



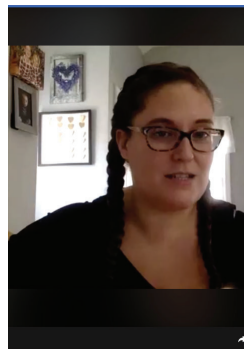
The Arc of New Jersey staff quickly pivoted to offer a wide array of workshops and educational opportunities via webinars and electronic meetings. In April and May, staff conducted 16 webinars with 3,742 attendees. Here, Criminal Justice Advocacy Program Director Jessica Oppenheim, Esq. conducts a Prosecutor's training and Caroline McLaughlin, Transition Navigator for Planning for Adult Life teaches one of the program's Making Action Plans for Life classes to students with I/DD.



It is critically important that we explore all the mediums at our disposal to help individuals with I/DD navigate this confusing and challenging time. Toward that end, we created this short video on the COVID-19 nasal swab test to better prepare individuals who may need to take the test, to set appropriate expectations of the experience and to remove fear and unnecessary worry about the process.



The Arc of NJ worked to obtain critical PPE for the Direct Support Professionals who work with individuals with I/DD in group homes and other programs. Hundreds of thousands of masks, gloves and gowns were distributed to our Local County Chapters within a few short weeks of the pandemic's start.

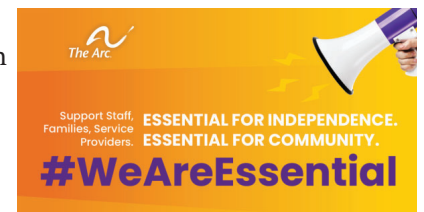


The NJ Self-Advocacy Project moved group meetings online and developed a number of virtual activities for individuals isolating at home. In

April and May they conducted 28 workshops for 809 attendees and 14 group meetings, and responded to 370 requests for assistance from individuals with I/DD. Staff conduct online yoga classes 3 days a week, a weekly "Stay Healthy at Home" video and Thursday night online board games.

A number of issues have arisen during the COVID-19 crisis which necessitated strong advocacy by The Arc of NJ. Some of our advocacy successes include:

- The NJ Department of Health issued a policy permitting support persons to stay with hospitalized patients with I/DD.
- Governor Murphy released a "Standing Order" for testing in May - essentially a universal prescription for a COVID-19 test. It "means that direct support professionals who work in group homes and the individuals they serve do not need to have symptoms or a prescription to be tested for COVID-19. It also means that individuals who reside at home with their families can be tested if they meet any of the criteria."
- Federal stimulus packages included the specialized needs of people with I/DD and their families.



The Arc of NJ continues to post news and resources to our [COVID-19 Updates & Information](https://www.arcnj.org/information/covid-19-updates-information.html) page at <https://www.arcnj.org/information/covid-19-updates-information.html>