

Profiles



The Arc
Oakland County

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NEW MEMBERS

AS OF 10/17/17 WE HAVE 942 MEMBERS!

SEPTEMBER MEMBERS

Duane Lamers – Bill Larson – Donna Lempert – Dianne MacDonald – Brent Slavin
Judith Tarr – Stacey Voorhees

OCTOBER MEMBERS

Theresa Dore – Stephen & Sarah Grafe – Tiffany Haley – Brandi Hartwell – Audra Hyatt – Arjun Sarkar – Xiaoming Xu

2017 Membership Goal
2,000

Calendar

November

2-4 – The Arc of the United States 2017 National Convention, San Diego, CA

28 – The Arc of Oakland County Board of Director's Meeting, 7 p.m. at Community Homes, Inc., Royal Oak

December

Happy Holidays!

January

30 – The Arc of Oakland County Board of Director's Meeting, 7 p.m. at Community Homes, Inc. in Royal Oak

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Erick Strand

Designer & Editor, PROFILES

Allison M. Murowany



The Arc
Oakland County

Profiles

Achieve with us.

Annual Holiday Appeal

Here is a sneak peak at our holiday appeal card that will be mailed out in November.

We respectfully request your consideration of The Arc of Oakland County as you plan your end-of-the-year tax-deductible donations. Your support of The Arc of Oakland County will allow us to extend our outreach of advocacy into the community, to help families, and to educate the general public. Your entire gift will be earmarked towards the maintenance of The Arc of Oakland County and its unequalled leadership in advocacy, which benefits so many.

Also, please ask your employer's human resources or payroll department if they offer a charitable matching gift program. These matches are often dollar for dollar, which doubles your charitable-donation power!

Many thanks for responding to this need as generously as you are able. Large gifts are wonderful and appreciated; but every gift — regardless of amount — will help!

Wishing you all a happy and joyful holiday season!



"From The Director's Chair"

By: Tom Kendzierski

When it comes to poignant proverbs or aphorisms, one that always haunts me is: "the road to hell is paved with good intentions." Recently, a Macomb County member of the state House of Representatives, Peter J. Lucido (R-Shelby Twp.), introduced a bill (HB-5037) that would authorize a guardian to implant an electronic tracking device under the skin of a person adjudged to be an "incapacitated individual." What? Really?

Now, before my opinionated tirade begins, please note that this proposed legislation only applies to guardianships obtained under the Michigan Estate and Protected Individuals Code ("EPIC"). For example, this may include persons with mental illness, those with diminished mental capacity due to Alzheimer's or dementia, or even minor children. HB-5037 does not, at this time, encompass a guardianship acquired by way of the Michigan Mental Health Code ("MMHC"), chapter six, for adults with developmental disabilities. Still, what in the world is this legislator thinking?

I suppose such microchip technology could be useful in locating missing or lost persons who do not have the ability to make decisions for themselves. Okay, fine, so why not legislate that everyone gets one? I would love to know the whereabouts of all politicians. Just think the FBI would know where they are and what they are doing ... at all times. Scary. A slippery slope to be sure.

In this day and age, we can already be tracked by devices that will "ping" our cell phones. Most

Continued on Page 3

Mission Statement

The Arc of Oakland County advocates for the rights and full participation of all children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We strive to improve systems of supports and services; connect families; inspire our community, and influence public policy.

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ADVOCACY VIGNETTE “SUCCESS STORIES”

(Examples of our direct advocacy service and how it impacts the lives of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities)

By Thomas F. Kendzierski

Direct contact with our elected officials is fundamental to a mutual understanding of immediate and long-term public policy issues. Many who labor in Lansing, and for that matter, Washington D.C., seem to almost develop what I will call a “center-of-the-universe” attitude when it comes to representing our local needs. This includes elected officials who profess to “be from our area,” as well as those long-term bureaucrats who implement legislative policy over their long working lifetimes.

