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| **2018 Strategic Framework Progress Report** |
| Goal I: Infants, children and youth with I/DD have access to the supports and services they need to live in their family homes, to succeed in school and to partake in all of the experiences of childhood. |
| Generally |
| Submitted comments to the Department of Education regarding funding priorities for grant programs; regarding the Presidential order to recommend regulations and guidance documents for rescission, modification, or revisions; to the Office for Civil Rights on the FY 2017-2018 proposed revised civil rights data collection;  |
| Supported legislation to address the harm of wandering by children with autism and other developmental disabilities that was passed by the Senate. |
| Urged the Department of Homeland Security to end the detainment of a 10-year-old girl with cerebral palsy by border patrol.  |
| Wrote to Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate HELP Committee with questions for then-Secretary of Education nominee Betsy DeVos. |
| Wrote to Education Secretary Betsy Devos regarding priorities for students with disabilities; urged Secretary DeVos to support robust enforcement of the regulation on disproportionality of racial and ethnic groups served by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). |
| Strategy 2: Increase the inclusion, participation and integration of students with proper accommodations in their neighborhood schools, as well as in other public and publicly general educational settings. |
| Assisted state chapters on a state's draft plan for the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA); comments on a state's draft education state plan; testimony for hearing on restraint and seclusion bill in committee of state legislature; and worked with several chapters to oppose Congressional Review Act rescission of accountability rules under the Every Student Succeeds Act.  |
| Interviewed by Huffington Post on regular high school diplomas for students with disabilities. |
| Joined coalition partners in letter to state education chiefs regarding state education plans. |
| Presented at IDEA Resource Cadre meeting of the National Education Association regarding developing partnerships for IDEA full funding and presented The Arc's programs and priorities. |
| To increase the effective use of technology by students with I/DD in K-12 schools, presented concepts for Dept. of Education to consider incorporating into their existing and future grantees working on assistive technology in schools. |
| Worked with Capitol Hill staff regarding concerns over school choice legislation; on legislation to help subsidize improve standard of care and promote inclusion of children with disabilities in child care settings; reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and the DC Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) voucher program; and reintroduction of the Restraint and Seclusion bill. |
| Wrote blog post and parent checklist on private school choice. |
| Strategy 3: Promote best practices in school-to-community transition. |
| The Arc@School presented at the TSA Regional Meeting to 5 parents and 2 professionals regarding transition and preparing students to leave school for postsecondary education, work, and independent living. |
| Strategy 4: Eliminate the use of seclusion, aversive interventions and non-emergency restraint of children in schools. |
| Met with Capitol Hill staff regarding the reintroduction of the Restraint and Seclusion bill; assisted state chapter in preparing testimony for hearing on restraint and seclusion in state legislative committee. |
| Strategy 5: Increase the involvement of students with I/DD in the IEP process, including in transition planning. |
| Strategy 6: Increase the quality and accessibility of lay and professional advocates to support people with I/DD and their families, including the development of parent advocate and youth self-advocate groups.  |
| The Arc@School completed its investigation of special education advocacy practices and widely distributed its report entitled Special Education Advocacy and The Arc's Chapter Network, which was viewed in the Online Resource Center over 600 times. |
| Strategy 7: Reach out to and empower parents, siblings and other family members of infants, children and youth with I/DD and provide them access to the information they need, when they need it, across multiple media and modalities |
| The Arc@School launched its Online Resource Center, which had nearly 6000 unique page views from over 2300 visitors throughout the year. |
| Strategy 8: Actively involve, collaborate with and support other family support/service organizations. |
| Individual and Family Support - FSRRTC |
| The Arc@School convened 4 quarterly meetings of its Advisory Panel and obtained valuable feedback regarding the program's 2017 work plan, the content and format of a training curriculum for non-attorney special education advocates and plans for continuing work and starting new activities in 2018. The panel has 14 members, including a self-advocate, parents, chapter staff, educators, a researcher, and representatives from National Disability Rights Network, parent training and information centers, Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, and National Association of State Directors of Special Education. Between 5 and 9 members actively participated in each meeting. |
| The Arc@School has joined the Education Civil Rights Alliance initiated by the National Youth Law Center to provide resources and support litigation that help parents, educators, and advocates protect students' civil rights and raise public awareness about the challenges that students, including students with disabilities, face. |
| The Arc@School is collaborating with Understood.org to ensure students with I/DD and their families are included in the outreach efforts of Understood.org and are aware of the resources available through Understood.org that help students and families learn about their special education rights and advocate for themselves. |
| The Arc@School is participating in an initiative with other disability rights advocates, led by the Bazelon Center, to use legal and non-legal ways to ensure the US Supreme Court's Endrew decision is meaningfully implemented to benefit students with disabilities. |
| Goal II: Adults with I/DD have the opportunity to lead lives of their own choosing, free from poverty, to be employed, to reside in the community, and to live independently with ready access to whatever services and supports they need.  |
| Generally |
| Autism Now website received 584,873 pageviews, down 8% from last year. Unique visitors was 132,719, down 7% from last year.  |
| Continued participation in Convergence "Working Up" Dialogue, an invitation-only, high-level facilitated discussion on increasing economic mobility and security. |
| Engaged in coalition work and wrote to Senate to oppose substantial revisions to the Administrative Procedure Act which would have harmful effects on people with disabilities.  |
| Expressed concern to the leadership of the House Education and Workforce Committee regarding the bill to reauthorize the Higher Education Act. |
| Launched 9 videos, 9 plain language documents, and a new detailed "path" in the Build Your Plan® tool. These materials are targeted to support people with I/DD to plan for the future with their families, friends, and other allies. The materials provide an overview of topics related to future planning and include stories/tips from people disabilities. |
| Led major disability community efforts in fighting substantial cuts to and major restructuring of the Medicaid program and in repealing important protections and provisions in the Affordable Care Act, including organizing and/or coordinating Hill visits, rallies, grassroots messaging, alerts, and other actions. Worked extensively with several national coalitions to ensure the disability community voice was heard on the Medicaid issues and to develop joint goals and strategies for defeating the House and Senate bills to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and permanently restructure Medicaid, including diverse partners in the civil rights, aging, children's, chronic illness, low income, and other communities expressing concerns about the ACA repeal and the Medicaid cuts, including joining a broad coalition full page ad in Politico on June 27. Participated in numerous information gathering and strategy meetings with House and Senate leadership and Committee staff; conducted extensive lobby visits to critical House and Senate Members. Met with House and Senate Minority leadership offices regarding concerns about attacks on ACA, Medicaid, and SSI. Wrote numerous letters to Members of the House and Senate expressing concerns regarding impact on people with I/DD and/or Medicaid and ACA beneficiaries and expressing opposition to the American Health Care Act (House) and, in the Senate, the Better Care Reconciliation Act, the Health Care Freedom Act, and the Graham-Cassidy proposal. Met with House and Senate Minority leadership offices regarding concerns about attacks on ACA, Medicaid, and SSI. Worked with Communications staff: to respond at every step in the Congressional legislative process (to repeal the ACA and restructure Medicaid) with statements or letters to Congress, to write press statements and respond to press inquiries, and to develop fact sheets, action alerts, and other materials, including publication of a Letter to the Editor in the Sunday, September 24 edition of the Washington Post, two days before the Senate bill was pulled from consideration due to the expressed lack of support of three Republicans. |
| Promoted The Arc DC to local Rotary clubs through speaking engagements and attendance at meetings. |
| Raised more than $500,000 in private foundation funding to support The Arc's advocacy work on Medicaid, health care access, SSI, tax policy, and paid family and medical leave.  |
| Secured $300,000 renewal of the Anonymous Grant to support public policy, advocacy, and communications work defending Medicaid, SSI, and related programs and to elevate the disability perspective on paid family and medical leave; continued to serve as foundation point of contact and coordinated all activities. |
| Secured a $150,000 grant from an Anonymous donor to support research on the paid family and medical leave needs of workers with disabilities and family caregivers. |
| Sent a letter to Congress encouraging passage of the DREAM Act following the Administration's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. |
| Sent a letter to House Speaker Paul Ryan and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi in opposition to HR 620, The (Americans with Disabilities) ADA Education and Reform Act. |
| Sent letter in support of a Balanced Budget Amendment rescission to leadership of Maryland legislature in consultation with The Arc of Maryland. |
| Sent letter to Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee leadership in support of funding for the Assistive Technology Act; urged Congress to ensure access to complex rehabilitation technology. |
| Submitted comments to House and Senate leadership opposing the Congressional Review Act (CRA) review to disapprove the Fair Pay & Safe Workplaces executive order. |
| Supported The Arc DC to develop Q1 2018 business plan action steps. |
| The Center for Future Planning is designed to support and encourage people with I/DD and their families to plan for the time when the parents or other caregivers are no longer able to provide support. Through its website, public education efforts, online and in person training, and information & referral, the Center provides information and practical assistance on areas including person-centered planning, decision-making, housing, employment, financial resources, and social connections. In 2017, 11,893 people visited the Center's website and 520 people created accounts in the Build Your Plan tool. |
| Wrote and sent coalition statement on the President’s FY 2018 Budget to all House and Senate Offices; wrote blog posts on the President's FY 2018 Budget and tax plan. |
| Strategy 1: Increase opportunities for integrated employment at fair wages, and self-employment, for people with IDD. |
| Began national partnership with Source America and their Staffing services program. |
| Coauthored paper on the disability angle on paid family and medical (with Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality); worked with Communications staff to release paper and to develop, release, and promote a video highlighting one family's story, written stories of four individuals, and a new dedicated web site at www.thearc.org/paidleave. Participated in a webinar hosted by the National Academy of Social Insurance on designing inclusive paid family and medical leave policies. Presented at an invitation-only convening at the Ford Foundation, convened by Family Values @ Work and the Center for Law and Social Policy, on paid family and medical leave. Presented at a briefing for members of the New Hampshire state legislature and state stakeholders on paid family and medical leave. Went on Moms Rising Radio to talk about paid family and medical leave and its importance to people with disabilities and their families. Organized and presented on a webinar for disability advocates on paid family and medical leave.  |
