



## **A few Words from Jon Meyers, ADDPC Executive Director**



Something amazing just happened. Something Arizona disability advocates have been working toward for years has finally been achieved.

Supported Decision-Making is now a legally recognized alternative to guardianship in Arizona. With this year's Senate Bill 1291, the legislation disability advocates and self-advocates have been fighting for since 2018 is now written into Arizona law, passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

Let the celebration – and the implementation – begin!

[Read more](#)

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**The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council continues our profile series to help community members get to know the people who represent Arizonans with disabilities. Up this month is Council member Janna Murrell**



Janna Murrell has been married for 36 years and has three children – Lydia (32 years of age), Tucker (26), and Sydney (24). Tucker introduced the family to the disability world when he was born three months early and, on his last day at the hospital, Janna and her husband were told that he had a brain injury called Periventricular Leukomalacia (PVL) with the likelihood it would result in cerebral palsy (CP). Sydney was a surprise addition to the family and was also three months early, but there were no lingering effects from her early birth. Sydney is an opera singer and is Tucker’s “partner in crime.” Janna and her family live in the Superstition Mountain Foothills, east of Phoenix.

[Read more](#)

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Photo by [Levi Meir Clancy](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## **Governor Hobbs signs Supported Decision-Making legislation!**

On June 20, 2023, Governor Katie Hobbs signed into law Senate Bill 1291, formalizing a meaningful alternative to guardianship for Arizonans with disabilities called Supported Decision-Making (SDM).

What is SDM? As defined by the American Civil Liberties Union, SDM is a tool that allows people with disabilities, including intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD), to retain their decision-making capacity by choosing supporters to help them make choices. A person using SDM selects trusted advisors, such as friends, family members, or professionals to serve as volunteer supporters. These supporters agree to help the person with a disability understand, consider, and communicate decisions, giving the person with a disability the tools to make the final decisions.

[Read more](#)

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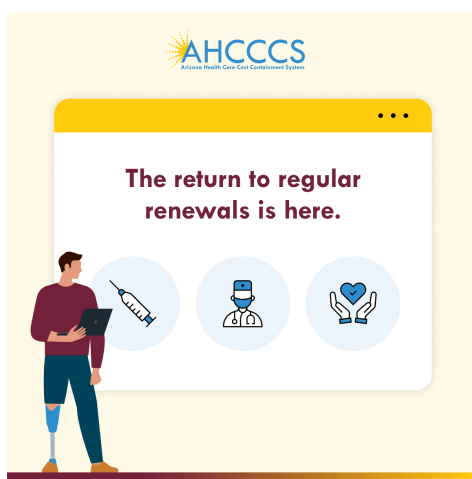


## Home Runs and Wild Pitches – 2023 Legislative Updates

by Jason Snead, Research and Communication Specialist

One of the things that comes to mind in the month of July is baseball, with the All-Star Game and the Home Run Derby coming up. The 2023 festivities will kick off on July 7 and culminate in the Home Run Derby on July 10 and the 93rd edition of the All-Star Game on July 11, at T-Mobile Park in Seattle, Washington. If you think about it, the Arizona legislative process is like a baseball game, where the individual Senators and Representatives are the players, the Arizona Senate and House of Representatives are the pitchers and defense, and the Governor represents the umpire. The Senators and Representatives try to get base hits – or even home runs – as they sponsor bills and shepherd them through the Senate or House, with the hope that the bill ends up being signed by the Governor.

[Read more](#)



**Spread the word. Keep your community covered. AHCCCS and KidsCare have returned to regular renewals.**

Regular Medicaid Renewals began April 1, 2023, and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) is required to resume the regular renewal process and disenroll ineligible individuals from AHCCCS and KidsCare. Over the course of 12 months, AHCCCS will complete a full eligibility renewal for all

2.5 million enrolled members, following a careful plan designed to make sure that no eligible members are wrongly disenrolled, and that anyone who no longer qualifies for Medicaid is referred to other health care insurance options. The return to regular renewal processes will be the first time in three years that Medicaid and Arizona's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) members who no longer qualify for Medicaid will be disenrolled. Members will be notified of their eligibility renewal prior to their month of renewal.

