



# The Advocacy Insider

Summer, 2018

Volume 3, Issue 1

## Message From The Chairperson

It's been a busy summer for Supports Coordination! On May 4th, staff, families, and people supported by The Arc Alliance attended the Reading Phillies Family Fun night in Reading, PA. After the baseball game ended, there was a beautiful fireworks display.

June 1st was the annual Summer Bash in Eagleville, where staff and people in the community gathered to eat, play games, get their face painted, listen to music, and socialize.

Also in June, several Supports Coordination staff attended The Arc of PA's Advocacy and Policy Conference. There was a rally at the capitol building where people from all over Pennsylvania held signs and gave speeches about the importance of disability rights. There were also informational sessions on a variety of topics such as: relationships, visual impairment, guardianship, and independent living.

The next big event will be the 2nd annual *Battle of the Bands Rock & Bowl* fundraiser, which you can read about in this newsletter on page 2. Have a safe and happy remainder of the summer. Please remember to keep cool and stay hydrated!

Sincerely,  
Dan West  
Board Chairperson- The Arc Alliance Advocacy Services

## Elmwood Park Zoo- An Inclusive Outing

Elmwood Park Zoo, located at 1661 Harding Blvd Norristown, PA 19401, is the first zoo to become a Certified Autism Center. This certification means the zoo staff are trained in sensory awareness, communication, and motor skills. The layout of the zoo was also audited to make improvements where needed.

Specifically, the zoo offers noise-cancelling headphones for people to use during their visit. There is also a designated quiet space with seating and gated access. The zoo also offers specific days where guests with autism or other special needs to arrive early to experience the zoo in a relaxing setting before it's open to the public. Early access days are posted on their website, or you can call the zoo to obtain these dates.

In addition to accommodations for visitors with autism, Elmwood Park Zoo can also provide motorized scooters for a \$15 rental fee, free membership cards for service dogs who accompany their owner on a regular basis, and free guided tours to those with a visual impairment. The paths around the zoo are all paved, so all exhibits are wheelchair accessible.

To find out more information or to request any of the above accommodations, visit [www.elmwoodparkzoo.com](http://www.elmwoodparkzoo.com) or call guest services at 1-800-652-4143 x241



## Achieve with us.®

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ Sunday, August 19, 8:30-10am: Elmwood Park Zoo- Early Access day for guests who need a quieter environment. People can stay after 10am if they choose, when the park becomes open to the public. [www.elmwoodparkzoo.org/event/445](http://www.elmwoodparkzoo.org/event/445)  
Location: Elmwood Park Zoo- 1661 Harding Blvd Norristown, PA 19401 Call: 1-800-652-4143 x241
- ◆ September-June, 6-8pm: Sibshop- Open to 8-12 year olds who have siblings with disabilities. Includes games, discussions, and activities.  
Location: Melmark- 2600 Wayland Road, Berwyn, PA 19312 Call: 610-325-2937
- ◆ Thursday, October 11, 6:30-8:30pm: Valley Forge Educational Services Resource Fair  
Location: 1777 North Valley Road, Malvern, PA 19355 Call: 610-296-6725
- ◆ Friday, October 12, 7pm-12am: The Arc Alliance's 2nd annual Battle of the Bands Rock & Bowl fundraiser  
Location: The Water Tower- 2200 West Dr, Oaks, PA 19456 Cost: \$10/entry \$15/entry + 1 hour of bowling
- ◆ October 17, 10am-2pm: Wellness and Employment Fair  
Location: Shared Support 185 Titus Avenue Warrington, PA Call: 215-444-2832 for details
- ◆ Tuesday, November 6: Election Day- Get out and vote! Visit [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) or call 1-877-868-3772 to find your local polling location. The deadline for voting registration is Tuesday, October 9th!

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### Did you know?

There are home modification grants available for home owners in Reading, PA through 'Abilities in Motion'. Modification costs cannot exceed \$5,000.

Contact Jay English at 610-376-0010 x140 for more information.

The Arc Alliance

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Visit Us Online!  
<http://thearcalliance.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/arcalliance/>

## 2nd Annual Battle of the Bands Rock & Bowl

Battle of the Bands is back, and it's better than ever! With 4 new bands and 3 new judges, this will be a rocking good time! Just like last year, there will be 8 bowling lanes available for you and up to 5 other people to reserve for 1 hour. A large variety of raffle baskets will be available, as well as 50/50 tickets.