Recently, on Monday, September 18, 2017, a “Legislative Night” was held in Auburn Hills at the MORC, Inc. office building. This event was sponsored by the Parent Alliance of Metro Detroit, the Association of MORC, The Arc of Oakland County, the Oakland County RICC, New Gateways, and Freedom Work Opportunities. The purpose of the evening was to bring together consumers and caregivers in order to meet our elected officials. And, boy was it successful! We had over 150 attendees (in-person and via webinar). But, I was extremely disappointed that this highly publicized event could only attract three state representatives, two from Oakland County (plus one staff aide) and one from Livingston County.

Constituents at this meeting discussed such topics as “caregiver wages,” the “shortage of caregivers,” and how the “privatization” of the mental health system will play out. Certainly, others were interested in the “funding” of mental health services, the lack of affordable housing, and jobs for those with special needs. A few had voiced concerns over the proposed “Home and Community Based Services” (HCBS) waiver concept that is being forcefully directed upon us by federal, state and local community mental health administrators. Other topics include: (1) the possible requirement for the licensing of all residential settings as advocated by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA); and, (2) the potential negative effects of the block granting of federal Medicaid dollars. Locally, we are also anxious about the efficacy of Oakland Community Health Network’s (OCHN) recent purchase of a new building at a cost that is quickly approaching \$20 million. Relatedly, many are quite apprehensive that OCHN may not have the necessary administrative infrastructure and talent to directly control all of our vocational, skill-building, and residential programs.

No matter what happens, we must absolutely keep our elected officials informed of our thoughts. For the most part, most don’t know much about the community mental health system. They may only see a generic budget bill presentation about state-wide Medicaid services delivered through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, but that is it. Most have no deep appreciation for what it is like for direct care staff to work in this field. They have no real concept

of what it takes for a residential or vocational provider to attract and maintain trained staff, especially when Home Depot and McDonald’s pay significantly more money per hour. Our elected officials probably do not have a child or a sibling with special needs, or have any concept of what parents experience as they raise such a child into adulthood. They do not think about persons with special needs aging in place. We are not their priority.

So, we continue to schedule such meetings to educate. The evening was a success. There will be more in the future. Well done to the steering committee members of the sponsoring organizations!



Mistakes People Make - Parents

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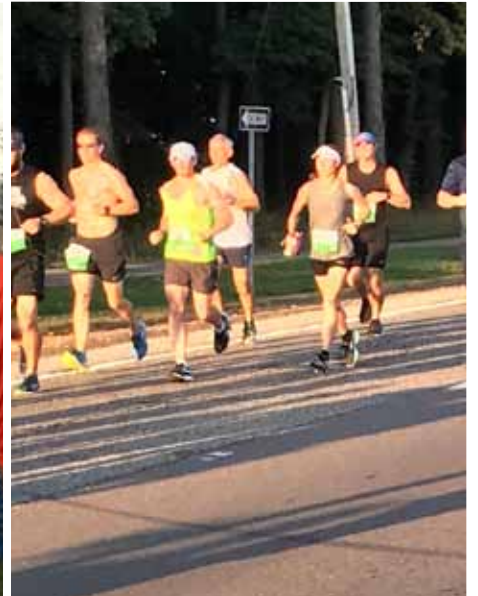
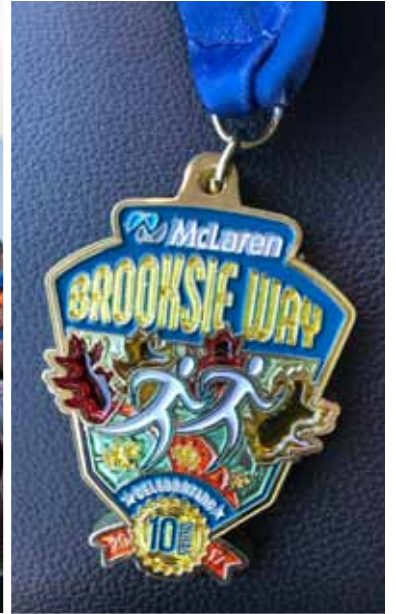
Because the stakes are so high, it is difficult for parents of children with special educational needs to advocate calmly and objectively for the educational and related services their children need.