| Completed year 1 of the Innovative Approaches to Community-Based Employment Initiative. Exceeded hiring goal by 52%, average wage goal by 81%, and retention rate goal by 81%. Outcomes: 474 placed into work, 1,239 individuals trained, 357 employers hired individuals at an average hourly rate of $10.52. |
| Continued national partnership with Wyndham Worldwide/Baymont Inn & Suites. Conducted joint session at The Arc National Convention, completed internal marketing plan.  |
| Partnered with CVS where The Arc of Prince George's County was able have their clients be trained for CVS jobs in the DMV area. |
| Raised more than $360,000 from corporate foundations to increase opportunities for adults and young adults with autism spectrum disorder and I/DD in community-based competitive employment, supporting hundreds of people to move into new jobs.  |
| Secured a $150,000 grant from an Anonymous donor to support research on the paid family and medical leave needs of workers with disabilities and family caregivers. |
| Sent letter to Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos about the importance of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) regulations. |
| Worked with EY to support their Dallas disability hiring initiative. 10 individuals placed.  |
| Strategy 2: Increase services and supports necessary for people with IDD to be gainfully employed or self-employed. |
| Completed new MOU with Specialisterne to continue IT training and placement services for individuals with ASDs. |
| Gave separate coalition presentations on fiscal threats and the service system for persons with I/DD. |
| Held 3-day DC Autumn IT Training event where individuals with ASDs were assessed and chapters were trained to run the Specialisterne program. |
| Implemented partnership with PwC to utilize Specialisterne program. 6 individuals were hired at with starting salaries of $37,500. |
| Supported increased appropriations for transportation programs.  |
| Won a second year of funding from the Walmart Foundation to continue the Innovative Approaches to Community-Based Employment Initiative. |
| Strategy 3: Build the capacity and readiness of employers to recruit, hire and retain individuals with I/DD as employees. |
| Attended two national conferences: USBLN and ILG to market The Arc@Work corporate services. Engaged with over 50 employers. |
| Delivered an in-service training to Booze Allen Hamilton on Becoming the Leading Autism Friendly Company  |
| Executed contract and provided disability awareness consulting to executives at Booz Allen.  |
| In honoring the achievements of elected officials in both Indiana and New York in increasing wages for direct support professionals (DSP), we provided a platform for these individuals and our chapters in those states to share their achievements and how other states can also work to increase DSP salaries nationwide. This work helps support quality care for individuals with I/DD by preventing high turnover rates in this valuable profession.  |
| Presented at MEAF conference in Atlanta, GA with The Arc of Georgia. The Arc@Work was the only grantee asked to present to company executives and employees. |
| Successfully completed New York City contract with EY for job coaching support for employee with I/DD. |
| Strategy 4: Identify and promote best practices in services and supports for people with IDD relating to housing, employment, recreation and other aspects of community participation. |
| Conducted session at SLI on the RRTC community-based employment intervention. |
| Presented a panel on inclusive volunteering at national convention. This panel discussed how chapters could use volunteering opportunities to build chapter recognition in new service areas as well as how volunteerism can help chapters meet Home and Community Based Services regulations as well as transition from segregated to more inclusive activities.  |
| Secured $125,000 contract to evaluate the quality of vocational rehabilitation services for people with I/DD in Washington, D.C. |
| Through the Build Your Plan tool and in webinars, the Center for Future Planning provided people with I/DD and their families with information about options and best practices related to housing, employment, finances, decision-making, and social connections. |
| Wrote a blog for The Arc's website for Disability Employment Month. |
| Strategy 5: Increase the availability of affordable and accessible rental housing and home-ownership, including supported housing. |
| Met with senior HUD officials regarding the need for affordable housing and the Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities program. |
| Opposed legislation that would have the impact of suspending payments to the National Housing Trust Fund. |
| Opposed legislation to rewrite the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to make it significantly harder for victims of discrimination to obtain relief.  |
| Presented at the National Legal Aid & Defender Association conference on affordable housing for people with disabilities. |
| Sent comments to the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding implementation of various Section 8 Voucher provisions under recent modernization legislation, and regarding proposals to reduce the agency's regulatory burden. |
| Sent comments to the Department of the Treasury regarding nondiscrimination of the basis of disability in the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program. |
| The Arc's ongoing work with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, and Flom, LLP is a shining example of what collaboration with legal professionals to support the rights of individuals with I/DD involved in the criminal justice system can do.  |
| Urged Congress and HUD to ensure that Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery resources be targeted towards housing for the lowest income people who have the greatest recovery needs. |
| Urged Congressional appropriators to lift funding caps and avoid funding shortfalls affecting federal affordable housing programs.  |
| Strategy 6: Increase the availability of personal supports. |
| Strategy 7: Encourage, assist and support chapters of The Arc to transition from group homes to providing supported living, as well as to assist people with I/DD to live in their own homes in the community with the appropriate supports. |
| Strategy 8: Encourage, assist and support chapters to transition from segregated day programs and employment to providing support for integrated, community-based employment and activities. |
| Connected The Arc DC with AbilityOne contractor GCE for job opportunities for The Arc DC clients.  |
| Helped secure SourceAmerica staffing services contract. |
| Recruited and selected 10 chapters of The Arc to participate in the intervention process. |
| Strategy 9: Support chapters of The Arc to facilitate the community change process necessary to replace the remaining state institutions with community-based services and supports.  |
| Created Medicaid Home and Community Based Services story collection campaign.  |
| Represented The Arc DC as an officer of the State Rehabilitation Advisory Council where I wrote policy updates and advised on state services being provided to constituents in the district.  |
| Strategy 10: Promote and support the growth of self-determination and self-advocacy. |
| One of the presenters of the training on future planning for human services professionals described in Goal VII, Strategy 1 was an advocate with I/DD. She worked with us to develop the portions of the training on self-advocacy and person-centered planning and presented those portions of the training. We also had a self-advocate present with us on Respecting Cultural Competency As We Promote Autonomy and Supported Decision-Making at The Arc's National Convention. |
| The Arc’s Director of Advocacy & Mobilization led a discussion & presentation to The Arc of Frederick, MD self-advocacy group on ways to get involved in advocacy and is proactively seeking ways to expand that work in 2018.  |
| Three self-advocates serve on the advisory council for the Center for Future Planning. |
| We promoted self-determination by advocating extensively for Supported Decision-Making and other less restrictive alternatives to guardianship by giving a presentation to special needs planners on The Arc's position statement during an "Armchair Chat" session hosted by the Special Needs Alliance, presenting a webinar on supported decision-making for The Arc of New Jersey, hosting a session at The Arc's National Convention on Respecting Cultural Competency As We Promote Autonomy and Supported Decision-Making, presenting sessions on decision-making to attendees at The Arc New York's guardianship conference and at the National Guardianship Association Conference, presenting a session on supported decision-making at The Arc's Summer Leadership Institute, hosting a session for Acenture's Autism Employee Resource Group on future planning with a focus on supported decision-making and ABLE accounts, and hosting a webinar on Supported Decision-Making: Planning for Medical Decision-Making.  |
| Worked with self-advocates to share their stories about the importance of Medicaid and other critical programs in videos, with legislators, and with the media. |
| Strategy 11: Rebalance the Medicaid program so that home and community-based services, and family support are mandatory and readily available with consistency and portability from state to state. |
| Worked on legislation to renew the Money Follows the Person program, which allows states to rebalance their system with enhanced federal funds to move individuals with disabilities and the aging populations out of institutional settings. Met with Capitol Hill staff on legislative strategies to support Medicaid home and community-based services. Worked with staff from the State of the States in Developmental Disabilities to develop a brief on data that supports rebalancing efforts. Met with the Administration on Community Living and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services about the Home and Community Based Services Rule implementation; submitted comments to the CMS Request for Information (RFI) on Home and Community Based Services.  |
| Strategy 12: Improve basic income support systems for people with I/DD and their families, and change requirements applicable to benefits eligibility, to reduce the incidence of poverty. |
| Co-led coalition response to the 2017 Social Security Trustees Report including press statements and fact sheets. |
| Co-led disability and Social Security community responses to proposed cuts to Social Security and Supplemental Security Income for people with old arrest warrants that law enforcement is not pursing; delayed markup of related House bill. Spearheaded coalition advocacy to oppose Congressional proposals to pay for reauthorization of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood home visiting program by cutting off SSI for recipients with outstanding arrest warrants, including extensive Hill outreach and coalition mobilization. |
| Co-led disability and Social Security community responses to proposed cuts to Social Security and Supplemental Security Income in President Trump's 2018 proposed budget; among many activities, facilitated and was quoted in an article by CBS News on the proposed cuts. Met extensively with key Hill offices in opposition to potential cuts to Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Co-sponsored a Social Security Day of Action featuring a Hill briefing and social media. Released video on the importance of Social Security and SSI to people with disabilities, in partnership with the Center for American Progress. |
| Co-led disability and Social Security community responses to Washington Post article, "Disabled, or Just Desperate?", which featured highly skewed and erroneous reporting on Social Security's disability programs; among many activities, sent letters to the Post and the Hill, wrote an article for The Arc's blog, and quoted in a Huffington Post story on the article. Also, co-led disability and Social Security community responses to Washington Post article, "Generations, Disabled", the second article in a series which featured highly skewed and erroneous reporting on Social Security's disability programs; among many activities, sent a letter to the Hill and wrote an article for The Arc's blog. |
| Expressed concerns to Congressional appropriators regarding language in the Senate Labor-HHS appropriations bill raising questions about continuation of the Ticket to Work program. |
| Presented on Social Security's disability programs at the Latinos for a Secure Retirement conference. |
