



A few Words from Jon Meyers, ADDPC Executive Director



“Care is one of the pillars of the human, a last bastion of uniqueness in the age of intelligent machines.”

-Hari Kunzru

We’re hearing a lot these days about Artificial Intelligence, or AI, and all the many benefits it promises for humankind. Built on a foundation of access to virtually all knowledge, anywhere it might be found, mind-bogglingly fast and seemingly capable of performing tasks as though it were a real person, AI could take the place – and the jobs – of millions of people around the world.

But where might artificial intelligence fall short? If the *intelligence* is artificial, aren’t there likely to be other attributes of AI that also are not truly human – attributes such as compassion, empathy, affection, and selfless dedication?

Aren’t these the very characteristics we associate with caregivers for individuals with disabilities?

[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.

Up this month is Council member Gabriela Orozco



Gabriela “Gabby” Orozco sees her role on the Council as being a liaison and partner of Spanish-speaking families in her own community. Her experience, expertise, and knowledge, first and foremost, comes from being a parent of an adult son with autism and cognitive disability. The journey Gabriela has undertaken with her son and the families she has served helps her address different barriers within Arizona’s state systems. Her experience includes creating and collaborating with families in working in the public school system, managing prior HCBS companies and, now, owning and operating a company with her husband, Jose. The company Gabriela and Jose opened in 2014 is called Ideal Care LLC. It was founded with the mindset of providing appropriate and dynamic Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), with an eye toward meeting the needs of families who often face unique challenges accessing the supports or services they or their children need.

Beyond operating Ideal Care, Gabby’s passions include helping and supporting Grupo de Apoyo para Ninos Especiales, also known as “GANE”. It is a support group for Spanish-speaking families with children and adults with all kinds of disabilities. Gabriela took over as president of the group in 2006. GANE meetings are held at Ideal Care’s offices and typically around 45 people show up each week to listen to a presenter from the community.

Gabriela joined the Council because she believes in the mission and what it stands for. She says, “I have seen firsthand how they (Council members) are passionate about the community they serve, and this aligns perfectly with my own core beliefs.” The former ADDPC director, Erica McFadden, came to a GANE meeting along with another staff member and met Gabriela and her family, and through some persistence finally got her to join the Council.

[Read more](#)



Supporting People with Intellectual or

Developmental Disability (I/DD)/Aging/Dementia: Screening, Support Adaptation and Access to a Support Network



This free conference is presented by the University of Arizona Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities and will provide information, discuss effective strategies, provide available tools, and present resources for caregivers/support teams who care for people with I/DD and are affected by Dementia.

Throughout this day-long program, practical self-care activities called “Me for a Minute” will be introduced. Participants may enter into the raffle to win fun self-care prizes (e.g., gym memberships, restaurant gift cards, massage gift cards, self-care mini practice books, etc.).

Areas of focus include:

- Background of Aging/Dementia for people with I/DD and an overview of national resources/network activities
- Adapting Goals/Daily Activities and Support
- Finding Joy in Life as We Approach End of Life
- Clinical Significance/Research Identification/Screening
- Accessing Local Support and Services

When: Wednesday, May 3rd

Time: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM MST

Where: Virtual

Cost: There is no charge to attend the conference, but you will need to register to participate.

Conference Partners and Speaker Affiliations:

- Alzheimer's Association
- Arizona Caregiver Coalition
- Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Banner Alzheimer's Institute
- Barrow Neurological Institute
- Hospice of the Valley
- National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices
- Oakwood Creative Care
- Pima Council on Aging
- Southern Arizona Network for Down Syndrome
- Tucson Jewish Community Center
- University of Arizona Life & Work Connections

Conference funding provided by the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

[Click here to register for Virtual I/DD/Aging/Dementia Conference](#)



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:

- The most important thing AHCCCS members can do right now is **update their contact information in Health-e-Arizona Plus** (www.healtharizonaplus.gov). To update contact information, log in to 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, 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.



More than words: Taking Arizona's Employment First philosophy from theory to practice

This is an opinion column written by Danny Seiden, the President and CEO of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

State Sen. Steve Kaiser, R-Phoenix, recently presented a [resolution](#) to his Senate colleagues that might be one of the most important pieces of business the Legislature attends to this session. It didn't assert the need for a balanced

budget or a secure border or call for passage of a bill that would divide supporters and opponents along partisan lines. What it did was affirm that every person, regardless of ability, should have the right to pursue meaningful work that is essential so that individuals with disabilities in Arizona can thrive.

The first few lines of Sen. Kaiser's resolution articulate a goal that should be obvious to anyone and yet remains frustratingly elusive. "Every Arizonan should have the opportunity to participate in the workforce, including those who have disabilities."

The resolution amplifies the goals of an Executive Order signed in 2017 that designates Arizona as an "Employment First" state.

[Read more](#)

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, May 4th

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

Where: Virtual

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

Monday Mindset Chat

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



SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT IN ARIZONA

Every Second
Monday
Noon-1 PM



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?

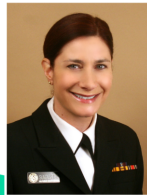
Open to Supported Employment Professionals, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors, DDD Support Coordinators, Educators, Providers, Job Coaches, and Job Developers.