Here are some common mistakes that undermine parents' ability to obtain appropriate services:

1. Viewing the special education process as the moral equivalent of war, fighting that war with a "scorched earth" approach, and letting personal animosity toward administrators and/or teachers distort one's judgment about what is best for the child and what is realistic to accept;
2. The opposite mistake: trusting administrators and teachers too uncritically; assuming that if they are "nice" they are also competent and interested in serving the child's best interest; not questioning slow, or nonexistent progress as long as the child, parent and teacher have a cordial relationship;
3. Taking an "all or nothing" approach: waiting too long before getting good independent advice, then insisting on instant delivery of needed services rather than steady progress toward the right program;
4. Failing to understand that the special education process sometimes requires that the parent educate the child's special education team about the child's disabilities and needs (the school system may not be willfully refusing to meet the child's needs; they may simply not understand those needs);
5. Not trying a program or added services, even on a temporary basis, when they are offered by the school system -- holding out for an alternative program only to have a hearing officer decide the untried program might have worked;
6. Attempting to "micro-manage" the details of a child's life in school; even if parents don't feel things are going well, their efforts to control the child's day usually backfire when the hearing officer concludes that the parents were over-protective and didn't let the school professionals do their job;
7. Focusing on minor, nonprejudicial procedural missteps by the school (e.g., the parent who already knows her rights who says, "Aha! Gotcha! School district forgot to give me the rights brochure!") instead of focusing on the substantial issues in the case;
8. Not consenting to school evaluations;
9. Choosing the wrong independent evaluators: e.g., "hired guns" who only say what the parents want them to say, and have a reputation for doing so; those who will not follow through by observing programs, attending team meetings, etc.; those who do not have training or experience to evaluate a child like yours;
10. Not providing copies of independent evaluations to the school, or not providing them in a timely way;
11. Not responding in a timely way to proposed IEPs;
12. Not documenting issues with the school; not sending letters to confirm agreements with the school or to record important conversations with school personnel.
13. Seeing the school system as a monolith ("All those teachers are incompetent [or wonderful!]"); failing to look carefully at alternatives within the system for this year and at next year's teacher possibilities.

Bob Crabtree is a partner at Kotin, Crabtree, and Strong, LLP, a general practice law firm in Boston, MA. Among other areas of practice, Bob concentrates in special education and disability law. This article was originally published by the Family Education site at www.familyeducation.com, and recently published in Wrightslaw.com

2017 BROOKSIE WAY HALF MARATHON PHOTO ALBUM



cars today have electronics that make tracking them easy by those with this sort of equipment. So, you think that SiriusXm Radio does not know where you are or what you listen to? How about that GPS "app" that you rely on as a function of your smart phone? Do you think for a minute that Facebook does not track us? When you log on to anything, you can be found. Welcome to the 21st century.

I am most concerned that our personal privacy is being invaded overtly and surreptitiously every day. Okay, enough about me, so how about our folks with intellectual impairments? We advocate daily for their independence, their educational least restrictive environments, and their personal rights as full citizens. Many argue for no guardianships at all. Now a politician wants to make it easier to track them down. Why? Why this group? What did they do to deserve this?

Representative Lucido's assumed "good intention" would allow someone to be easily found. The "hell" is in the details. Folks with special needs are typically in a protected environment where someone is watching them anyway. If it becomes absolutely necessary, why not place a radio transmitting bracelet on a wrist or locket around a neck? Remember the old television commercial, "Help! I have fallen and I can't get up!" This sort of system is already used for parolees and those where a criminal court has jurisdiction; ankle bracelets. Again, really? My brothers with intellectual impairments are not criminals, and they are usually not left unsupervised or falling alone in a room without the ability to rise up. Seriously, we need to be paying more attention to the overall care of those with special needs, not subjecting them to the invasive implantation of an electronic device underneath their skin.

My vote on this is a resounding, "No!" The concept is totally unnecessary, no matter whether it is a guardianship under EPIC or the MMHC. Contact your state representative and senator and urge them to vote against HB-5037.

