



THE COUNCIL VOICE

Executive Director's Message

October 2023



The onset of autumn signals change – the changing color of leaves in many parts of our beautiful state, the blessed change in temperatures from face-of-the-sun hot to more comfortable days and gorgeous nights, the change in our activities as we start preparing for the coming holidays...and so much more. For ADDPC, autumn changes include transition into our new fiscal year, with an array of new activities, grant-funded projects, and advocacy work to support individuals with I/DD and their families in all corners of Arizona.

[Read More](#)

The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council continues our profile series to help community members get to know the people who represent Arizonans with disabilities. In recognition of October being National Disability Employment Awareness Month and Down Syndrome Awareness Month, we are featuring two Council members.

Council member Kristen Mackey



Kristen is originally from Julesburg, Colorado, where her parents met when her father was in the United States Air Force and was stationed at Buckley Air Force Base (now called Buckley Space Force Base). When Kristen was a toddler, her parents recognized that she had difficulty hearing and took her to the doctor, where she was eventually diagnosed with a hearing disorder; her brother was diagnosed with the same disorder. Kristen also has Crohn's disease, which is an autoimmune disorder. The doctors suggested that she attend a special school for the blind and deaf. Since the school was so far away from where she lived, however, her parents elected to let her go to school close to their house. That family closeness proved enduring: Many years later, Kristen has a daughter of her own and two wonderful grandkids she loves to spend time with.

[Read more](#)

Next is Council member Sophie Stern



Sophie Stern goes to Glendale Community College with a focus on Dance and she loves to go shopping with her friends. She grew up in Tempe, Arizona, and graduated from McClintock High School in 2022. Since 2012, Sophie has been performing with the Detour Company Theatre, a Scottsdale-based theatre company whose shows are performed entirely by casts of individuals with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities. She also works part-time at The Bee's Knees (which specializes in high-quality resale clothing), where she helps sell clothing and jewelry.

[Read more](#)

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

**Arizona DD Network and Arizona APSE Chapter Join
Employment First to Celebrate National Disability
Employment Awareness Month**



The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Network, Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Arizona Chapter, and Arizona Employment First Initiative have announced their participation in National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. NDEAM educates individuals, employers, and communities on disability employment issues and celebrates the diverse contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is **Advancing Access & Equity** and includes a series of training webinars on October 11th, 18th, and 25th, hosted by Employment First, the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and Assistive Technology for Employment and Independence (ATEI).

1. When: Wednesday, October 11th - "The Story"

Presenters will assist participants to realize that they have all had experiences with disabilities or persons with disabilities, help participants to learn that other people have had similar experiences and feelings, and support participants in realizing that "people with disabilities" are often our family, loved ones, and ourselves.

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM MST

Where: Virtual

[Click here to register for "The Story"](#)

2. When: Wednesday, October 18th - "Encounter"

Presenters will help participants feel more comfortable communicating with people with disabilities, provide a better understanding of specific disabilities, and encourage participants to become exposed to people with disabilities in a safe, information-sharing environment.

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM MST

Where: Virtual

[Click here to register for "Encounter"](#)

3. **When:** Wednesday, October 25th - "AT Made Accessible"

Accessibility is within reach - how to find services and resources. In this webinar the presenters will cover:

- Assistive Technology (AT) evaluation and matching tools to tasks
- How to use Student, Environment, Tasks and Tools (SETT) framework and feature matching
- AT within Vocational Rehabilitation and how to navigate Vocational Rehabilitation and advocate for your needs
- Integrating AT for employment/education with AT for Independence
- How AT supports equity in daily living

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM MST

Where: Virtual

[Click here to register for "AT Made Accessible"](#)

October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month!



Chad McKinley, self-advocate

by Chelsea Hansen, Executive Director
Southern Arizona Network for Down Syndrome

October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month. The Southern Arizona Network for Down Syndrome (S.A.N.D.S.) cannot think of a better way to celebrate than to highlight a fantastic self-advocate and the S.A.N.D.S. 2023 Walk for Down Syndrome Grand Marshal, Chad McKinley.

