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July/August 2017

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## The Link

July/August 2017

### **A Brief Overview of Why Cuts to Medicaid Matter to People with Developmental Disabilities, Their Families, and the State of Maryland**

Medicaid provides health coverage to millions of Americans, including people with disabilities. The program is funded jointly by states and the federal government. Sixty-nine million Americans were covered by Medicaid as of March 2017 (<https://www.medicaid.gov>).

While health insurance is one aspect of Medicaid, the program offers a life-line of long term supports for people with developmental disabilities. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) administers programs to states that include in-home, residential, employment, day, respite, and other services for people with developmental disabilities.

The federal funding that states receive as a reimbursement allows a state to serve more people. In Maryland, the federal match through the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is nearly 50%. Cuts to Medicaid will take away housing, direct staff, job opportunities, day services, medical, and other critical services for Maryland citizens with developmental disabilities if we lose this 50% federal match.

Other programs such as the Autism Waiver, which provides services to children with autism also will be at risk because of these cuts to Medicaid. Occupational, speech, and physical therapies as well as other programs for children in school in Frederick County are reimbursed by Medicaid. Cutting funding for these services will increase costs for local school systems or prevent children from being able to access them.

The Arc of Frederick County and our partners ask the community to take pause and realize the real life impact that cuts to Medicaid will have directly to people with developmental disabilities and to our communities. We are grateful to Senator Ben Cardin and Senator Chris Van Hollen as well as Representative John Delaney and Representative Jamie Raskin who oppose cuts to Medicaid.

# Updates from The Arc

## Meet Our President



Five years ago, a lifelong friend asked me to be part of the Board of Directors for The Arc of Frederick County and of course I said yes. There are many deep-seated reasons we work toward the betterment of this community and many are quite as personal as mine are. I have a nephew who just turned 40, who has an intellectual disability and lives in California. He owns a large piece of my heart and I couldn't help but think of him when I was asked to be a part of this wonderful organization.

When I look back from where we have come, the progress is astonishing. I grew up in Frederick County in the 1960s and 1970s and today's atmosphere and culture are quite different in no small part because of our predecessors at The Arc of Frederick County.

As the President of the Board of the Directors, it has been my pleasure and my privilege to contribute to some of the extreme growth that The Arc has seen in the last five years. We purchased The Arc at Market Street and it has been completely remodeled with a grand vision for the future. We have an up-and-running Day Program for people with severe developmental disabilities. The Culinary Training Program has been a success both as a business and as a training and job placement program. I'm very proud of our graduates and the lucrative positions they've landed in today's job market through this program.

There is so much more to come. We look forward to the future and to the further inclusivity and service of the community we serve daily. Simply put, we are succeeding but there is always more to do and I am humbled to be a part of it.

Wendy Andrews  
President, Board of Directors

## Faith Inclusion Meeting

On Thursday evening, June 15<sup>th</sup>, members of local places of worship met with staff from The Arc at The Arc at 555 South Market to discuss ways to be more inclusive. For 2 hours there was discussion about ways congregations can be welcoming to individuals and families of those with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Some of the attendees returned the next day for lunch at Charlotte's Coffee House! We look forward to establishing more relationships with additional congregations and ensuring that those we serve continue to lead enviable lives.

## Save the Date! Unity Campaign for Frederick County

The Arc of Frederick County is proud to be a part of the 2017 Unity Campaign for Frederick County sponsored by the United Way of Frederick County. From September 12<sup>th</sup> through September 24<sup>th</sup>, You can make a donation to the Unity Campaign and designate The Arc of Frederick County. By making a contribution to this campaign, your donation will be matched (your donation will be doubled)! All proceeds will benefit children and adults with developmental disabilities in our community. More information is available at: [www.unityfrederick.com](http://www.unityfrederick.com). Thank you for your support!

# Development

Shauna Mulcahy, Development Director · 301.663.0909 · ext. 140 · [Smulcahy@arcfc.org](mailto:Smulcahy@arcfc.org)

## Donate Your Vehicle to The Arc

Have an old vehicle to donate? Please see details at The Arc of the United States website: [www.thearc.org/donate-my-car](http://www.thearc.org/donate-my-car) to learn how to donate your old car, truck, van, boat with a trailer, or RV. In addition to the online vehicle donation form available on their website, you may also call 1-877-ARC-CARO (1-877-272-2270) to speak to a friendly operator. Free towing is available and you may qualify for a tax deduction. All proceeds benefit individuals with developmental disabilities.



Please select MD-The Arc of Frederick County from the list of Arc chapters. Thank you!

# Thanks To Our Contributors

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