

NortheastArc
Changing lives. Discovering abilities.



JOHN F. KENNEDY
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

present



The Arc Tank^{2.0}

Changing lives through innovation

Bringing ***positive disruption***
to disability services

November 27, 2018

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

The Arc Tank^{2.0}

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THE CHANGING LIVES FUND



The Arc Tank is funded through the *Changing Lives Fund*, which was established at the Northeast Arc through a generous donation of \$1,000,000 by Steven P. Rosenthal.

STEVEN P. ROSENTHAL



Steve founded West Shore LLC in 2016, a Boston-based real estate private equity firm, and serves as its chairman.

Prior to West Shore, Steve was president and chief executive officer of Northland Investment Corporation, which grew under his leadership into a \$3.5 billion diversified real estate company, including a 23,000-unit, multi-family portfolio. Steve directed all aspects of Northland's multi-family, development and commercial portfolio, including capital formation and operations. He also managed the strategic direction of the firm and its investments.

As co-managing partner at Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo P.C., the firm grew to 500 lawyers and seven offices. During his 21-year career at Mintz Levin, Steve served as a business and finance attorney in Boston, where he focused on general corporate and business representation, business planning, mergers and acquisitions, venture capital, and corporate and real estate finance.

Steve holds an A.B. from Harvard College and a J.D. from Boston University School of Law. He is a trustee of the Ruderman Family Foundation in Boston and Tel Aviv, and a member of the board of directors of Redwood Investments LLC, an investment management firm in Newton.

Steve established the *Changing Lives Fund* at the Northeast Arc, which is funding *The Arc Tank* competition to identify and fund positive disruptive ideas to improve the lives of persons with intellectual disabilities and autism and their families.

Steve has served as a member of the board of directors of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) in Washington, D.C., as a Trustee of the Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, Conn., as a director of the Harvard Alumni Association, and as a member of the Harvard Corporation Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility. He previously served on the board of directors of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority and as a member of the board of directors of The Downtown Crossing Partnership.

JO ANN SIMONS

Jo Ann Simons has more than 35 years' experience in the intellectual and developmental disabilities field. Her progressive initiatives have included closing several sheltered workshops, innovative school-to-work programs, inclusive community living and currently a large movement from community residences to shared living models.

She was named CEO of the Northeast Arc in January 2016. The agency has an operating budget of \$279 million and supports more than 10,000 individuals.

Prior to joining Northeast Arc, Jo Ann served as president/CEO of Cardinal Cushing Centers, Inc. since 2008, after leading The Arc of Middlesex as its executive director for 15 years. In addition, she had been the deputy facility director of the Fernald Development Center in Waltham; the director of policy initiatives and acting director of Family Support Services for the Massachusetts Department of Disability Services; and director of the Community Division of the North Shore Arc.

Under Jo Ann's leadership, Northeast Arc was recently ranked No. 2 in The Commonwealth Institute and *Globe Magazine's* Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in Massachusetts. In 2016, Jo Ann was named one of Boston's Power 50 by the *Boston Business Journal*.

Jo Ann is a member of the Governor's Commission on Persons with I/DD. She is the current chair of LIFE, Inc. of Cape Cod and a Director of Century Bank. She previously served on Gov. Charlie Baker's Transition Committee on Health Care as the Disability Advisor to the Ruderman Family Foundation, and is past chair of the National Down Syndrome Society and past president of the National Down Syndrome Congress. She is a board member of the Providers' Council, the North Shore Chamber of Commerce and past member of the board of directors of Special Olympics International.

She is the author of the *Down Syndrome Transition Handbook* (Woodbine House 2010). She is also the chapter author of Legal Issues in Babies with Down Syndrome, an essay in *You Will Dream New Dreams* and the author of the chapter on Long Term Impact in a textbook for dental students, *Treating the Dental Patient with a Developmental Disorder*. In addition she created Footprints for the Future, a personal planning tool that provides a place for families and professionals to record specific and personal information as part of their future and estate planning.

Jo Ann has a B.A. from Wheaton College of Massachusetts and an MSW from the University of Connecticut.

She lives in Swampscott with her husband, Chet Derr. They have two children. Emily is an attorney and Jonathan is a man with Down syndrome who lives independently. They are the inspiration for her life's work.



