



**The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council continues our profile series to help community members get to know the people who represent Arizonans with disabilities. This month we are featuring the two Directors of the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) that serve the state of Arizona.**

**Council member Wendy Parent-Johnson**



Wendy Parent-Johnson, Ph.D., grew up in Buffalo, NY, and from middle school through college, she lived in the place she calls home, Richmond, Virginia. She is the Director of the University of Arizona Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities, a role she has held since November 2018. She is also a professor in the UA College of Medicine -Tucson's Department of Family and Community Medicine and the principal investigator on multiple grants that range across the lifespan of individuals with disabilities from Early Intervention to adulthood. In addition, Dr. Parent-Johnson serves as the editor of the *Journal of Rehabilitation*.

[Read more](#)

## Next is Council member Kelly Roberts



Dr. Kelly Roberts is the youngest of five siblings and jokes that she was born to be an educator. As a child growing up in Michigan, she had a friend in kindergarten who liked to eat snow. To convince him that this was a bad idea, she put some snow in a glass jar and let it melt to show him how dirty it was, and starting her journey as an educator at a very young age. Kelly is originally from Michigan, and has lived time in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Hawai'i, and Arizona. In fact, Kelly was lucky enough to spend 21 years in Hawai'i, 2 of which were as a special education teacher, 2 working in the mental and emotional health field, and 17 as an instructor and researcher at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. (As a side note, her nephew is a past Teacher of the Year in Phoenix.)

[Read more](#)

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### Supporting Inclusive Practices in Colleges Program (SIP-C)



NAU event with SIP-C participants

Supporting Inclusive Practices in Colleges (SIP-C) is a postsecondary transition program seeking to empower individuals with intellectual disabilities to participate and thrive in higher education. A team of dedicated professionals engages directly with college-bound students to foster an atmosphere of inclusion. Now in its fourth year, the team is located at Northern Arizona University's Institute for Human Development (NAU-IHD) and works collaboratively with Coconino Community College, Mohave Community College, Northland Pioneer College, and Arizona Western College.

[Read more](#)

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## ADDPC Grant Funding at Work:

**Developing health care self-advocacy educational resources in collaboration with adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities**



Pictured from left to right are self-advocates Paavlena and Amber

A project team including self-advocates, professionals and students from both the University of Arizona Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities and Northern Arizona University has been traveling across the state to video interview self-advocates about their experience with health care as people with disabilities.

[Read more](#)

## Traducir en Español

Un equipo dedicado al proyecto, que incluye autogestores, profesionales y estudiantes del Centro Sonorense para la Excelencia en Discapacidades de la Universidad de Arizona y la Universidad del Norte de Arizona, ha estado viajando por todo el estado para entrevistar en video a autogestores sobre su experiencia con la atención médica como personas con discapacidades.

[Leer más](#)

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**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.healthearizonaplus.gov](http://www.healthearizonaplus.gov)). To update contact information, log in to [www.healthearizonaplus.gov](http://www.healthearizonaplus.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.healthearizonaplus.gov](http://www.healthearizonaplus.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's Rincón de Defensa**

**This is a reprinting of the Advocacy Corner originally published in our July 2022 newsletter - now also available in a Spanish translation!**

**Esta es una reimpresión del Segmento de abogacia publicado originalmente en nuestro boletín de Julio 2022 - ¡ahora también disponible en una traducción al español!**

Description: Jason Snead, a self-advocate and staff member with the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council talks about being a parent with a disability and also provides some resources. Accompanied by his wonderful wife.

Descripción: Jason Snead, autogestor en abogacia y miembro del personal del Consejo de Planificación de Discapacidades del Desarrollo de Arizona habla sobre ser padre con una discapacidad y también proporciona algunos recursos. Acompañado de su maravillosa esposa



**Tecnología adaptiva  
una discapacidad f**

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Description: Jason from the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council discusses the two questions you can legally be asked regarding service animals and asks for help deciding what topics to discuss.

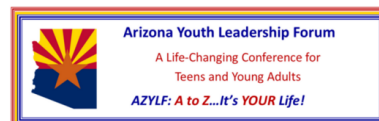
Descripción: Jason del Consejo de Planificación de Discapacidades del Desarrollo de Arizona analiza las dos preguntas que legalmente se le pueden hacer con respecto a los animales de servicio y pide ayuda para decidir qué temas discutir.