Now that I have calmed myself, let me reflect on the end of another year. The leaves of the trees are almost down. Snow will soon blow in the wind. The Arc moves forever forward. We are strong. I personally enjoy the support of a wonderful board of directors, a dedicated and hard-working staff team, along with a large and committed membership base. For all of this, I am extremely thankful and most grateful. I sincerely wish for everyone the experience of a happy and safe Holiday season! TFK



Support Gorman's Home Furnishings & The Arc of Oakland County

Gorman's Home Furnishings and Interior Design will once again raise money for The Arc of Oakland County through its Recliners event.

You can give a lifeline of hope and give the gift of comfort this season. Donate \$50 to The Arc of Oakland County benefitting children & adults with intellectual, physical and related disabilities and get \$200 OFF any leather recliner from Gorman's 10 best brands including world famous Stressless.

The event will run from **Wednesday November 22, 2017 - Monday January 15, 2018**

Gorman's Home Furnishings & Interior Design has supported nonprofit organizations and the community for over 25 years. For more information, please visit The Arc's website at www.thearcoakland.org or Gorman's website at www.gormans.com.



ANNUAL RUN CHALLENGE !



Another 13.1 miles down! Kevin Knoblock completed the Brooksie Way Half Marathon on Sunday, September 24, 2017, which started at Oakland University and ended at historic Meadowbrook Hall. The race was full of various elevations and took runners along the Clinton River and Paint Creek Trail as well as through Downtown Rochester.

The race was a great success as Kevin completed the Brooksie Way Half Marathon with an impressive time of 1 Hour, 39 Minutes, and 08 Seconds. He placed 6th in his division of men 30 - 34 years old. Kevin also ran the full Detroit Free Press Marathon on 10/15/2017 with a time of 3 Hours, 48 Minutes, and 33 Seconds. Congratulations, Kevin!

We issued our Annual Run Challenge first in July to members and friends of The Arc of Oakland County with the 2017 goal being \$15,000. To date, the total amount pledged and raised is **\$9,529.80!** You can still send in a donation to the office or donate directly online through our website.

The Arc of Oakland County would like to reach out and thank all of those who have contributed and supported Kevin in his endeavors and in the Annual Run Challenge. Your support is greatly appreciated and we couldn't have done it without you!

Thank You!

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Adah	Alex	\$50.00	Craft	Janet E.	\$20.00
Arafat	Johnny	\$25.00	Cronin	Larry	\$20.00
Arens	Linda	\$10.00	Crowley	Margaret	\$75.00
Baker	Denise	\$53.00	Daiza	Ronald	\$100.00
Banacki	John	\$50.00	Dege	Thomas E.	\$60.00
Baran-Christofis	Dolores	\$100.00	Dipilato	Linda	\$10.00
Barnhart	David	\$50.00	Dolney	Pamela	\$20.00
Bateman	Bianca	\$25.00	Duffey	Heather	\$25.00
Bernacki	James	\$100.00	Duncan	Alan	\$50.00
Blum	Louise	\$50.00	Emerson	Mary	\$35.00
Bortman	Caroline	\$50.00	Folbigg	Carol	\$20.00
Bosetti, Sr.	Eugene R.	\$50.00	Foster	Joseph	\$25.00
Brubaker	Edward	\$10.00	Freer	Darrell	\$50.00
Bruske	Melanie M.	\$10.00	Friday-Kalcec	Elizabeth	\$100.00
Burnstein	Myra	\$25.00	Galazin	Catherine	\$50.00
Butkovich	Rose	\$50.00	Gannan	Laura	\$100.00
Calnen	Thomas	\$15.00	Gelfond	Allen	\$100.00
Cambridge Jr.	Alfred E.	\$400.00	Gergel	Linda	\$50.00
Campbell	Delsy	\$15.00	Giannini	Bailey	\$100.00
Cardine	Linda	\$50.00	Glac	Marlene	\$10.00
Carson	James R.	\$50.00	Grzywack	Gary	\$5.00
CasaSanta	Linda H.	\$100.00	Hall	Elmyra	\$25.00
Celmer	Mike	\$30.00	Halsey	James	\$50.00
Cihelka	Milos	\$40.00	Hardy	Donald O.	\$15.00
Cojocari	James	\$10.00	Hay	Edward C.	\$100.00
Collette	Diana F.	\$100.00	Hejhal	Margaret	\$50.00
Conn	Julie	\$150.00	Hill Pack	Beatrice	\$25.00
Cook	Frances	\$25.00	Hoenig	Donald	\$60.00
Corrigan	Sandi	\$25.00	Holm	Roger	\$100.00
			Jankovich	George	\$100.00