[Read more](#)

Signing Ceremony Marks Day of Celebration for Supported Decision-Making Advocates

In June 2023, Governor Katie Hobbs signed into law Senate Bill 1291, formalizing Supported Decision-Making as a meaningful alternative to legal guardianship for Arizonans with disabilities. On September 5th, the Governor held a ceremonial bill signing at the capitol. Jon Meyers, ADDPC Executive

Director, Council Chair Melissa Van Hook, Council member Sophie Stern, and ADDPC Research and Communication Specialist Jason Snead were invited to attend.



Pictured from left to right are State Rep. Jennifer Longdon, Sophie Stern, Jon Meyers, Governor Katie Hobbs, Melissa Van Hook, SB 1291 sponsor State Sen. John Kavanagh and Jason Snead



Sophie Stern and Governor Hobbs



Jason Snead, Melissa Van Hook, Sophie Stern and Jon Meyers

50th Anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act

RehabilitationAct

50

Advancing Access and Equity – Then, Now and Next

by Jason Snead, ADDPC Research and Communication Specialist

September 26, 2023, marked 50 years since the signing of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a foundational law for ensuring people with disabilities have access to programs and activities that are funded by federal agencies, as well as access to federal employment. President Richard Nixon signed the Act into law and said, “It is doubly gratifying for me to be able to sign into law today the Rehabilitation Act of 1973--first, because of the good the act will do in helping hundreds of thousands of our disabled citizens attain self-sufficiency, and secondly, because of the encouraging example which our agreement on legislation sets for future executive-legislative cooperation.” This bipartisan

agreement on meeting the needs of the disability community was a precursor to legislation like the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990. Interestingly, the President vetoed two earlier versions of the Rehabilitation Act. Before the Rehabilitation Act was adopted, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Architectural Barriers Act in 1968.

As an Arizonan/Texan with a disability, I would like to take a moment to bring recognition to these incredible achievements in the disability movement and the disability advocates who helped make this legislation possible. I can only hope that I and others (shout out to other disability advocates and Council members) can build upon what they have achieved.

Jason's Advocacy Corner



Jason Snead is a self-advocate and staff member with the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, who has cerebral palsy (CP) and is a wheelchair user. This month for Jason's Advocacy Corner, Jules Hyde, Job Coach with ASD Maverick Consulting, LLC, interviews Vicente Obeso, a self-advocate.

They discuss Vicente's journey over the last 15+ years transitioning from group-supported employment to competitive integrated employment.

If you want to get in touch with Jules Hyde about job coaching or employment-related issues, feel free to contact him at 480-457-9429 or jhydeasdmaverick@gmail.com

If you have any ideas for the next conversation or discussion, please contact Jason Snead at jsnead@azdes.gov.

Watch the video below to see Jules Hyde interview Vicente Obeso.

Interview With Vicente Obeso Moderated by Jules Hyde



Upcoming Events!



DDD Town Hall Meeting

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) wants to hear from you. DDD is hosting regularly scheduled Town Hall meetings. DDD will present details about Division initiatives and other news. They would also like to hear from members, families and providers about the issues important to them.

Until further notice, all DDD meetings will be held virtually in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the DDD Customer Service Center at 1-844-770-9500 ext. 1. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

When: Thursday, October 5th

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM MST

Where: Virtual

[Click here to join DDD Town Hall Meeting](#)

Webinar series for self-advocates



Introducing the Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities at the University of Arizona's new **"What I Want for My Life"** webinar series. This program includes six different webinars, with one still remaining! You will need to register for each separately.

Webinars will be moderated by self-advocates and will provide participants with opportunities to hear from self-advocates and supporters about the importance of having the early expectation of an integrated community employment goal. They will share what worked and didn't in staying true to that goal when barriers arose, as well as advocacy strategies, such as peer or family supports or finding a mentor, as powerful barrier busters. The panel will offer tips on what they wished others had shared when they first expressed their employment goals and considerations for participants in their own journey.

2. When: Thursday, October 12th "The Journey to Finding a Voice That Is Needed: Told by a Young Adult"

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM MST

Where: Virtual

[Click here to register for The Journey to Finding a Voice That Is Needed: Told by a Young Adult](#)

Phoenix's Largest Disability Job Fair for Job Seekers Who Have a Disability



Phoenix Disability & Rehabilitation Employment Awareness Month (DREAM) Job Fair

The core focus of the Phoenix DREAM Job Fair is to concentrate on inclusive hiring in the workforce to engage people living with disabilities. The DREAM Job Fair in Phoenix has existed since 2012 and continues to serve the greater Phoenix region's top employers and value-added candidates who are seeking gainful employment.