| Spoke at press event with Rep. John Larson and multiple Members of Congress on introduction of Social Security 2100 Act to enhance Social Security's adequacy and extend its solvency. Supported introduction of legislation to strengthen Social Security, including the Social Security Caregiver Credit Act and the Social Security for Future Generations Act. Supported introduction of the Stop Taxing Death and Disability Act, to exempt from taxation federal student loans forgiven due to disability or death. |
| Submitted a statement for the record of a House hearing on Social Security's record-long disability claims hearing backlog. With other advocates, met with officials at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regarding the Social Security Administration's dire need for more administrative resources to carry out its functions for people with disabilities and people who are aging. |
| Testified on Social Security's representative payee program at joint hearing held by the House Committee on Ways & Means, Social Security and Oversight Subcommittees; submitted responses to additional questions for the record following the hearing. Supported the resulting bipartisan Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2017, legislation to enhance Social Security’s representative payee program. |
| Through webinars, conference presentations, blogposts, social media, and The Arc's website, throughout the year we disseminated accurate and up-to-date information about ABLE accounts and the launch of ABLE programs. We participated in the ABLE National Resource Center. |
| We hosted sessions on paid leave and the Center's financial literacy and outreach to aging caregivers’ initiatives at The Arc's Summer Leadership Institute. We also joined the National Council on Aging's Center for Benefits Access to help advocate for and encourage policies that improve access to public benefits for people with I/DD and their families.  |
| We launched a financial literacy training program for low income families that include a child with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Through this program, families learned about disability benefits and ways to save without jeopardizing eligibility for public benefits. We provided trainings to 137 families in the District of Columbia, in Northern Virginia, and in Prince George's County, Maryland. |
| Worked with Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities colleagues and staff of key bipartisan Members of the House and Senate to address the introduction of new bills to improve the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act program. Worked on three ABLE Act improvement bills, particularly to address technical problems in the ABLE to Work bill which became law (without correction) in the tax bill along with the bill to allow roll-overs from Sec. 529 plans; participated in Webinar for over 350 sites sponsored by the ABLE National Resource Center regarding eligibility; spoke as panelist at Congressional briefing sponsored by Senator Casey (D-PA) on the 3 improvement bills; worked with the National Association of State Treasurers representing many ABLE program administrators; and met with staff of Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) regarding the problematic language. |
| Worked with House and Senate Republican leadership to prevent regulations going into effect that would have denied constitutional rights without due process to people for whom the Social Security Administration has appointed a representative payee. |
| Goal III: People with I/DD have the opportunity to participate in civic activities, volunteerism and community service, religion, arts, culture and recreation alongside their peers without disabilities. |
| Generally |
| Design MLK Day website updates  |
| In partnership with the YMCA of San Antonio, improved the health and wellness of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing the HealthMatters curriculum to 22 adults participating in The Arc of San Antonio’s Health and Fitness for All program. Preliminary program results for the group to date include the following: 65 pounds lost, decreased blood pressure (36%), decreased BMI (64%), and increase knowledge of healthy foods (91%). |
| Led meeting with the Administration on Community Living regarding proposal to cut and consolidate the State Councils on Developmental Disabilities. |
| Met with Senate staff regarding concerns about a Senate version of the ADA Education and Reform Act. |
| Raised $110,000 from foundations to expand the Wings for Autism program, providing children and adults with I/DD greater ability to travel safely and comfortably. |
| Received grant from the Corporation on National and Community Service to grant funding to chapters of The Arc to develop volunteer service projects that engage people with and without disabilities that provide food assistance to people in need in their community. The service projects began in January-February 2017 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., for the MLK Day of Service period, and continued through the duration of the year. In total, MLK Day of Service projects brought together 890 volunteers with and without disabilities, who worked a total of 11,360 hours to provide food assistance to 17,042 people in need in 10 locations around the country. These outcomes are remarkable, given that original goals for the project was to engage 300 volunteers to serve 1,800 people in need. We also submitted an application and received notice that the program will be funded from 2018-2020. |
| Submitted comments that caused the FCC to add useful language to its response to the video game industry's request for exemption from regulation to make video games accessible to people with I/DD. |
| Submitted comments to promote the use of remote online service deliver to people with I/DD in Maryland's application for Medicaid waiver renewal. |
| Supported legislation to make improvements to the security screening process for people with disabilities, to improve enforcement of the Air Carrier Access Act, and to improve airport accessibility. |
| Urged Congress to support improvements to the Air Carrier Access Act to improve the security screening process for people with disabilities, to improve enforcement of the Air Carrier Access Act, and to improve airport accessibility. Urged the Department of Transportation to not weaken or remove existing protections |
| Strategy 1: Build the capacity and readiness of civic, cultural, religious, governmental, business and other community organizations to include and support the participation of people with I/DD in their programs and activities.  |
| Issued a joint statement with other civil rights organizations on Hurricane Harvey relief, urging Congressional funding and adherence to civil rights laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Fair Housing Act.  |
| Represented The Arc on the FCC's Disability Advisory Committee |
| Urged Congress, FEMA, and HUD to provide equitable, fast, and complete hurricane disaster recovery assistance. |
| Strategy 2: Increase services and supports necessary for people with IDD to participate in civic, cultural, religious and other community organizations. |
| Granted $10,000 to 10 chapters of The Arc to develop and implement 2017 MLK Day of Service volunteer service projects. Chapters include (1) TARC, (2) The Arc Nature Coast, (3) The Arc of the Glades, (4) The Arc of South Carolina, (5) The Arc of Hanover, (6) The Arc of Luzerne County, (7) The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania, (8) The Arc of Nashville and Greater Davidson County, (9) The Arc of North Texas, and (10) The Arc of Tri-Cities. This program will disburse a total of $100,000 to 12 chapters in 2018. |
| Wings for Autism®/Wings for All® provides individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders or other intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families the opportunity to practice traveling by air in a simulated and supportive setting. Wings for Autism helps to alleviate the stress and anxiety that many families feel when traveling by air. Each Wings event also provides a structured learning environment for airport, airline and TSA staff to learn how to better serve individuals with disabilities. The Arc held 38 events at 34 different airports with 11 airlines and 43 chapters of The Arc. We established relationships at 14 new airports, engaged 2 new airlines and 17 new chapters of The Arc. 4,904 individuals with disabilities and their families attended these events, 30% of whom reported taking a flight 12-months following the event. The Arc facilitated chapter, airport, airline and TSA introductions and planning meetings, operated the registration process, produced marketing materials, supported media coverage and processed post-event evaluations for all events. Wings obtained $41,000 in chapter licensing fees, $775 in individual donations and renewed our foundation support for $110,000.  |
| Strategy 3: Increase voting by people with I/DD and their participation in the political process. |
|  Joined REV UP Voter Accessibility committee. |
| Participated in REV UP campaign activities around voter engagement, in collaboration with AAPD and other groups.  |
| Strategy 4: Increase the availability of family support, including respite services. |
| Provided input to Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and House Education and Workforce staff on legislative language related to subsidized child care legislation. |
| Raised $100,000 from foundations to expand The Arc's outreach to aging caregivers disconnected from the service system, to help them plan for the future of their family member with I/DD. |
| Sent letter on priorities for family caregiving to the Administration. |
| Sent letters to the House and Senate in support of the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act. |
| We presented at The Arc's National Convention on family support issues and promising practices. |
| We worked with The Arc of Wisconsin and The Arc of King County (WA) to organize state family support coalitions to identify challenges and promote best practices, and we worked with The Arc of Tennessee to organize a second annual meeting of the coalition it created in 2015. |
| Goal IV: Individual members of the public value, respect and accept people with I/DD as equal members of society.  |
| Generally |
| Began work with the Policy and Positions Committee on revisions to positions statements for 2017-18 cycle for The Arc and AAIDD. |
| Coordinated with Director of Legal Advocacy and CEO regarding analysis of Supreme Court Nominee Judge Gorsuch's work and appropriate avenue to express relevant questions.  |
| Met with sponsors of the ADA Education and Reform bill to express opposition. |
| Sent letter to all members of the House of Representatives in opposition to the Americans with Disabilities Act Education and Reform Act (H.R. 620).  |
| Spoke to TV news reporter in South Dakota on protections against restraint & seclusion in institutional settings. |
| Submitted a letter to the House Judiciary Committee Chair and Ranking Member opposing H.R. 985 - the Fairness in Class Action Litigation Act of 2017. |
| Successfully worked with House Ways and Means Social Security Committee Chairman to secure Congressional Review Act (CRA) review of a Social Security regulation which served to remove constitutional rights on the basis of a determination that an individual needs a representative payee; the President signed the Congressional resolution into law on Feb. 28, 2017. |
| The Catalyst Awards shine a national spotlight on individuals, businesses, and other organizations that are catalysts for achievement in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities including self-advocates.  |
| With approval of all five partner organizations, finalized Public Policy Agenda/Legislative Goals for 2017-18. |
| Worked in coalition with Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights to send a letter to the Administration about civil rights enforcement.  |
| Worked with Communications Team to respond to President Trump's draft immigration order on "public charge" and the potentially devastating impact on people with disabilities and their families. |
| Strategy 1: Publicize the high rate, as well as specific incidents, of bigotry, discrimination, and victimization of people with IDD. |
| Created 5 separate publications and added 192 posts to NCCJD's Facebook page to highlight the discrimination experienced by people with I/DD in the criminal justice system.  |
| Granted $360,000 by the Office of Victims of Crime to raise awareness and improve resources on the topic of sexual victimization and people with I/DD.  |
| Presented at the National Guardianship Association about Supported Decision Making; the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance national conference; the National Rehabilitation Association Annual Governmental Affairs Summit; The Arc New York statewide Guardianship Conference on Self Determination; The Association of Community Centers on Disability Conference on the HCBS Settings Rule; Annual Meeting of the ADA Center Directors on Federal Policy Issues; The Arc of Northern Virginia's Annual Meeting on Federal Policy Issues; and The Arc of Massachusetts Chapter Leadership meeting.  |
