the aging community to better support families that you serve.

WEEK 6

August 18

General Session

A Crisis Happened! How Do We Move Forward Without Fear?

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET

[Alonzo Kelly](#), Principal, Kelly Leadership Group

The pandemic crisis put many organization's structure, finances, and program services in jeopardy. The need to quickly set up new policies, procedures, and infrastructure has shown preexisting systems may not have been equipped to handle the strain of a crisis like COVID-19. So how do organizations modify old procedures to account for potential future crises? Now is the time to reflect, refresh, and rethink. Alonzo Kelly will discuss how to move forward with new ideas without moving in fear.

Breakout Sessions

4:00 – 5:00 pm ET

Turning Social Donors into Active Fundraisers

[Karrie Wozniak](#), Senior Vice President of Marketing, OneCause; [Kelly Velasquez-Hague](#), Vice President of Content Marketing & Engagement, OneCause

Today's socially connected donors are an untapped resource for nonprofits. They represent new supporter bases to engage in your cause, but many organizations struggle with gaps in their donor journey that prevent them from fully maximizing this new persona. In this interactive session, uncover insights from two recent donor research studies—tapping into the unique mindset of social donors to identify potential ambassadors and fundraisers in your database. Dive into how to build an engagement strategy that deepens their connection to your cause, while improving donor retention and growing peer-to-peer fundraising participants. You'll walk away with new ideas to infuse energy into the supporter experience and grow fundraising year over year.

The Importance of Self-Advocacy from a Business Perspective

[Leanne Mull](#), Co-Director, Blue Tower Solutions, Inc.; [Tavarus Wesley](#), Self-Advocate, New Star Services/Illinois Self Advocacy Alliance; [Daniel Strick](#), CEO, New Star Services

People who have a disability have a unique perspective and can give input to improve services, organizational practices, and advocacy efforts. Supporting people to learn to advocate on a personal, organizational, community, statewide and even national level is essential. Hearing from a person with a disability is powerful when changing legislation and policy. Including them in the life of an agency requires training not only for the person but the agency, lest people become tokens. Learn more about training and supporting self-advocates to hold leadership positions on your board and committees, completing an organizational self-advocacy assessment, and creating an action plan for your organization.