## Preguntas frecuentes referente a animales de servicio para personas con discapacidades.



### Upcoming Events!

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

**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

**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](#)

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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 five 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, 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](#)

**2. 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](#)

**3. 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](#)

**4. 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

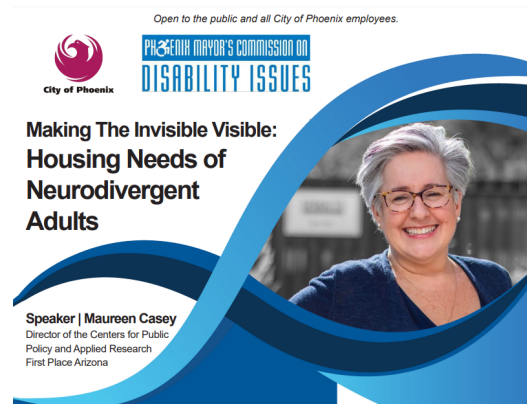
[Click here to register for Becoming a Leader in Your Community: Joining Boards and Advocacy Groups](#)

**5. 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 Mayor's Commission on Disability Issues

Lean more about the housing, community needs and preferences of adults living with autism and intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

**When:** Thursday, June 8th

**Time:** 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM MST

**Where:** Virtual

[Click here to register](#)



## Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury Among Native Americans in Arizona

Concussion and more severe Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs) are natural and common injuries among all populations in the US. Native Americans have a higher rate of these injuries than other groups. This session will discuss:

- What is a TBI?
- The impact of TBI on Native Communities in Arizona
- Social challenges faced by TBI survivors

A panel of Native American TBI survivors from the state will discuss their stories and answer questions about their experiences.

**When:** Wednesday, June 14th

**Time:** 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM MST

**Where:** Virtual

[Click here to register for Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury Among Native Americans in Arizona](#)

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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](mailto:rfowler@azdisabilitylaw.org).

*\*\*If you need reasonable accommodations, please email [nlunarose@azdisabilitylaw.org](mailto:nlunarose@azdisabilitylaw.org)*

**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., Phoenix

[Click here to register for AACD](#)

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# Autistic PRIDE Mixer

**June 17th | 6pm - 8pm**

**\$10/person | 18 & Up**

Games & Prizes  
Appetizers & Mocktail Bar  
Dancing & Fun!

Join the Autism Society of Southern Arizona in Tucson as they celebrate Autistic and LGBTQ+ individuals on their Autistic PRIDE Day! This day is a fun mixer, where people who identify on the Autistic and LGBTQ+ scale can come together to meet one another.

[Click here for tickets](#)

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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, and Thursday, June 22nd

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

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

**Cost:** Preconference - \$175, Regular Conference - \$299

[Click here to register for the Evidence for Success Disability Conference](#)

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## 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

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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](#)

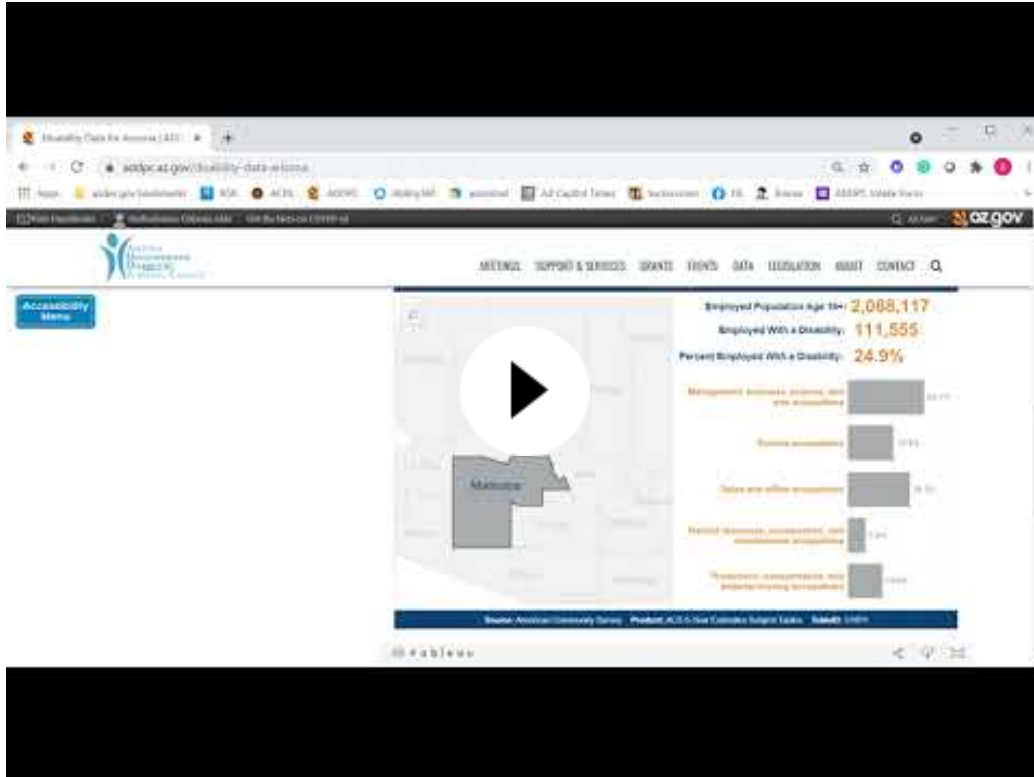
[See ADDPC website for more events. Click here.](#)

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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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