| Strategy 2: Develop and support chapters of The Arc in implementing testing programs to identify discriminatory practices in housing, employment and instances of unlawful failures to provide accommodation. |
| Promoted chapter programs on social media, through multiple blog posts, and through The Arc's publications, including Fusion and Empower. During the year, the program also developed web content on inclusive volunteering for The Arc's website and developed fact sheets/tools for people with I/DD, disability professionals, and volunteer professionals. In 2017, The Arc has shared information about the MLK Day of Service with over XXXXXXX people. |
| Strategy 3: Promote increased public awareness of people with I/DD, their needs issues and concerns. |
| As part of the offline outreach project described in Goal VII, Strategy I, The Arc partnered with University of Illinois, Chicago to conduct a full day training program attended by 79 human services professionals who serve the disability and/or senior communities in Arizona, Illinois, and Wisconsin. In 2018, these trained professionals will support families that include an adult with I/DD to plan for the future.  |
| Chapters of The Arc elevated the disability perspective on the ACA, Medicaid, and tax bill fights with the media, resulting in at least 98 media hits across the country at key moments throughout the year. |
| Conducted interviews with the New York Times, Pittsburgh Post Gazette, Franchise Times, and Hotel News Now about The Arc@Work's initiatives and the importance of community-based employment for individuals with I/DD for businesses and those with disabilities.  |
| Conducted online movement building consultant scope of work which included a full audit of the national organization’s digital and social media presence, tools, and strategy, and presented recommendations and analysis to CEO on how to properly build The Arc’s online movement. |
| In 2017, Autism Now Facebook grew from 81,265 to 83,442, an increase of 2,177 (+3%). |
| In 2017, Autism Now Twitter grew from 2,274 to 2,468, an increase of 9%. |
| In 2017, our Twitter grew from 15,030 to 17,998, an increase of 2968 (+20%). |
| In 2017, The Arc's Facebook grew from 25,266 to 32,341, an increase of 7075 (+28%). |
| Led rapid response press and social media efforts throughout public policy crises of 2017. Of top 10 Facebook posts for the organization (organic reach, not paid promotion reach), 8 were public policy content - either promoting a video, statement, or news article The Arc was quoted in. Of the top 10 Twitter posts for the organization (organic impressions, not paid promotion impressions), 8 were public policy content. |
| Met with Hill staff regarding reintroduction of wandering bill. |
| Produced 3 issues of Empower and 6 issues of e-newsletter, brainstorming and writing all content, working with chapters for input and managing print, production, and distribution. |
| Promoted the television show Speechless and helped it gain exposure by honoring it as Television Show of the Year. |
| Provided crisis communications support to 7 chapters of The Arc. |
| Provided media support for 41 Wings for Autism events including coordination of media strategy with airlines, airports, TSA, and chapters of The Arc. |
| Raised public awareness of people with I/DD and their needs, issues, and concerns in the criminal justice context through social media, general media outreach, website hits, newsletters, blogs, webinars, and presentations.  |
| Sent 70 press releases to the media in 2017; 15 were for a chapter hosting a Wings for Autism event.  |
| Throughout the year, we disseminated information through multiple media about the importance of future planning for adults with IDD. We reached an estimated XXXXXX people. |
| Worked with Comcast/NBCUniversal to promote The Arc's 2017 public service announcement which aired over 96,000 times with $1 million in in-kind support from Comcast/NBCUniversal. |
| Worked with media to influence, shape, and/or include The Arc's name in at least 158 media hits in 2017 in outlets ranging from the Washington Post, New York Times, Money Magazine, NPR, CBS News, NBC News, Yahoo, Forbes, The New Republic, Huffington Post, Vice News, Moms Rising, The Mighty, Disability Scoop, and small and large local publications and news outlets. |
| Wrote and distributed 4 issues of Autism Now's e-newsletter, Prism. |
| Wrote, designed, and managed production of 2016 annual report produced in 2017. |
| Strategy 4: Monitor the media for negative portrayals and descriptions of people with I/DD in the media and promote more accurate, respectful and positive coverage. |
| Strategy 5: Promote appropriate education and training of medical professionals, legal professionals, law enforcement officials, teachers, clergy, human resources professionals and others whose conduct impacts the lives and opportunities of people with I/DD.  |
| Created 4 publications aimed at educating criminal justice professionals about I/DD, including a white paper on competency, a feature criminal justice issue of Impact magazine, and a story for Police Chief magazine.  |
| Delivered 17 presentations via webinars and conferences, reaching over 2,000 people and promoting the education of professionals (especially criminal justice professionals) and others whose conduct impacts the lives and opportunities of people with I/DD. |
| Granted $400,000 by the Bureau of Justice Assistance to make NCCJD a national technical assistance center on I/DD and behavioral health for law enforcement officers and related criminal justice professionals.  |
| NCCJD launched new website, www.talkaboutsexualviolence.org, which includes videos and resources to education healthcare professionals about appropriately interacting with victims of sexual assault or abuse with I/DD.  |
| NCCJD staff reviewed the national Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training curriculum for law enforcement officers, at the invitation of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, to incorporate information on the topic of I/DD.  |
| Raised $635,000 from foundations and government agencies to sustain and expand The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability. |
| Submitted the FASDs prevention project's final report to the Health Resources and Services Administration  |
| The Arc@School co-presented with NCCJD's Criminal Justice Fellow to 75 juvenile justice stakeholders regarding obtaining accommodations and services for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities upon their return to the community from incarceration in a juvenile justice facility. |
| The Arc@School presented to 18 special educators affiliated with the NEA about its special education advocacy training curriculum, which will be available to parents, educators, and advocates so that they have the same understanding about what the IDEA requires and can avoid misunderstandings and resolve disagreements early in the IEP process and without need to file formal state or due process complaints. |
| Trained over 450 criminal justice and related professionals at six sites around the country on effectively serving people with I/DD in the criminal justice system through NCCJD's Pathways to Justice® program. |
| Wrote a blog for The Arc's website on the importance of community living to align with The Arc's call for stories about community living.  |
| Strategy 6: Educate people with I/DD, and their family members, about their rights and provide them the tools and supports to protect their rights where such are being unlawfully denied.  |
| Met with Senate Hill offices in support of legislation to ban pesticides linked to neurodevelopmental disorders. |
| Served over 200 self-advocates, family members, professionals, and advocates through NCCJD's information and referral service and added 23 resources to NCCJD's online library. |
| The Arc@School created marketing materials, including a one-page flyer directing individuals to The Arc@School's Online Resource Center and a double-sided fact sheet describing the IEP process and parents' rights under the IDEA. |
| The Arc@School launched its Online Resource Center, which had nearly 6000 unique page views from over 2300 visitors throughout the year. |
| Strategy 7: Showcase the positive role and contributions of people with I/DD in society.  |
| Developed press releases, articles, blog posts, Facebook posts and the alike about individuals with I/DD that showcase the positive role and contributions they are making in the workforce. |
| Highlighting all of our award winners throughout our network, social media, traditional media, connecting them with each other during events, and drawing wider attention to their collective accomplishments through cross-promotion.  |
| Produced 3 issues of Empower and 6 issues of e-newsletter, brainstorming and writing all content, working with chapters for input and managing print, production, and distribution. |
| Provided media support for 41 Wings for Autism events including coordination of media strategy with airlines, airports, TSA, and chapters of The Arc. |
| Raised $408,000 from the Corporation for National and Community Service to continue The Arc's MLK Day of Service project, which provides inclusive volunteering opportunities for people with I/DD, for three years. |
| Wrote and distributed 4 issues of Autism Now's e-newsletter, Prism. |
| Goal V: Quality health education, health promotion and health care are widely available and accessible, enabling individuals to avoid known environmental causes of I/DD and to prevent secondary health problems for people with I/DD. |
| Generally |
| As part of the Health and Fitness for All program, improved the health and wellness of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing the HealthMatters curriculum to 76 participants at nine chapters of The Arc in Kentucky, Texas, and Wisconsin. Preliminary program results for the group not available. |
| Commented on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking asking HHS to protect essential health benefits in the Affordable Care Act. |
| Raised $88,000 to sustain and expand the Health and Fitness for All exercise and nutrition education program. |
| Received a subgrant from Boston University on a grant from the Patient-Centered Options Research Institute (PCORI) to develop a national network of young adults with a dual diagnosis of I/DD and mental health needs and their supporters. This national network will examine and discuss promising practices and resources needed to improve health outcomes and accessibility of health care for young adults with a dual diagnosis. As part of this work, we have supported Boston University to create a national advisory committee comprised of 5 young adults with dual diagnosis, 4 professionals specializing in this field, and 1 family member. We have also implemented initial National Advisory Committee meetings. |
| Strategy 1: Educate the public to avoid environmental agents and behaviors known to cause of intellectual and developmental disabilities. |
| Strategy 2: Increase the availability and accessibility of quality routine and preventative medical, dental, vision and mental health care for people with I/DD. |
| Collaborated with Boston University on project focused on youth with dual diagnoses. |
| Co-sponsored and presented at Congressional briefing on assistive technology (AT) and addressed Medicaid coverage of AT. |
| Developed and submitted project proposal to advance supported decision making in health care. |
| Met with Office of Management and Budget and House Appropriations Committee staff in support of funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD). Met with leadership from the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities regarding research and program priorities for 2018.  |
| Opposed drug formulary provisions in the Massachusetts 1115 Waiver proposal. |
| Responded to a Request for Information from the Department of Health and Human Services regarding consumer choice and regulatory reform. |
| Sent letter to House and Senate Appropriations Committees in support of funding to address the Zika virus. Supported amendment to the House Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations package that would provide $20 million for the CDC's Zika efforts.  |
| Sent letter to House and Senate Appropriations Committees in support of protecting funding for the prevention and public health fund.  |
| Sent letter to President Trump regarding vaccine safety and autism. |