What AHCCCS Members Can Do To Prepare for Renewal:

**Watch the video below to learn how to update your contact information with AHCCS using Health-e-Arizona Plus!**



- The most important thing AHCCCS members can do right now is **update their contact information in Health-e-Arizona Plus** ([www.healtharizonaplus.gov](http://www.healtharizonaplus.gov)). To update contact information, log in to [www.healtharizonaplus.gov](http://www.healtharizonaplus.gov) or call Health-e-Arizona Plus at 1-855-432-7587, Monday through Friday 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM.
- **Sign up for text/email notification alerts from AHCCCS and respond to all AHCCCS requests for information in a timely manner.** To sign up for text/email alerts of AHCCCS notifications, log in to [www.healtharizonaplus.gov](http://www.healtharizonaplus.gov), go to "Message Center" on the toolbar, and click on "Manage My Alerts and Letters." Look for a letter from AHCCCS and respond if needed.

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## Jason's Advocacy Corner



Jason Snead, a self-advocate and staff member with the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, who has cerebral palsy (CP) and is a wheelchair user, talks to George Garcia, Executive Director of Southwest Institute for Families and Children, a C4 quadriplegic and a power chair user, about traveling with a disability.

They cover the following topics:

- Where are some of the places they have traveled? Why?
- Where are some of the places they want to travel? Why?
- How do they travel with their disability?
- What are some of the basic tips and tricks for traveling with a disability?

Jason and George also take a moment to thank everybody that supported legislation around Supported Decision-Making in Arizona, which has now become a law, making Arizona the 21st state to have SDM legislation. This legislation would not have happened without support from self-advocates.

If you have any ideas for the next conversation or discussion, please contact Jason Snead at [jsnead@azdes.gov](mailto:jsnead@azdes.gov).



## 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, July 6th

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

**Where:** Virtual



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 four 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.

**1. When:** Thursday, July 6th "Post Secondary Education & Other Higher Educational Opportunities"

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

**Where:** Virtual

[Click here to register for Post Secondary Education & Other Higher Educational Opportunities](#)

**2. When:** Thursday, August 10th "Finding Community and Social Networks"

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

**Where:** Virtual

[Click here to register for Finding Community and Social Networks](#)

**3. When:** Thursday, September 7th "Becoming a Leader in Your Community: Joining Boards and Advocacy Groups"

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

**Where:** Virtual

[Click here to register for Becoming a Leader in Your Community: Joining Boards and Advocacy Groups](#)

**4. 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](#)

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You are invited to the [Backpacks and Boosters](#) Community Health & Wellness Fair on Saturday, July 15th, at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Innovation Building!

- Free school supplies
- Free COVID-19 and other childhood vaccines
- Connect to community resources
- Stay tuned for more details

**Presented by:** The University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson, The Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities at the University of Arizona, Arizona Center for Disability Law and Direct Advocacy & Resource Center

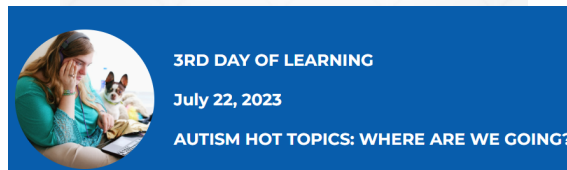
Wheelchair accessible, ASL & Spanish interpreters, fragrance-free, guides, accessible parking, and a partitioned low sensory area is available

**When:** Saturday, July 15th

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

**Where:** University of Arizona Health Sciences Building at 1670 E. Drachman St. Tucson

[Click here for more details](#)



Join the Arizona Autism Coalition for its third 2023 Day of Learning on Saturday, July 22nd, at Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix. Each day of the Learning Series is designed to be informative and interactive, offering attendees insights into key issues affecting the autism and I/DD communities in Arizona.