STEVEN M. ROTHSTEIN



Steven M. Rothstein is an accomplished nonprofit administrator, public servant, and entrepreneur. As president of the world-renowned Perkins School for the Blind, Rothstein led the institution through a period of significant growth. During his eleven year tenure from 2003-14, he grew in-person and online educational services from 40,000 to 900,000 people, diversified teacher training services to all 50 states, increased academic offerings, and expanded to 30 new countries. While there, with strong partners, staff and board members, he completed a \$136 million capital campaign, the largest in the school's history, led the largest capital building program in 100 years, and grew annual operating revenue from \$40 million to \$72 million. In collaboration with the amazing team, he also started and led the Perkins online educational programs so Perkins became the largest trainer of teachers and parents in the blindness field.

In 1979, Rothstein was part of the founding team of Citizens Energy Corporation with Joseph P. Kennedy II. In his six years as general manager, Citizens, the world's first nonprofit social mission oil company, assisted needy citizens in low-cost oil, natural gas, electricity and pharmaceutical services. Citizens, which continues to be led by Kennedy, has delivered millions of gallons of home heating oil to poor and elderly households and provides a range of other services.

Most recently, Rothstein served as CEO of Citizen Schools, a national nonprofit organization that partners with middle schools to expand the learning day for children in low-income communities. During his time at Citizen Schools, the reach of educational and STEM services nearly quadrupled from 5,000 to almost 20,000 students.

Having served on numerous nonprofit boards throughout his career, Rothstein is currently a director of the Brady Campaign and Brady Center for the Prevention of Gun Violence. He graduated with honors from Williams College and received a Master of Business Administration degree from Northeastern University. He and his wife, Susan Maze-Rothstein, have two grown sons and reside in Somerville.



PETER BERNS

Peter V. Berns is a nationally recognized nonprofit sector leader and public interest lawyer. He is the chief executive officer of The Arc, the world's largest community-based organization of and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Berns has been at the helm of The Arc since July 2008. Under his leadership, the organization has charted an ambitious course of progress, innovation and change with the development of a Strategic Framework for the Future of The Arc.

Berns came to The Arc with a track record of success in the areas of nonprofit management, governmental relations and advocacy. As a public policy advocate, he was critical to reforming state and federal Medicaid regulations improving life for persons with disabilities and their families. He was named to the Nonprofit Times Power and Influence Top 50 list in 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005, and 2015.

His previously held positions include deputy chief of Consumer Protection in the Maryland attorney general's office as well as assistant attorney general and, earlier in his career, staff attorney/fellow at the Institute for Public Representation at the Georgetown University Law Center.

In May 2011, President Barack Obama appointed Berns to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities, which provided advice and assistance to President Obama and the secretary of Health and Human Services on a broad range of topics that impact people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Berns received his JD, *cum laude*, from Harvard Law School and he has an LLM in advocacy from Georgetown University Law Center. He received his BA in psychology, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Pennsylvania.

He and his wife, Melissa Zieve, reside in Baltimore with their four children.



The Arc Tank^{2.0}

FIRST-ROUND REVIEWERS

Our thanks to the following professionals, who donated their time and expertise to review submissions to *The Arc Tank* 2.0:

CRYSTAL BATES

Essex County Community
Foundation

CHLOE BROWNING

Northeast Arc

MICHAEL CULLINAN

JESSICA DUCROW

Northeast Arc

HEIDI ELLARD

Boxford Elementary School Trust

MAX FRIEDMAN

Givebutter

ZAC GRATH

Growthtopia

ERIN HARPER

Flutie Foundation

LEA HILL

Massachusetts Department of
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JEFF KEILSON

Advocates

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Tower Foundation

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Flutie Foundation

KIM SOKOL

Easter Seals

KATHRYN SWEENEY

Massachusetts Rehabilitation
Commission

MARGARET VAN GELDER

Massachusetts Department of
Developmental Services

STACEY VILLANI

Northeast Arc



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THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS

Our thanks to the following people, for their time and talent leading up to and at today's event:

MARGARET AKE

PRESENTATION MENTOR

Margaret Ake is an instructor for the Corporate Learning Division of Harvard Business Publishing, a subsidiary of the Harvard Business School. She is also a partner at Herter

Associates, a corporate training firm that offers customized courses for financial analysts and relationship managers at commercial and investment banks worldwide.