| Sent letters to House and Senate opposing the Budget Resolution that began the attempt to repeal the ACA. Met extensively with key Hill offices in opposition to repeal of the Affordable Care Act and structural changes to Medicaid. Developed disability community statement opposing House Republican plan for repealing and replacing the ACA. Met with numerous coalition leaders regarding joint strategies for Medicaid and ACA work. Joined aging community in a letter urging Congress to maintain the ACA and protect Medicaid. Briefed colleague organizations on threat to ACA. Wrote blog piece for chapters of The Arc and media coverage on the ACA and Medicaid. Developed open enrollment materials on the ACA for CCD and The Arc. Urged HHS to maintain open enrollment on Sundays and wrote an educational piece about the numerous limitations on enrollment proposed and implemented by the Administration. |
| Urged Congress to maintain essential health benefits and in particular the habilitation benefit in health care. Co-sponsored a successful Congressional briefing on habilitation and the importance of essential health benefits; co-sponsored and presented at a Congressional briefing on the importance of Medicaid. |
| Urged Congress to permanently repeal the Medicare outpatient therapy services cap. |
| Strategy 3: Make public and private health insurance universally available to people with I/DD. |
| At invitation of new funder, successfully applied for funding to support public policy efforts for two years. |
| Created graphics and social media posts to promote open enrollment for the health insurance marketplace to The Arc’s Facebook and Twitter followers.  |
| Helped to create and promote fact sheets and template letters to the editor on ACA and Medicaid that have been repurposed or used to prepare for media interviews. |
| Supported legislation to improve the Medicare benefit notices and other consumer protections. |
| Testified at 52nd anniversary of the Medicaid and Medicare programs at the Capitol Visitors Center.  |
| Urged Congress to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program. Developed a fact sheet on the Children's Health Insurance Program. |
| Strategy 4: Prevent discrimination against people with I/DD in the delivery of health care services |
| Strategy 5: Build the capacity of medical professionals, and health care organizations, to provide health care services to people with I/DD, including by expanding relevant specialized training. |
| Added a DSP toolkit to our website, content created in a joint program with the University of Minnesota |
| Trained 74 staff at 17 chapters of The Arc in Kentucky, Texas, Wisconsin, New York, Pennsylvania, California, Colorado, Florida and Massachusetts to deliver the HealthMatters curriculum. |
| Goal VI: The Arc is a powerful advocate for people with I/DD, leading a vibrant, engaged and growing movement of people with I/DD, their family members, friends and colleagues, and the nonprofit organizations that serve them, committed to the full inclusion of people with I/DD in society. |
| Generally |
|  Designed and produced new Advocacy posters, signs, buttons and created new Advocacy web pages.  |
| Addressed the national convention regarding the critical Medicaid, health care, and grassroots efforts of 2017 and expected to be needed in 2018; also addressed school choice, self-determination, and coordinated listening session for position statements. |
| Assisted in planning four and spoke at two national coalition rallies to protect the Medicaid program during the healthcare fight. |
| Complete Redesign of State Advocacy Matters |
| Created banner ads and other promotional materials for DPS, program materials, signage, and website.  |
| Designed NCE Awards Luncheon Program, tickets, signage and PPT templates. |
| Extensive redesign of Pathway's to Justice Model for better clarity and understanding to meet client's needs.  |
| Held The Arc’s first ever sibling reception at The Arc’s National Convention in San Diego, CA that was attended by 12 siblings. |
| Hired Director of Advocacy & Mobilization |
| In 2017, The Arc continued to expand its legal advocacy work in order to serve as a powerful advocate for people with I/DD in the following ways: 1) serving as an organizational plaintiff and counsel in a class action complaint in federal court against the State of Georgia challenging its statewide system of segregated schools for students with behavioral disabilities; 2) actively developing cases to address systemic IDEA violations in West Virginia public schools, the right of criminal defendants with ID to be placed in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs, and the accessibility of online job applications; 3) drafting/participating in 6 amicus briefs before federal and state courts regarding issues such as community integration, special education, parental rights, and criminal justice;4) engaging chapters in litigation directly and educating chapters about The Arc’s litigation work and federal disability rights laws at The Arc’s annual events and through newsletters, blogs, and social media;5) engaging in non-litigation legal advocacy for individuals and chapters to support the rights of people with disabilities to receive accommodations in the criminal justice system, under the Air Carrier Access Act, and in housing. 6) strengthening the board’s Legal Advocacy Subcommittee by recruiting four new members and drafting a new protocol that allows The Arc to expand its litigation work outside the amicus context;7) raising The Arc’s profile in the disability rights legal community by presenting at legal conferences, serving in leadership roles on the Disability Rights Bar Association and American Bar Association, and attending disability rights litigation strategy convenings with leaders in the field. 8) pursuing funding to support continued litigation work by creating a Legal Advocacy Fund as part of The Arc’s 2017 year-end campaign and bringing in other funds, such as a $10,000 grant from the Skadden Foundation.  |
| Launched The Arc’s National Sibling Council and held quarterly calls in May, September, and December 2017. |
| Led disability coalition efforts in opposition to the tax bills, including developing tax reform principles and recommendations; meetings with Capitol Hill staff; sending multiple letters to the House and Senate; recruiting a speaker for a press conference sponsored by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi; issuing action alerts, drafting fact sheets, blog posts, and statements; sending almost daily coalition updates; and outreach and technical assistance to chapters of The Arc in key states and Congressional districts. |
| Opposed legislation that would have the impact of undermining the Americans with Disabilities Act. |
| Redesigned and sent 3 sibling e-newsletters to a list of over 1,300 recipients. The most recent open rate for the e-newsletter was 28.6 percent. |
| Redesigned Diversity Strategic Action Plan |
| Revamped the sibling section of The Arc’s website - http://www.thearc.org/siblings. |
| Secured $80,000 anonymous grant to support paid social media and subgrants to chapters in key districts and states in opposition to tax bills. |
| The State Policy Advocacy team worked to further the goal of ensuring that The Arc is recognized as a powerful advocate for people with I/DD nationwide by publishing state chapter policy and advocacy achievements in quarterly newsletters and a blog and by gathering state chapter executive directors and presidents to discuss their work and share ideas on a regular basis.  |
| Urged Congress to remove the cuts to the Vocational Rehabilitation supported employment state grant funding from the 2018 Federal budget. |
| Strategy 1: Build the capacity of all chapters of The Arc to engage in both public policy advocacy and individual advocacy for people with I/DD. |
| Affiliated the Williams Syndrome Association as a new national nonprofit associate member of The Arc  |
| Assisted with the development of Medicaid materials for The Arc's exhibit at the National Conference of State Legislators.  |
| By highlighting the partnership between The Arc of New York and The Arc of Indiana with their elected officials, we encouraged other states to learn from the examples these chapters set.  |
| Chapters of The Arc elevated the disability perspective on the ACA, Medicaid, and tax bill fights with the media, resulting in at least 98 media hits across the country at key moments throughout the year. |
| Continued to engage chapters in opposition to state resolutions calling for a constitutional convention to adopt a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. |
| Continued twice monthly calls with state chapter executive directors, with local chapter executive directors joining once per month, to keep them apprised of developments on the Medicaid and ACA efforts. |
| Coordinated and implemented 2 National letter-writing campaigns, at critical times during the Senate legislative process, to support Medicaid and allow individuals around the country to share their stories with Congress.  |
| Created materials to publicize The Arc's new Medicaid and VR-funded services available from The Arc of the District of Columbia |
| Developed “August recess swag boxes” to equip chapters with free materials to support their outreach to Members of Congress during the August Congressional recess. Sixty-two chapters ordered boxes, resulting in nineteen reported meetings/outreach to legislators, nine meetings with local/state officials, eleven community events, and overall excellent engagement and feedback from chapters. |
| Empowered chapter leaders at The Arc's Summer Leadership Institute and The Arc's National Convention to become criminal justice advocates in their communities.  |
| Held 3 webinars for chapters and grassroots. |
| Kept chapters up-to-date and aware of grassroots actions needed, and the resources available to support them through regular emails and bi-monthly conference calls. |
| Organized and presented at Summer Leadership Institute: session on paid family and medical leave, a general session on Medicaid and ACA efforts including grassroots, session on criminal justice policy, session on education issues, and Medicaid updates to NCE Steering Committee and State Executive Directors. |
| Outreached to chapters in states with key Members of Congress on key votes/issues to gauge capacity, share materials, and offer support. |
| Presented at The Arc of Virginia Conference, The Arc of Maryland Executives' Meeting, The Arc of Massachusetts, and The Arc of Prince George's County, MD about Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. |
| Presented on grassroots advocacy engagement strategies at The Arc of the United States national convention. |
| Presented with two chapters on NCE call on best practices for amplifying personal stories in advocacy. |
| Provided sample materials for chapters including share graphics, letters to the editor, social media posts, template signs, questions for Town halls, and Congressional recess activity ideas. |
| Regularly conveyed up to date information and strategy to NCE leadership and state and local chapter leadership, and made in-person or video presentations on ACA and Medicaid to multiple state and local chapters, as well as national organizations, including the National Rehabilitation Association (twice), Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance, Sibling Leadership Network, and the Colorado Sibling Group, as well as: The Arc of Kentucky, The Arc of Florida, The Arc of Massachusetts, The Arc of Michigan, The Arc of Virginia, and The Arc of Illinois.  |
| Secured $300,000 in unrestricted support from the Ford Foundation to support public policy advocacy, capacity building, and chapter engagement over two years. |
| Secured a $125,000 grant from The District of Columbia Department of Disability Services to conduct the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment |
| The Arc@School compiled a list of 115 staff from 93 chapters who provide special education advocacy to request feedback on needed professional development topics and provide important updates on education policy and tips for improving special education advocacy. |
| The Arc@School is creating a comprehensive, online special education advocacy training curriculum for non-attorneys that will provide chapter staff, parents, educators, and advocates the same understanding about the rights of students with disabilities so that misunderstandings can be avoided, and disagreements can be resolved early in the IEP process, without need for formal due process measures, as often as possible. Ten chapters were chosen to help create and pilot the training curriculum. Based on feedback from the pilot chapters and The Arc@School's Advisory Panel, The Arc@School worked with the Online Project Manager to select an online platform for the training curriculum. The Arc@School has drafted six of ten expected modules. Four of the six modules have been revised based on feedback from the pilot chapters and Advisory Panel. Work on the modules and supplementary materials will continue in 2018. |