When: Thursday, October 19th

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM MST

Cost: The Job Fair is free to attend for individuals with a disability

Where: In-person at GateWay Community College-Copper Room located at 108 N. 40th St., Phoenix

[Click here to learn more about the Phoenix Dream Job Fair](#)

Southern Arizona's Largest Disability Job Fair for Job Seekers Who Have a Disability



Southern Arizona Disability & Rehabilitation Employment Awareness Month (DREAM) Job Fair

Join employers from Tucson and surrounding areas as they look to add talent

to their staffs. This a great opportunity to meet with employers who are looking to hire now. You will receive information about local job openings. Come dressed ready to interview and bring several copies of your resume to present to employers.

When: Thursday, October 26th

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM MST

Cost: The Job Fair is free to attend for individuals with a disability

Where: In-person at Kino Event Center at 2805 E. Ajo Way, Tucson

[Job seekers register here in advance for Tucson DREAM](#)

Arizona Disability Benefits training for professionals



Arizona Disability Benefits 101 (DB101) provides training for professionals on benefits, health coverage, and employment supports to reduce the myths that are barriers to employment and financial self-sufficiency for people with disabilities.

During this training, DB101 experts will:

- Describe Supplemental Social Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance rules and work incentives, Medicaid and Medicare, and employment impact on state/federal benefits
- Complete and explain Estimator results of the impact of specific earnings on benefits
- Explain motive and support plans for employment and transition to self-sufficiency

When: Thursday, October 12th

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM MST

Where: Virtual

[Click here to register for DB101](#)

In-person presentation on ABLE accounts for individuals with a disability

Come learn about ABLÉ accounts with

Brittaney Chipley
Executive Director, AZ ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience)

When: Thursday, November 2, 2023
Time: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Location:
In person at Marana Unified School District Early Learning and Resource Center 7651 Old Father Drive

An ABLE account is designed especially for an individual living with a disability that occurred prior to age 26. The account allows individuals with disabilities to save money without losing essential benefits or services.

<https://az-able.com>

Contact Jason Snead at 602-542-8970
<https://bit.ly/MUSDABLE>



The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, Pima County School Superintendent's Office, Raising Special Kids and Marana Unified School District have partnered to provide an in-person presentation on Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE, accounts for individuals who have a disability. ABLE is a federally-approved savings program that offers persons with disabilities, their families and friends the option to contribute to tax-exempt savings and investment accounts for disability related expenses without affecting eligibility for state or federal benefits.

When: Thursday, November 2nd

Time: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM MST

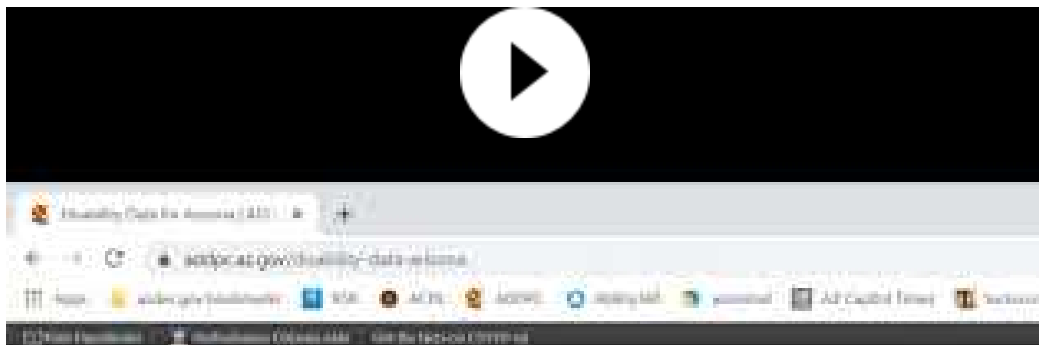
Where: Marana Unified School District Early Learning and Family Resource Center at 7651 N. Old Father Drive, Tucson

[Click here to register for the ABLE presentation on November 2nd](#)

See ADDPC website for more events. [Click here.](#)

Disability Data for Arizona

Watch our brief video on how to use the Disability Data Hub for Arizona:





[Visit Disability Data Hub Here](#)



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