



# THE COUNCIL VOICE

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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 Kin Chung-Counts.**



Kin Counts was born and raised in a beautiful multi-cultural country, Singapore, in Southeast Asia. She is a world traveler and a former concert pianist. Kin was a child psychologist and educator specializing in Early Childhood Education in Singapore before moving to the United States more than 22 years ago to marry her husband. They have an adult child, Kendrick, who was diagnosed with autism and uses an Augmentative and Alternative Communication device. Kin has been blessed with the ability to speak multiple languages; she is currently learning Spanish. “Hola, mi nombre es Kin,” she says with pride. (English translation: “Hello, my name is Kin.”)

[Read more](#)

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**ADDPC Grant Funding at Work:**

**Supported Decision-Making Advisory Committee  
application process now open!**

Supported Decision-Making (SDM) is an alternative to traditional guardianship or substitute decision-making models and is based on autonomy, self-determination, and inclusivity. The Arc of Arizona's project will focus on understanding legal capacity, communication and decision-making skills, Person-Centered Planning, identifying and managing risks, identifying support networks, legal and ethical considerations, advocacy and empowerment, and the development of practical tools and resources. The Arc of Arizona has partnered with the Arizona Center for Disability Law. ADDPC awarded a \$80,000 grant for this SDM project.



**Supported Decision-Making  
is now a Law in Arizona!**

## Now What?

Join Us By  
Completing  
the Advisory  
Committee  
Application Today!  
<https://forms.office.com/r/wG7JdbHWDE>

The Arc of Arizona and the Arizona Center for Disability Law have partnered to provide training and resources to self-advocates, families, professionals in the legal, medical, disability and education field!

**Our first step is forming an Advisory Committee.**

Meetings will be held virtually on  
September 20th, November 29th, February 21st & April 24th at 2pm Phoenix-MST

*Funding Provided By*



ARIZONA  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES  
PLANNING COUNCIL

This project is a federally funded program supported by the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services as part of an award totaling \$1,500,930 with 0% from non-governmental sources.

Supported Decision-Making  
Advisory Committee Application



The Arc  
Arizona



ACDL  
ARIZONA CENTER FOR DISABILITY LAW

Questions or Need  
Assistance?  
602-234-2721  
[arc@arcarizona.org](mailto:arc@arcarizona.org)

**September is National Service Dog Month!**



James Gillespie, Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army (retired) and his service dog, Shadow

by James Gillespie, Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army (retired)

I am a 20-year U.S. Army veteran. While in the service, I was a Medic and a Military Police officer, working with and training military working dogs for patrol, narcotics, and explosives detection, with three combat deployments. In addition to my military service, I worked for over 25 years in law enforcement.

[Read more](#)

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Maricopa Community Colleges, in partnership with AHCCCS, has scholarship money for certificate programs and an Associate's degree in areas such as:

- Associate's degree in Behavioral Health Sciences
- 6-course Certificate in Developmental Disabilities, Substance Abuse, or other Behavioral Health topics. These certificates also fit within the Associate's degree

[Click here to apply for the Behavioral Health Scholarships](#)

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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 Thomas McDonald, a Master of Social Work student at ASU and a self-advocate.

They cover the following topics:

- The complexities of receiving a diagnosis
- The Arizona Legislature's Request to Speak System

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

**Watch the video below to see Jason's interview with Thomas McDonald.**

**Jason's Advocacy Corner:  
Conversation with Thomas  
McDonald a First-Year ASU  
Master Student**

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## 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, September 7th

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

**Where:** Virtual

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

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## 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 two 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, 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](#)

**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](#)

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# Disability voting rights

**Free Voter Education**

## Disability Voting Rights

Join us to learn about Arizona's Elections Laws and Electoral Process. We will help make sense of it all! The training is virtual via Zoom:

**September 13, 1pm to 3 pm**  
*ASL and CART provided*


[REGISTER for this free voter education](#)

(You may also paste the registration address into your browser:  
<https://bit.ly/azdac-voting>)


This training will cover:

- ✓ Your rights as a voter with a disability
- ✓ Options to cast your vote
- ✓ Accommodations to improve the voting process
- ✓ Trusted resources for voting information
- ✓ Ways to protect and enforce your voting rights

★ **Presenters** ★






**Asim Dietrich**, Esq., Supervisory Attorney for Investigations & Monitoring, Arizona Center for Disability Law



**Renaldo Fowler**, Senior Staff Advocate, Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA) Coordinator, Arizona Center for Disability Law

*Training sponsored by the Arizona Disability Advocacy Coalition, Arizona Center for Disability Law, and the Arizona Disability Voter Coalition*





Learn about Arizona's elections laws and electoral process. This training will cover:

- Your rights as a voter with a disability
- Options to cast your vote
- Accommodations to improve the voting process
- Trusted resources for voting information

**When:** Wednesday, September 13th

**Time:** 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM MST

**Where:** Virtual

[Click here to register for disability voting rights](#)

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## 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](#)

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## **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:** Tuesday, September 12th

**Time:** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM MST

**Where:** Virtual

[Click here to register for DB101](#)

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# Dementia capability in Indian communities



Join the National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center (NADRC) for "Expanding Dementia Capability in Indian Country: A Case Example from Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc (ITCA)." Limited availability of dementia services in tribal communities has resulted in many community members voicing their concerns about the need for assistance and education. During this webinar, participants will hear about how ITCA is currently implementing services and supports for people living with dementia and their caregivers through the Administration on Community Living's Alzheimer's Disease Program Initiative (ADPI).