| To educate chapters and grassroots advocates on threats to Medicaid, the ACA, and SSI, coordinated with DAN and Communications Teams to execute weekly emails to chapters and DAN list; launched a new policy social media campaign, #WeActWednesday; executed strategic paid social media posts to reach new advocates; initiated webinar series for chapters and grassroots; launched 4 share your story alerts (including one on paid leave), generating hundreds of submissions that were vetted and select stories were filmed at DPS resulting a series of videos shared on social media; held regular bi-monthly phone calls to chapters (expanded to local chapters (1x per month)), in addition to weekly (or more often) action alerts and weekly issues of Capitol Insider (when Congress is in session). |
| With five partner organizations, planned and implemented the Disability Policy Seminar. |
| Worked with Communications to develop materials to explain developments to the chapters and grassroots and to support chapter advocacy including fact sheets, regular calls, social media, action alerts, letters to the editor, webinars, tool kits, and other materials; developed related materials and calls to support grassroots advocacy, including our first ever Facebook Live policy event to support efforts on Medicaid and the ACA.  |
| Wrote testimony for Senate Finance Committee hearing and developed state templates for the chapters to submit for the record about our concerns with the deep cuts and restructuring of Medicaid. |
| Strategy 2: Assure and sustain a state office or chapter in every state or a combination of state and regional offices that provide a presence in all 50 states. |
| Strategy 3: Dramatically expand the number of members and activists, including obtaining greater participation of families of younger children and people from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. |
| Launched paid social media campaigns throughout the year on Medicaid, paid leave, and the tax bill to engage people, both inside The Arc’s network and followers of like-minded organizations, who may not be aware of The Arc, in our advocacy efforts. |
| Launched paid supporter acquisition campaign on Facebook and Twitter.  |
| Led creation effort of Join Our Fight email sign-up (https://blog.thearc.org/joinourfight/) to capture new, motivated supporters who may not already be on one of the organization's email lists. |
| Recruited speakers with intellectual disability for Congressional briefing on higher education legislation that improves program for students with ID. |
| Strategy 4: Promote and support the development of people with I/DD as leaders, advocates and spokespersons on issues of their concern.  |
| Developed the program, secured speakers, and wrote materials for the 2017 Disability Policy Seminar. Implemented very impactful DPS given the timing of the House vote on Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act and the largest attendance ever (nearly 900 people total). |
| Promoted the diverse accomplishments of people with I/DD as leaders in a variety of fields: Micah Fowler (star of Speechless) and Lois Curtis |
| Promoted the Health and Fitness for All program through the following ways: 5 Facebook posts (including The Arc’s U.S. and local chapters) that resulted in 55 likes and 1 share. Three tweets on The Arc’s Twitter that resulted in 17 likes and 7 re-tweets. Article placed in the The Journal Times (Wisconsin) on December 19, 2017 titled "Racine students learn about healthy lifestyles through program." |
| Supported the National Council of Self-Advocates to deliver the Self-Advocacy Symposium at The Arc's 2018 national convention |
| The Arc’s Director of Advocacy & Mobilization led a discussion & presentation to The Arc of Frederick, MD self-advocacy group on ways to get involved in advocacy, and is proactively seeking ways to expand that work in 2018 |
| Worked with self-advocates and family members to share their stories about the importance of Medicaid and other critical programs in 8 videos that were viewed over 2.5 million times, with legislators, and with the media.  |
| Strategy 5: Actively collaborate with and support self-advocacy organizations and involve them in all aspects of the work of The Arc. |
| Strategy 6: Develop a network of well-trained, empowered and informed self-advocates. |
| Began development of the program, targeted speakers, and necessary materials for the 2018 Disability Policy Seminar. |
| Briefed nationwide activists from Protect Our Care coalition on impact of Medicaid cuts on people with disabilities. |
| The Arc’s National Council of Self-Advocates hosted a symposium titled “Innovations in Employment: Navigating Systems for Success” attended by 150 self-advocates. |
| Worked with self-advocates and family members to share their stories about the importance of Medicaid and other critical programs in 8 videos that were viewed over 2.5 million times, with legislators, and with the media. |
| Strategy 7: Build the capacity of board and staff leaders of state and local chapters, as well as individual members and volunteers, to engage in advocacy. |
| Co-led the disability coalition response on the repeal of the ACA and Medicaid by developing letters, fact sheets, grassroots materials, and shaping and implementing strategy to fight the repeal and cuts.  |
| Developed the highly rated program, secured speakers, and wrote materials for the 2017 Disability Policy Seminar, featuring keynotes by civil rights leader Wade Henderson and human rights leader Candace Gingrich. |
| Launched personal stories collection campaign for The Arc’s story bank on a variety of issues important to people with disabilities including Medicaid (including HCBS), SSI, paid leave, and the Affordable Care Act |
| Presented about ways to get involved in The Arc’s advocacy efforts on sibling leadership council calls. |
| Presented at The Arc’s National Convention on grassroots engagement strategies.  |
| Provided information on benefits, services and discounts from The Arc US available to chapters of The Arc |
| Provided orientation to newly 11 hired executive directors of state and local chapters of The Arc |
| Provided technical assistance to chapters of The Arc related to improving or expanding their quality of services and/or administrative processes |
| Sent out consistent email alert communications to activist list, which included board, staff leaders, chapters, and volunteers, asking them to participate in advocacy actions including calling, emailing and tweeting their Members of Congress, attending rallies and events and sharing their story. |
| Supported legislation to develop a national strategy on family caregivers that was passed by the House and Senate. |
| Strategy 8: Collaborate with culturally focused groups to increase awareness of The Arc in communities of color, as well as the accessibility of advocacy, supports and services for people with I/DD. |
| Strategy 9: Develop benchmarks and compile state-specific rankings of the accessibility and quality of supports and services for people with I/DD and their families. |
| Strategy 10: Empower people with I/DD and their families to tell their stories. |
| Arranged for Kim Goodloe, President of The Arc of Virginia, to speak at a press event hosted by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi; joined Senator Cory Booker at a press conference opposing the repeal of the ACA; and spoke at #SaveMedicaid rally at the U.S. Capitol. |
| Arranged for Peter Berns and Marta Conner to testify at a hearing sponsored by House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer and other Minority leadership Members; facilitated participation of Marta Connor in a press briefing with Members of Congress on Medicaid cuts at Children's National Medical Center; participated in a live feed/recorded briefing hosted by the Center for American Progress, “What’s at Stake for Americans with Disabilities in the Trump Era”, which also featured the release of a related video focusing on people affected by potential changes, including Marta Conner and her family and Andraea LaVant.  |
| Created a story bank and screened hundreds of stories, chose 14 people to be filmed at the Disability Policy Seminar, and worked with Communications to edit and promote the videos, culminating in several short videos which have been extensively used for Medicaid and ACA efforts. |
| Empowered presenters, award winners with I/DD (and their family members) to share their stories: Lois Curtis, Crystal Muro, Kurt Rutzen, Micah Fowler, Mary Gonzalez, Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, and Liz Mahar  |
| Recruited speaker for protest of Administration tax plan organized by Americans for Tax Fairness. |
| Released video on the importance of Medicaid to people with disabilities, in partnership with the Center for American Progress, that has been viewed over 1 million times. |
| Spoke with reporter of the New York affiliate of National Public Radio on service needs of adults with autism. |
| Worked with The Arc of Pennsylvania, identified a family to attend a press conference hosted by Senators Casey, Bennet, and Hassan on the importance of Medicaid in schools. |
| Strategy 11: Position The Arc as the leading resource for the media and the general public about intellectual and developmental disabilities. |
| Celebrated the success of the 76 participants that have completed the Health and Fitness for All program in Texas and Wisconsin. Participants were celebrated at graduation events with staff attending from the Amerigroup (in Texas), Anthem BlueCross BlueShield (in Wisconsin), 4 chapters of The Arc (in Texas and Wisconsin) and other family and friends. |
| Chapters of The Arc elevated the disability perspective on the ACA, Medicaid, and tax bill fights with the media, resulting in at least 98 media hits across the country at key moments throughout the year. |
| Co-led the Save Medicaid National Day of Action which included a Hill day and rally, events across the country, and extensive social media; facilitated participation of Pennsylvania advocate who received extensive press coverage for telling her family's story.  |
| Co-sponsored the #MomsDontNeed / #LasMamásNoNecesitan Tweet storm (Mother’s Day themed) to draw attention to harmful / inadequate proposals on health care and Medicaid, economic security, and paid leave. |
| Garnered invitation and facilitated participation by Peter Berns in a Facebook live event hosted by Sen. Cory Booker with Rep. John Lewis, and Senators Brian Schatz, Kirsten Gillibrand, Chris Murphy, Chris Coons, and Jeff Merkley, viewed over 1 million times, raising issues regarding the Senate bill to replace the ACA and restructure Medicaid. |
| In 2017, Autism Now Facebook grew from 81,265 to 83,442, an increase of 2,177 (+3%). |
| In 2017, Autism Now Twitter grew from 2,274 to 2,468, an increase of 9%. |
| In 2017, our Twitter grew from 15,030 to 17,998, an increase of 2968 (+20%). |
| In 2017, The Arc's Facebook grew from 25,266 to 32,341, an increase of 7075 (+28%). |
| Interviewed by the New York Times regarding education savings accounts.  |
| Led rapid response press and social media efforts throughout public policy crises of 2017. Of top 10 Facebook posts for the organization (organic reach, not paid promotion reach), 8 were public policy content - either promoting a video, statement, or news article The Arc was quoted in. Of the top 10 Twitter posts for the organization (organic impressions, not paid promotion impressions), 8 were public policy content. |
| Opposed health provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, including the repeal of the penalty on people who do not purchase health insurance and the unsuccessful attempt to eliminate or limit the medical expense deduction; continued extensive work on Capitol Hill, in coalitions, with state and local chapters, and with grassroots.  |
| Participated in a press call with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities on impact of cuts on Medicaid Home and Community Based Services. |
| Produced 3 issues of Empower and 6 issues of e-newsletter, brainstorming and writing all content, working with chapters for input and managing print, production, and distribution. |
| Provided crisis communications support to 7 chapters of The Arc. |
| Quoted in an Arizona Public Radio story about workforce issues for direct support professionals. |
| Quoted in interview with National Public Radio on school vouchers. |
| Quoted in the New York Times about the U.S. Supreme Court Decision in the Endrew case. |
| Sent 70 press releases to the media in 2017; 15 were for a chapter hosting a Wings for Autism event.  |
| The Arc@School spoke with reporters on three occasions to inform media coverage of important educational issues, including an interview with the Hartford Courant regarding The Arc's amicus brief in CCJEF v. Rell, Politico regarding transition services for high school students with disabilities, and Huffington Post regarding the challenges students with I/DD have in obtaining a regular high school diploma. |
| The Catalyst Awards were created as a media event and we work to continue growing it and expanding the reach it has to a variety of media channels. The event serves as an educational tool to those outside of the disability rights movement.  |