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

How to Create a Resilient Community Against the Next Pandemic



Wednesday, May 10, 2023
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm MST via Zoom



Rebecca
Sunenshine, M.D.
Presenter

FIDSA PUBLIC HEALTH
CAPT, US Public Health
Service CDC Career
Epidemiology Field Officer
MCDPH Medical Director



Eladio Pereira, M.D.,
MBA, FACP
Presenter

Chief Medical Officer,
Mariposa Community
Health Center



Jon Tilburt, M.D.
Moderator

Internal Medicine,
Mayo Clinic

Scan this Code or Register Here
<http://bit.ly/3KSCIDF>



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! You will need to register for each separately.

The first webinar, moderated by self advocates, 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, 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, May 11th *"Employment and Self Determination: Getting Grounded"*

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

Where: Virtual

[Click here to register for Employment and Self Determination: Getting Grounded](#)

2. When: Thursday, June 8th *"Career Advancement: Sustaining Employment and Building a Career Path"*

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

Where: Virtual

[Click here to register for Career Advancement: Sustaining Employment and Building a Career Path](#)

3. 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](#)

4. 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](#)

5. 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](#)

6. 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](#)



Service Provider Training: Addressing Sexual Violence in I/DD Communities

Presented by the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV).

This free 4-hour training provides vital information on how to prevent, recognize and respond to sexual violence in I/DD communities. It will be offered virtually, on May 18th.

Presenters will discuss the dynamics and traumatic impact of sexual violence and how to recognize abuse, as well as explore strategies for a trauma-informed response.

This training is for disability service providers who serve the I/DD community and can be used for Direct Care Worker continuing education.

When: Thursday, May 18th

Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM MST

Where: Virtual

[Click here to register for Sexual Violence in I/DD Communities](#)



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 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

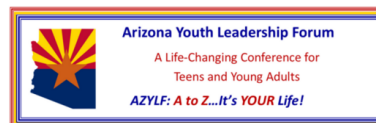
When: Thursday, May 18th

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

Where: Virtual

[Click here to register for AZ DB101](#)

ARIZONA YOUTH
LEADERSHIP FORUM
(AZYLF) 2023



AZYLF for teens and young adults who have disabilities is an innovative multi-day conference being held in two regions this summer. AZYLF serves youth who have a variety of disabilities and diversities as they prepare for and navigate young adulthood.

When: Western Region - June 5th - 9th (Application deadline is May 20th)

Time: Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Friday 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM MST

Where: In person at Springhill Suites at 1825 E. 18th St., Yuma

When: Central Region - June 12th - 16th (Application deadline is May 20th)

Time: Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Friday 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM MST

Where: In person at Chandler-Gilbert Community College at 2626 E. Pecos Rd., Chandler

[Click here to register for AZYLF conference](#)



The Arizona Center for Disability Law's African American Conference on Disabilities (AACD) is the premier comprehensive disability conference in the United States that addresses the intersection between race and disability. The conference examines avenues for self-advocacy to ensure the effective provision of services, resources, and enforcement of civil rights in the African American and disability communities.

The conference will offer the opportunity to select among twenty different

disability-related workshops and three general sessions.

There are a limited number of scholarships for families to attend the conference. For more information, please contact Renaldo Fowler, rfowler@azdisabilitylaw.org.

If you need reasonable accommodations, please email nlunarose@azdisabilitylaw.org by May 16, 2023.

When: Friday, June 16th

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM MST

Where: In person at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix at 122 N. 2nd St.

[Click here to register for AACD](#)



The Institute for Human Development at Northern Arizona University (IHD) and the Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP) are pleased to announce that registration is now open for the 2023 Evidence for Success Disability Conference. This annual, multi-faceted disability conference focuses on innovative, evidence-based approaches to issues affecting persons with disabilities.

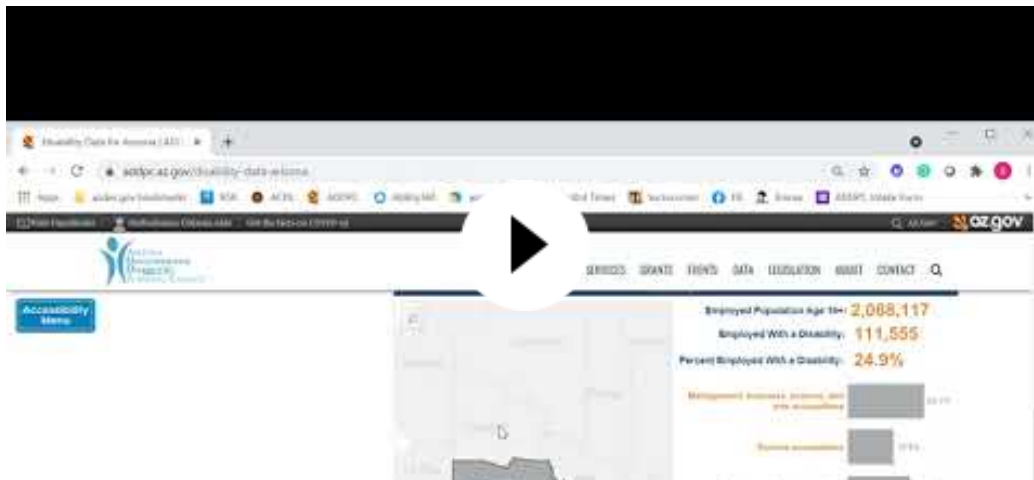
When: Wednesday, June 21st-22nd

Time: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM MST

Where: In person at the We-Ko-Pa Resort & Conference Center Scottsdale at 10438 N. Fort McDowell Rd.

Cost: There is a cost to attend the conference. Early Bird registration ends May 20th.

[Click here to register for the Evidence For Success Disability Conference](#)
Early Bird registration ends May 20th.



[Visit Disability Data Hub Here](#)

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



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