Representatives from the ITCA will describe how, through their ADPI project, they are empowering tribal staff and community members to become involved in providing dementia education and awareness in their communities. The Banner Alzheimer's Institute, ITCA's partner organization, will describe how they adapted the Walk with Me music program to create a CD with music from Native American artists. The presenters will explain how music can be used as an important connection for people living with dementia and their caregivers and share examples of how the "Walk with Me" CD is being used specifically in tribal communities to increase the quality of life for people living with dementia and their caregivers.

NADRC webinars are free of charge and open to the public, although pre-registration is required. The webinars are recorded and will be available for future viewing on the [NADRC website](#). Closed captioning is available during the webinar and will be included in the recording.

**When:** Wednesday, September 20th

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

**Where:** Virtual

[Click here to register for Expanding Dementia Capability in Indian Country.](#)



## Full Council Meeting - September 22, 2023

The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council meets five times per year to receive reports and updates on Council activities and to explore key issues affecting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Arizona and around the nation. During these meetings, Council members discuss best or promising practices, projects funded by ADDPC, and business matters contributing to the Council's effectiveness as an organization. Council meetings are open to the public.



**When:** Friday, September 22nd

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM MST

**Where:** Virtual

[Click here for meeting minutes and agenda](#)

[Click here to join the ADDPC Full Council meeting](#)

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## In-person presentation on ABE accounts for individuals with a disability



**Come learn about ABE accounts with**

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

**When:** Thursday, September 28, 2023  
**Time:** 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
**Location:**  
In person at Innovation Tech High School, 3300 S. Park Ave., Tucson

**An ABE 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 Steve Freeman or Jason Snead at 602-542-8970**  
<https://bit.ly/TUSDABLE>



The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, Pima County School Superintendent's Office, Raising Special Kids and Tucson Unified School District have partnered to provide an in-person presentation on Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABE, accounts for individuals who have a disability. ABE 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, September 28th

**Time:** 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM MST

**Where:** Innovation Tech High School, at 3300 S. Park Ave., Tucson

[Click here to register for the ABE presentation on September 28th](#)

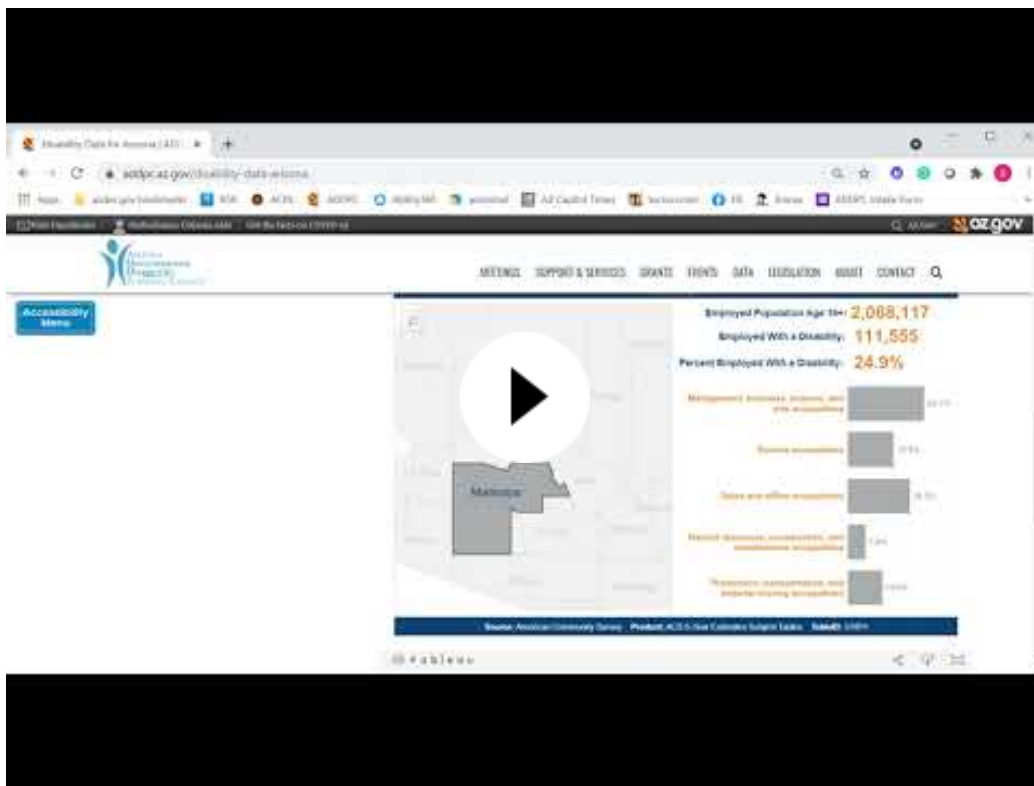
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See ADDPC website for more events. [Click here.](#)

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## 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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