Margaret joined Herter Associates and Harvard Business School after a 14-year career in teaching at Endicott College in Beverly. At Endicott College,

she taught a variety of courses in the general business curriculum including: Finance, Accounting, Organizational Behavior, Business Writing, and Strategy. Margaret also taught a series of corporate financial training seminars delivered through the Graduate and Professional School. She directed the Case Writing Program and has had eight business education case studies published in a variety of business journals. She also has experience from her time as a Research Analyst for Fidelity Investments.

In addition to her work with Northeast Arc, Margaret regularly travels internationally with Operation Smile working as a medical records, statistical reporting, and data outcomes volunteer. Margaret's relationship with Northeast Arc began

28 years ago, when her son was served by the agency's Early Intervention program; he is now a high school special education teacher. For more than 20 years, Margaret was a valued member of the planning committee for Northeast Arc's annual golf tournament, the Mike Frangos Commodore Invitational. In 2018, Margaret received the sixth annual Mike Frangos Award for her outstanding support of the tournament.



PHIL LIPOF

EMCEE

Emmy award-winning journalist Phil Lipof was born and raised in Newton. He came to NBC 10 Boston and NECN with 20 years' experience, covering some of the biggest and toughest stories all over the country.

Phil was a main anchor at WCVB in Boston. Before that, he worked at WABC-TV in New York City for seven years, anchoring and reporting. Prior to that, Phil anchored with his wife, Juli, at WHDH in Boston, WFOR in Miami and WRNN in Kingston, N.Y. He began his career at KIDK in Idaho Falls.



Over the years, Phil has reported live from the Boston Marathon bombings and braved 80-mile-per-hour winds during Superstorm Sandy. He covered the devastation left by Hurricane Katrina, traveled to Israel after Sept. 11 for a special series on terrorism and to Germany to speak with wounded troops. Phil has interviewed everyone from President Donald Trump and the Dalai Lama to Les Paul and Jimmy Page. Phil began his journalism career working as an unpaid volunteer at New-TV in Newton.

His roots in Boston run deep, with his mother and four siblings still living in the area. His wife, Juli, is from Haverhill. His father, brother and sister have served on the Newton City Council. His mother, Emily, now retired, was one of the first women in the world to become a Rabbi, serving on a pulpit in Brookline.

The Arc Tank^{2.0}

PANEL OF EXPERTS

Our thanks to the following business and community leaders for lending their time and expertise today to identify the winning ideas at the **Arc Tank 2.0** competition:

Ex Officio Members:

STEVEN ROSENTHAL • STEVEN ROTHSTEIN • JO ANN SIMONS



RALPH JAMES

Ralph James retired from Harvard Business School in 2017 and currently spends his time on philanthropic ventures and volunteer roles with organizations such as Harvard Graduate School of Education, the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Studies, the Harvard Divinity School, the Joslin Diabetes Center and the International Quilt Museum.

He previously held both strategic advisor and executive director of University Affairs roles at Harvard Business School. He also had been responsible for External Relations and Executive Education activities for HBS.

James attended the College of Wooster in Ohio and received his BA in religious studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1977.

He received his MBA from Harvard in 1982. Over the next 15 years, he held several different positions at HBS in the areas of executive education, MBA admissions, and major gift fundraising, finally serving as associate dean and senior executive officer under Deans McArthur and Clark.

In 1996, James left HBS to join the First Marblehead Corporation, as chief marketing officer, becoming chief operating officer in 1998 and president in 2000, prior to the company going public in 2003 (NYSE: FMD). In 2005, James stepped down from his position as vice chairman to return to HBS.



MATTHEW KENNEDY

Matt Kennedy is a senior adviser at Laurel Strategies and a founder of Kennedy Merchant Partners (KMP) and has worked in more than 20 countries on six continents. Previously, Matt served in senior roles in the Obama administration at the Department of Commerce, Department of the Treasury and the White House. As the director of the Office of Strategic Partnerships at Commerce, Matt worked closely with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and Export-Import Bank of the United States to develop innovative public-private partnerships with leading trade organizations and several Fortune 500 businesses. These partnerships have enabled more than 5,000 small businesses to learn about overseas markets and begin exporting.