This event includes:

- Continental breakfast, deluxe hot lunch buffet and all day beverages
- Continuing Education Certificates
- Sponsor/exhibitor resource fair
- Complimentary parking

Thanks to the generous support of the event sponsors for making pricing affordable.

**When:** Saturday, July 22nd

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM MST

**Where:** Desert Willow Conference Center at 4340 E. Cotton Center Blvd.,  
Phoenix

**Cost:** AAC member rate - \$30 Non-member rate - \$60

[Click to register Arizona Autism Coalition Learning Series](#)

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## Monday Mindset Chat

**Presented by the Sonoran Center for Excellence in  
Disabilities at the University of Arizona**



Join us for monthly chats focused on addressing the challenges and successes of implementing Employment First in Arizona.

This is an opportunity for YOU to bring your questions, comments, and concerns to an informal meeting with Sonoran Center professionals and practitioners.

### **WHO IS THIS FOR?**

Open to Supported Employment Professionals, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors, DDD Support Coordinators, Educators, Providers, Job Coaches, and Job Developers.

[Click here to register for Monday Mindset Chats](#)

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

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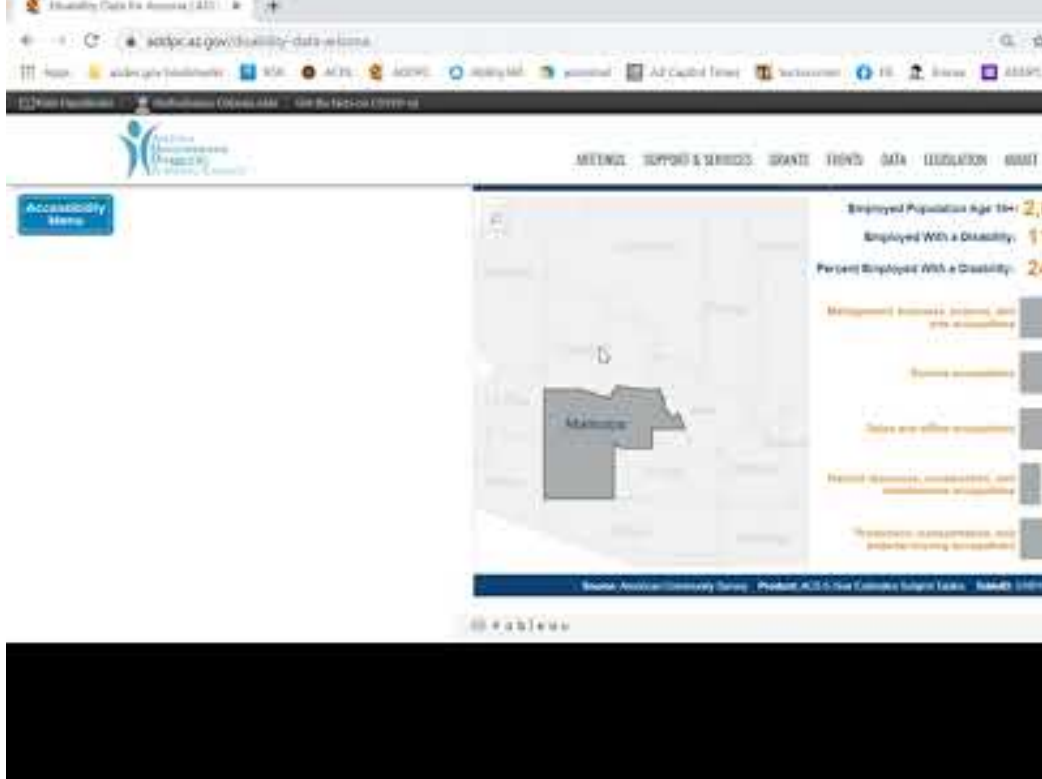
## Disability Data for Arizona

ADDPC's Data Hub allows you to explore data on individuals with disabilities living in the state of Arizona. We believe free and easy access to data on individuals with disabilities is important to develop and support capacity building and systemic change. We update our data dashboards regularly, as governmental agencies make their public releases.

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







[Visit Disability Data Hub Here](#)



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