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Johnson	Thomas D.	\$20.00	Perantoni	Jackie	\$20.00
Jones, Jr.	Royden E.	\$52.40	Picel-Bell	Melanie	\$100.00
Kahn	Claire	\$18.00	Pinon	Norma	\$10.00
Kaminer	Sheryl	\$15.00	Pivetz	Rick	\$80.00
Karp	Gary J.	\$50.00	Pollert	John	\$100.00
Kassa	Timothy	\$25.00	Prescott	Pauline	\$100.00
Kelly	Susan P.	\$55.00	Purdy	Daniel	\$25.00
Kendziorski	Thomas F.	\$100.00	Rabinowitz	Harvey	\$150.00
Kinnan	Linda	\$150.00	Ralston	James	\$30.00
Klingler	Martha	\$20.00	Ravitz	Lee	\$25.00
Knepp	Francis E.	\$50.00	Reynolds	Russell	\$60.00
Knowles	Lucy	\$25.00	Richart	Gerald	\$25.00
Kopelman	Jeffrey	\$25.00	Ripple	William	\$25.00
Kowalski	Joseph	\$50.00	Robertson	John	\$26.00
Kruger	Sherilynn	\$50.00	Rubin	Jerry I.	\$250.00
Kwapisz	Anthony P.	\$25.00	Sanders	E. Virginia	\$50.00
Kyewski	Antoinette	\$25.00	Schabinger	Lynn A.	\$50.00
Lampertius	James	\$200.00	Schilke	Philip	\$100.00
Laske	Michelle	\$50.00	Schultheis	Joseph	\$150.00
Lawson	Emily	\$25.00	Sellers	Dean	\$100.00
Lawson	Ardis	\$10.00	Sellers	Phyllis	\$25.00
Lewis	Jan	\$50.00	Shah	Rajendra M.	\$25.00
Lias	Thomas	\$100.00	Sherlitz	Janet	\$500.00
Locke	Mary Jo	\$25.00	Sliney	Thomas	\$50.00
Lomas	Marilyn A.	\$50.00	Stack-Miller	Janet	\$50.00
Loncar	Ivan	\$200.00	Stevenson	Janice	\$55.00
Lonero	Toni	\$25.00	Summers	Robert	\$100.00
Losonci	George B.	\$10.00	Swanson	Helena	\$15.00
Mamassian	Harry E.	\$20.00	Taylor	Barbara	\$45.00
Manning	Lisa	\$250.00	Thomas, Jr.	Paul	\$50.00
Marshall	Harold	\$100.00	Tonti	Paul	\$20.00
Matsumoto	Katsuo	\$100.00	Van Wagnen	Catherine A.	\$50.00
Mazurek	Heinz	\$50.00	Vlachos	Theodoros	\$50.00
McHard	Jerilee	\$40.00	Warner-Bell	Helen	\$100.00
McKenna	Patricia	\$25.00	Waters	James P.	\$100.00
Mellott	Karen	\$100.00	Weaver	David	\$0.00
Meono	Randall	\$183.00	Wee	Curtis E.	\$50.00
Mich	Lorraine	\$25.00	Wiedelman	Mark	\$100.00
Miller	Melvin	\$25.00	Williamson	Jeanine	\$50.00
Mowbray	Virginia	\$25.00	Wilson	Donald J.	\$250.00
Mueller	Isidor	\$50.00	Wolfe	Diane	\$35.00
Murphy	Richard	\$40.00	Wysner	Mary	\$30.00
Myers	Muriel	\$10.00	Wysocki	Kenneth	\$25.00
O'Connor	John	\$200.00	Yolkiewicz	Linda	\$52.40
Omahen	Ewa	\$100.00	Zdanowski	Michele	\$40.00
Pacheco	Jorge A.	\$50.00			
Penn	Deborah	\$25.00			