In addition to live music, bowling, and raffles, the pool tables, lounge area, bar, go karts, and arcade will be available.



**When:** Friday, October 12, 2018 from 7:00pm-12:00am

**Where:** The Water Tower at Arnolds Fun Center- 2200 West Drive, Oaks, PA 19456

**Cost:** \$10/person to enter. \$15/person to enter + 1 hour of bowling

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.thearcalliance.org](http://www.thearcalliance.org) or at the door. Buy yours now before they run out!

\*Contact Amanda Hundley with any questions at 610-382-5831 or [sco@thearcalliance.org](mailto:sco@thearcalliance.org)



Civil Discord



Paper Lanterns



Habanero



The Fight Back Home



Resilient

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**Looking For Supports Coordination Services? You'll Need:**  
 \*A diagnosis of intellectual disability, autism, or developmental disability and a medical assessment stating level of need.  
**Then, Contact Your County's Intake Office:**

Berks 610-236-0530	Bucks 215-444-2800
Chester 610-344-6265	Delaware 610-713-2406
Montgomery 610-278-5666	Philadelphia 215-685-4677

**The Arc Alliance**  
 We strive to support families and individuals of all ages with developmental disabilities and other disabilities by providing exceptional personal services, support and training; inspiring hope, potential, and well-being; ensuring valued life experiences and treatment expected by all people.

## Upcoming Change for PPL Service Enrollees

For people who are self-directing their services through PPL (Public Partnerships LLC), a change is coming down the pike. On 9/16/18, Palco will become the new vendor fiscal/ employer agent (VF/EA), replacing PPL. Some families may remember when there was a VF/EA switch several years ago from Acumen to PPL. Palco has been working with the state to make the transition as smooth as possible for families.

Palco sent letters to all people currently acting as 'employers' through PPL, informing them of the switch. Employers are to complete the transition paperwork online or on paper, although online transition by visiting [intake.palcofirst.com/enroll](http://intake.palcofirst.com/enroll) is recommended.

PPL sent all workers' pay rates to Palco so payroll can transfer without delaying paychecks. The first pay period through Palco is from 9/16/18-9/29/18, with a timesheet submission deadline of 10/2/18 at 5pm. Workers will receive their first paycheck from Palco on 10/12/18. Palco has adopted the same payroll schedule PPL used so families won't be inconvenienced.

Anyone wanting to begin self-directed with Palco may do so starting 9/1/18. Contact your Supports Coordinator to begin the setup and enrollment process.

Below is the contact information for Palco:

## Contact Information -Palco

### Customer Support

Phone Number: 1-866-710-0456 Press 2

Call center hours:

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., EST

[PAODP@palcofirst.com](mailto:PAODP@palcofirst.com)

Participants, CLEs, and workers general questions

[Enrollment@palcofirst.com](mailto:Enrollment@palcofirst.com)

New Participant enrollments, New SSP enrollments, termination requests, Rate Sheets, and other enrollment related paperwork

[Timesheets@palcofirst.com](mailto:Timesheets@palcofirst.com)

Completed timesheets

### Fax/Mail

Paperwork and timesheets may also be faxed to Palco at:

Fax: 1-877-859-8757

Website: [palcofirst.com](http://palcofirst.com)  
 Program: Pennsylvania

Mail:  
 Palco, Inc.  
 Attn: Enrollment  
 P.O. Box 242930  
 Little Rock, AR 72223

## Your Vote Matters!

This November is an election year for: PA House, PA Senate, US House, US Senate and Governor. The Arc of PA believes that every election is important and everyone should have the opportunity to vote. They also want to spread the word about the importance of voting. To do this, The Arc of PA has sent disability-related questions to Governor and US Senate candidates. Their responses will be included in the issue of the *PA Message*, which is a seasonal publication found on The Arc of PA's website.

The Arc of PA is also looking for people to answer the question "Why I vote". Some people's stories will also be included in the fall issue of *PA Message*.

If you vote and want to share your story, please email the following information to [skeithknox@thearcpa.org](mailto:skeithknox@thearcpa.org):

1. Your name
2. The town and county where you live
3. Why do you vote?

You can also include a photo of yourself if you'd like. Together, we can spread the word and encourage others to vote and have their voice be heard!