| Worked with Comcast/NBCUniversal to promote The Arc's 2017 public service announcement which aired over 96,000 times with $1 million in in-kind support from Comcast/NBCUniversal. |
| Worked with Communications staff to respond, at every step in the Congressional legislative process to repeal the ACA, with statements or letters to Congress, to write press statements and respond to press inquiries, and to write several blog posts on various relevant aspects of the debate. |
| Worked with media to influence, shape, and/or include The Arc's name in at least 158 media hits in 2017 in outlets ranging from the Washington Post, New York Times, Money Magazine, NPR, CBS News, NBC News, Yahoo, Forbes, The New Republic, Huffington Post, Vice News, Moms Rising, The Mighty, Disability Scoop, and small and large local publications and news outlets. |
| Wrote and distributed 4 issues of Autism Now's e-newsletter, Prism. |
| Goal VII: The Arc is a catalyst advancing best practices among all community-based service providers and the preeminent provider of inclusive services and supports for people with I/DD and their families. |
| Generally |
| Briefed international delegations from Australia and the Ukraine on the U.S service system for persons with I/DD. |
| Created a promotional plan for Summer Leadership Institute |
| Designed program, badges, signage, promotional materials and swag items for Summer Leadership Institute  |
| In 2017 provided technology coaching to 270 people with I/DD through Tech Coaching Centers located in five chapters around the country. |
| Launched website for Comcast-funded Technology Coaching Centers, to spread resources for training people with I/DD to use technology. |
| Received notice that the Center was cited as a resource in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: A Roadmap for Families and Professionals in a section on parental caregiving and later life planning. The Center was also recognized as a promising practice by the Family Support Research and Training Center at UIC. |
| Represented The Arc at the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research's invitation-only conference on the state of technology for transition youth with disabilities. |
| Signed-up four chapters to use the Chapter Web Service. Ended the year with 21 chapters using the Chapter Web Service. |
| Trudy & Allen teamed to review all current, outstanding and new projects that needed to be within Wrike and establish a tight priority to getting all of our projects triaged and on schedule for completion. As of end September we are fully back on schedule after a staff shake-up. |
| Strategy 1: Establish a knowledgebase of best practices in supports and services for people with I/DD, as well as of the specific programs, services and supports offered by chapters of The Arc. |
| Added diversity questions to the MLK Project Final Report questionnaire to ensure chapters can reach a diverse volunteer base within their communities; this also raises the profile of The Arc in those communities  |
| Completed intervention toolkit for chapters of The Arc to utilize in their organizational transformational change efforts.  |
| During the project year, The Arc continued to learn more about the benefits of and barriers to inclusive volunteering that people with I/DD experience. We also wanted to learn more about the main benefits and barriers to volunteer opportunities for people with I/DD at our local sites. To understand these issues better, we asked our 10 local sites to provide feedback ranking their perception of the significance of each barrier or benefit. This information is being used to help provide more tailored information to chapters on the project. |
| Helped conduct the annual State of Science conference for organizations across the U.S. involved in organizational change. |
| The Arc Academy launched bringing all training and onboarding tools created by The Arc to chapter staff; the site is part of an ongoing partnership with Relias Learning. |
| The DSP Toolkit launched bringing tools and resources to support the recruitment and retention of DSPs |
| The Greater Washington Regional Gathering for Leaders of The Arc was formed with The Arc, The Arc of Northern Virginia, The Arc of Prince George's County and The Arc of Montgomery County. Increased collaboration and knowledge and best practice sharing are the goals of the group. |
| To ensure that people with I/DD and their families have access to high quality pooled special needs trusts, we continued to build a community of practice among pooled special needs trusts run by chapters of The Arc by hosting a meeting of chapters prior to the Stetson Conference. We also surveyed state chapter executives and special needs planning attorneys to assess the need for additional pooled trusts and presented these results to the CEO. |
| To increase awareness among organizations serving seniors of resources related to future planning for people with I/DD and their aging caregivers, we presented at the AIRS annual conference. We have also been asked to create an online course for information and referral specialists on serving people with I/DD and their families.  |
| Strategy 2: Conduct or commission research to assess the quality of outcomes attained by people with I/DD served by chapters of The Arc in comparison to other community-based service providers. |
| Strategy 3: Set clear direct service standards for what are best practices in services and supports for people with IDD and their families and a system of education, training and support to promote organizational improvement consistent with the standards. |
| Facilitated a train-the-trainer with UIC in August 2017. Seventy-four staff from 17 chapters of The Arc in Kentucky, Texas, Wisconsin, New York, Pennsylvania, California, Colorado, Florida and Massachusetts were trained to deliver the HealthMatters curriculum.  |
| Strategy 4: Provide ongoing professional development and education for program staff of chapters of The Arc, promoting best practices in programs, services and supports for people with I/DD. |
| AcknowledgementWorks Founder and 2012 TEDx Speaker Christopher Littlefield conducted a successful 2017 Professional Development Seminar in San Diego, CA, providing attendees with training on appreciating and valuing organizational staff for increased effectiveness. |
| Conducted 2 sessions at the North Carolina Self-Advocates conference. |
| Facilitated a train-the-trainer with UIC in August 2017. Seventy-four staff from 17 chapters of The Arc in Kentucky, Texas, Wisconsin, New York, Pennsylvania, California, Colorado, Florida and Massachusetts were trained to deliver the HealthMatters curriculum.  |
| NCCJD hired and worked with 4 undergraduate and graduate student interns and 1 research fellow to advance professional development in the field of disability rights.  |
| NCE membership grew by 27% in 2017 - 1515 state and local chapter executives; the number of chapters with gold passes increased by 25% (n=20); this allowed more chapter staff to engage in the professional development resources provided by The Arc and NCE. |
| Successfully facilitated The 2017 Summer Leadership Institute in St. Louis, MO. Over 180 participants came together to learn, share and network, supporting our continuous development efforts. |
| The 2016 NCE Annual report was distributed along with NCE renewal invoices; all chapters were able to learn of the professional development opportunities and tools and resources available with NCE membership. |
| The 2017 NCE Scholarship program brought in 23 applications; 15 scholarships were distributed - 8 to SLI and 7 to PDS; more chapter staff are able to participate in the NCE professional development events |
| The Arc@School presented at The Arc's Summer Leadership Institute regarding The Arc@School's planned activities to support chapters in advocating in special education matters. |
| The Arc@School presented with COPAA at The Arc's Annual Convention about how to use the US Supreme Court's decision in Endrew in individual advocacy and how to educate parents about school choice options and their impact on the rights of students with disabilities. |
| The Center hosts quarterly webinars and training sessions at Convention and SLI on topics related to future planning and related issues. Topics have included "Tips for Interacting with Law Enforcement Officers”, “Supported Decision-Making: Planning for Medical Decision-Making", and "Aging and I/DD". |
| The collaboration with the RRTCD from the University of Chicago brought 5 webinars on Health and Wellness and people with I/DD to our chapter network and the disability community as a whole; The Arc is continued to be perceived as an organization that brings topical and experienced webinars to our constituents. |
| The monthly NCE Newsletters continue to keep our chapters informed of learning opportunities and ways to continuously engage in their professional development. |
| The NCE Steering Committee successfully completed their 2017 workplan. |
| Update the NCE Google group to ensure ALL Executive Directors are members and can learn, network, and share best practices with their peers. to the NCE Google group thus ensuring all executives have access to NCE and The Arc updates |
| Strategy 5: Develop and implement mechanisms for promoting continuous quality improvement in the supports and services provided by chapters of the Arc. |
| Led The Arc DC team and board through a scenario planning process that led to organizational transformation and a business development plan. |
| Strategy 6: Develop and implement processes to effectively address complaints from the public about programs, supports and services provided by chapters of The Arc, or other evidence of conduct that is incompatible with the best interest of people with I/DD and their families. |
| Goal VIII: The Arc is a household name, well known and respected as an effective, responsive, well managed and responsibly governed, and sustainable nonprofit federation. |
| Generally |
| As part of the Executive team, The Arc's Associate General Counsel worked with pro bono counsel on a wide variety of legal work for the organization and its chapters to ensure The Arc is a respected and responsibly governed organization, including securing tax-exempt status for eight local chapters, defending against creditor litigation against The Arc DC and The Arc US resulting in a favorable settlement, strengthening The Arc’s trademark enforcement efforts (resulting in 1 organizational name change, 1 reaffiliation, and 2 additional cease and desist letters pending), and reviewing and/or creating internal office contracts and policies.  |
| Created promotional plan for email, print and social media. Designed social media badge kit. |
| Design and layout for final Empower for the year |
| Designed all materials needed for convention including Signage, downloadable materials for App, postcard, PPT templates, program, tickets and swag items. |
| Designed new print format and promotional materials for the Film Festival |
| Executed the design, production, and mail house management for the House Appeal |
| Finalized the design and copy on the Sponsorship Prospectus |
| Launched the FINDS promotional campaign and completed all promotional materials - including print and digital |
| New design standard for templates and promotional materials for The Arc@Work. |
| Oversaw video production for 2017 EOY campaign |
| Sold $16,002.00 at The Arc Store (almost double the $8,322 from 2016) |
| Strategically created and adhered to promotional plan for The Catalyst Awards. Designed promotional materials, print, social media, invitations and signage to brand event.  |
| The Catalyst Awards are a public facing event with unique sponsors, this event is helping to raise The Arc's national profile by making us known to major players nationally including producers for major television shows, executives at Fortune 100 companies, elected officials, and internationally known law firms. By tapping into these networks, we are gaining more awareness across the country.  |
| Total redesign of concept and layout for 2016 Annual Report. Management of print production. |
| Transitioning back to a bite/snack/meal strategy with Fusion we had a click through rate (CTR) of 14% compared to an industry standard of 8.5%. Highest Q3 CTR was 22% with this Fusion: http://conta.cc/2hCwVwA |
| Updated layout and design of the September Appeal letter/card. Oversaw print production with a distribution list of 6,780 records. |
| Strategy 1: Rebrand The Arc to establish its position as the leading advocacy and service nonprofit for people with I/DD in the United States, including supporting chapters in implementing the new brand identity. |
| A new board Diversity Committee has been formed which supports the board in identifying actions to take to help The Arc achieve its diversity goals. |
| Attended the inaugural meeting of the coalition of Los Angeles I/DD service providers from the Latino, African-American, Korean, Vietnamese, Japanese, and Chinese communities and The Arc |
| Brought editing capabilities in-house, no longer relying on outsourced design for brand management - except delivery of logos  |
| Completed the organization's 2017 Diversity Work plan; goals of the plan are to raise awareness of The Arc and the chapters of The Arc in the community as a whole. |
| Explored the cultural diversity of San Diego with various ethnic musicians performing at several events at convention;  |
| Fully re-branded NYSARC as The Arc of New York |
| Increased exposure of The Arc through presentations at the 2017 TASH Annual Conference and with 1st Healthcare. |
| Over-delivered Chapters to be fully rebranded in 2017 for a total of 34 (goal was 18) - Including rebranding materials to The Arc of Spring Branch/Memorial, The Arc of Midstate CT, The Arc of Montgomery, The Arc New York, The Arc Erie County, The Arc Putnam, The Arc Livingston-Wyoming, Central Alabama (AL), Delaware County (NY), Schuyler (NY), South Shore (MA), Westchester (NY) |
| The Arc's Diversity Advisory Council launched with a mix of external diversity thought leaders, chapter leaders, self-advocates and board members; allows us to engage professionals in the work of The Arc  |
| The Board Diversity Scholarship supported approximately 25 diverse individuals and families to attend the 2017 National Convention, creating exposure to The Arc within those communities |
| The DiversityComm partnership continues to flourish with ads and articles spotlighting people with I/DD to a growing readership. |
| The NCE Award Luncheon was attended by approximately 200 individuals including 10 awardees; this event continues to spotlight the expertise and excellence to be found within The Arc and its Chapter network. |
| The organization's 1st Diversity Annual Report was completed; the 2016 Diversity Annual Report documented steps taken to date on accomplishing our 2016-2020 Diversity Strategic Action Plan. |
| The partnership with Relias Learning has brought in $26,084.94 in 2017; an increase of 56% over 2016; more chapters are investing in meeting the training needs of their staff.  |
| Strategy 2: Reaffirm The Arc’s relevance and role on behalf of all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, regardless of diagnoses, at all stages of life. |
| Conducted online movement building consultant scope of work which included a full audit of the national organization’s digital and social media presence, tools, and strategy, and presented recommendations and analysis to CEO on how to properly build The Arc’s online movement. |
| Strategy 3: Develop a collaborative approach to fundraising, among national state and local, that maximizes philanthropic resources. |
| Updated layout and design of Secure newsletter. Oversaw print production with a distribution list of 4,637 records. |
| Strategy 3: Develop a collaborative approach to fundraising, among national state and local, that maximizes philanthropic resources. |
| Strategy 4: Strengthen and expand the depth and breadth of the network of local chapters, including: (i) Directly recruiting new local chapters in states where there is no state chapter, (ii) Support and coordinate with state chapters to recruit new local chapters, and (iii) promoting mergers and consolidation where necessary and appropriate to advance the mission of The Arc. |
| Affiliated six organizations (The Arc of Robson County NC; The Arc of Solomon Valley KS; The Arc of Southwestern Wisconsin; St. Andrew Bay Center FL; The Arc of the Central Mountains CO; Lafayette Arc LA) as new chapters of The Arc  |
| Held meetings and provided information to 40 organizations about future affiliation with The Arc |
| Met with Developmental Disability Councils and University Centers of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities in 6 states (Kansas, Alaska, Montana, New Hampshire, Maine and Oklahoma) to obtain their support and guidance on connecting with advocacy organizations in their state that might be interested in partnership with The Arc |
| Provided technical assistance and resources to 12 state chapters and 3 local chapters without state chapters to expand their successful efforts to recruit new, local chapters of The Arc  |
| Strategy 5: Establish a nimble, seamless, state of the art model for involving parents, family members and interested individuals as members of The Arc that is educational, mission driven, flexible, rewarding and high impact. |
| Strategy 6: Recruit and involve businesses, professionals, consultants, government agencies, associated nonprofits and other organizations in The Arc. |
| Connected the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance (new national nonprofit associate member) with The Arc staff and chapters via TSA fundraising walks, Summer Leadership Institute, The Arc's national convention and TSA conferences |
| Connected the Williams Syndrome Association (new national nonprofit associate member) with The Arc staff and chapters via the Summer Leadership Institute |
| Established a relationship with The Human Rights Campaign; plans in place to develop a partnership for bringing tools and resources to people with I/DD from HRC |
| Member of the NCCC Community of Practice National Advisory Committee which builds awareness of The Arc but also builds partnerships and relationships with other board members from the community. |
| Member of the NCCC Leadership Institute Wisdom Council at Georgetown University, providing insight and best practices to the NCCC Leadership Institute. |
| Relias Learning conducted 3 webinars on the topic of addressing the DSP crisis by improving recruitment and retention strategies. |
| The Arc was able to participate in The World Bank's Disability Expo, providing greater exposure for The Arc and its local chapters in the District/Maryland/Virginia region. |
| Strategy 7: Develop dynamic partnerships with major corporations to promote inclusion, as well as to provide ongoing support for The Arc at all levels. |
| Fostered closer relationships and potential future partnerships for The Arc with major corporations, including Prudential, Scotts Miracle-Gro, and a dozen others (including through participation in the US Business Leadership Network).  |
| Lead a panel at the M-Enabling Summit on technology for people with disabilities. |
| Participated in Comcast's "Accessibility Think Tank" to advocate for accessible technology for people with I/DD. |
| Secured more than $330,000 in corporate support for The Arc from 29 sponsors (2/3 returning and 1/3 new). |
| Showcased The Arc's work and led the "Innovative Technology" session at the Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe. |
| Supported members of the Board Resource Development Committee to identify and cultivate corporate prospects and potential major donors for long-term support of The Arc. |
| The Arc@School is leading an effort with Salesforce that includes The Arc@Work, Individual and Family Supports, and The Arc's Technology programs, as well as 7 state and local chapters to define and pilot an employee benefit that supports individuals with disabilities and their family members in navigating disability benefits systems and has the potential to generate revenue for chapters. |
| This year, The Catalyst Awards enabled The Arc to create a meaningful relationship with Apple that has already led to them sponsoring our 2018 event at the level of $15K. We will remain engaged with Apple to help expand awareness about The Arc to new audiences and fulfill our mission. |
| Strategy 8: Provide ongoing professional development and education for executive and program staff of chapters of The Arc, promoting best practices in programs, services and supports for people with I/DD. |
| The 2017 NCE Silent Auction raised $13,967.00, a 71% increase over 2016; the online auction allowed for participation across the country, raising awareness of The Arc across the country. |
| Strategy 8: Provide ongoing professional development and education for executive and program staff of chapters of The Arc, promoting best practices in programs, services and supports for people with I/DD. |
| Strategy 9: Develop the Board of Directors to be composed of a majority of parents, family members and people with disabilities themselves on the Board, while also including leaders from the business, philanthropic, media, academic and others capable of providing resources and expertise necessary for the success of The Arc at the national level. |
| Strategy 10: Increase use of technology, including social networking, in all aspects of the organization’s work.  |
| Advocacy initiatives in 3rd quarter enabled us to increase average FB post reach to 8,517 from 4,296 in 2016. HUGE! |
| Average twitter impressions 2,116, with the highest performing post having 60,809 likes. https://twitter.com/TheArcUS/status/913361061423800320 |
| Conducted online movement building consultant scope of work which included a full audit of the national organization’s digital and social media presence, tools, and strategy, and presented recommendations and analysis to CEO on how to properly build The Arc’s online movement. |
| Consistently participated in coalition tweetstorms, Thunderclaps and National Call-in days. |
| Created script, storyboard and concept for EOY Thank You Video which netted a 49,372 Lifetime Post Total Reach |
| Created weekly #WeActWednesday social media campaign to energize activists with a new activity each week. |
| Direct creative for EOY Blooper video for use on Social Media with netted a 2,963 Lifetime Post Total Reach |
| During 2017, 520 people created accounts in the Build Your Plan tool, enabling them to use the Center's resources to build a future plan online. |
| Email average open rate of 30.43% above industry standard of 19.32% |
| Implemented #WeActWednesday campaign on social media, with an average reach of 15,721 per post (compared to 4,296 for 2016 annual average) |
| Implemented and designed EOY Social media campaign with largest lifetime reach of a single post (excluding videos) being 42,344, along with Match campaign and Giving Tuesday. |
| In 2017, Autism Now Facebook grew from 81,265 to 83,442, an increase of 2,177 (+3%). |
| In 2017, Autism Now Twitter grew from 2,274 to 2,468, an increase of 9%. |
| In 2017, our Twitter grew from 15,030 to 17,998, an increase of 2968 (+20%). |
| In 2017, The Arc's Facebook grew from 25,266 to 32,341, an increase of 7075 (+28%). |
| Increased advocacy awareness with #JoinOurFight and our highest performing post with 44,307 lifetime reach with an unpaid post on July 14th. https://www.facebook.com/thearcus/posts/10156562810402715 |
| Launched paid social media campaigns throughout the year on Medicaid, paid leave, and the tax bill to engage people, both inside The Arc’s network and followers of like-minded organizations, who may not be aware of The Arc, in our advocacy efforts. |
| Launched paid supporter acquisition campaign on Facebook and Twitter. |
| Launched the beta version of the Online Coaching Service, to provide people with I/DD access to supports remotely over video conference. |
| Led rapid response press and social media efforts throughout public policy crises of 2017. Of top 10 Facebook posts for the organization (organic reach, not paid promotion reach), 8 were public policy content - either promoting a video, statement, or news article The Arc was quoted in. Of the top 10 Twitter posts for the organization (organic impressions, not paid promotion impressions), 8 were public policy content. |
| Ran a successful promotional campaign for DPS with mean open rate of 40% - well above average |
| Received 3,022 surveys on the technology products used by people with I/DD from hundreds of staff respondents at 150+ chapters. |
| Sold technology product testing services to a company (Brain Power) for $50K. |
| The Arc hosted its first Facebook Live event to discuss the health care bill, and The Arc’s CEO participated in a Facebook Live event on the Capitol steps organized by U.S. Senator Cory Booker and U.S. Rep. John Lewis |
| The Catalyst Awards generated a great deal of social media leading up to and during the event. The Arc was able to engage with new audiences as details about that awards were shared on award winners social media pages.  |
| The Center launched a Google AdWords campaign and published XX Facebook posts and X tweets, disseminating information about future planning to 168,286 people and driving traffic to the website. |
| Transitioned Prism over to Constant Contact from MailChimp and built out new Fusion template to transition to Constant Contact |
| We moved Fusion from Net Community to Constant Contact (in April) and open rates have improved. March (2 issues - average 20.5%), April (2 issues - average 23.5%), May (3 issues - average 24.7%) and June (2 issues - average 26%) |
| Worked with self-advocates and family members to share their stories about the importance of Medicaid and other critical programs in 8 videos that were viewed over 2.5 million times, with legislators, and with the media.  |
|  |