Prior to his service in government, Matt managed Senator Edward M. Kennedy's 2006 reelection campaign and the MoneySite, a nonprofit financial-services initiative that leverages tax preparation as a vehicle to create personal financial plans for low-income households.

Matt graduated from Stanford University with a B.S. in Management Science and Engineering, where he was also captain of the lacrosse team. He holds an MBA from Harvard University. He sits on the board of the John F. Kennedy Library and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights.

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PANEL OF EXPERTS



SHIRLEY LEUNG

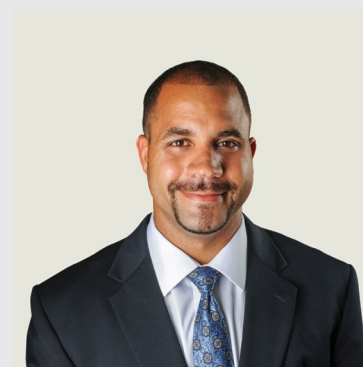
Shirley Leung is the interim editorial page editor at the *Boston Globe*. She has also been a *Globe* columnist writing on everything from the intersection of business and politics to gender issues in the workplace.

She is a WGBH contributor to "Boston Public Radio" and "Greater Boston," as well as a regular guest on New England Cable News.

Shirley has been a three-time finalist for the Gerald Loeb Award for Commentary, and in 2018, *Boston Magazine* named her to its list of the "100 Most Influential People in Boston."

Previously, she was the *Globe's* business editor, where she oversaw its award-winning coverage of the 2008 financial crisis. A graduate of Princeton University,

Shirley started her career at her hometown paper, the *Baltimore Sun*, and later worked at the *Wall Street Journal* as a staff reporter.



QUINCY MILLER

Quincy Miller is president and vice chair of Eastern Bank, the largest and oldest mutual bank in the United States, with more than \$11 billion in assets and more than 120 banking and insurance locations serving communities in eastern Massachusetts and southern and coastal New Hampshire. He spends his time focused on helping lead the overall strategic direction of Eastern, which has served its customers, colleagues and communities for more than 200 years. This leadership manifests itself in the company's primary objective which is "to do Good things to help people and businesses prosper."

Quincy has a passion for supporting the communities where he lives and works. He serves on the board of directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Boston, the Greater Boston Food Bank, Bottom Line, the Alliance for Business Leadership, the Greater Boston YMCA Board of Overseers, Board Emeritus of The Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts and is a C-Suite member of The Partnership.

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PANEL OF EXPERTS



MATTHEW MILLET

Matthew Millett works for the Department of Youth Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and serves on the board of directors for the Special Olympics of Massachusetts.

He is a well-rounded athlete participating in soccer, basketball and volleyball. In 2010, Matthew earned the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to South Africa to play in the global, unified soccer match prior to the FIFA World Cup quarterfinal game in Cape Town Stadium. This past July, Matthew and his basketball team traveled to Seattle to compete in the Special Olympics USA Games, and next March the team is traveling to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates to compete in the 2019 World Summer Games.



MARYLOU SUDDERS, MSW, ACSW

Marylou Sudders is secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health & Human Services. As the largest executive agency in state government, EOHHS directly touches the lives of 1 in 4 residents. Sudders provides executive leadership of a \$23 billion budget; 12 agencies; and the MassHealth (Medicaid) insurance program that provides health coverage to 1.86 million low-income or disabled residents. She leads the Commonwealth's efforts to address the opioid epidemic; chairs the state's health care marketplace and the Autism Commission; co-chairs the Governor's Interagency Councils on Homelessness and Aging.

A trained social worker, Sudders has served as the Massachusetts Commissioner of Mental Health and has also been a private nonprofit executive, advocate and college professor.

Sudders holds a bachelor's degree with honors and master's degree in social work from Boston University, and an honorary doctorate from the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology.

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MODERATOR

Our thanks for moderating during the Panel of Experts' deliberation today:



DAVID S. CHANG

David is an entrepreneur and angel investor who is currently an EiR at Harvard Business School and Director of the Babson Summer Venture Program.

David has held product and marketing roles at five Boston-based startups that were acquired. He previously led the PayPal Boston office and co-founded the Start Tank innovation space. Earlier in his career, he held roles at TripAdvisor (IAC), m-Qube (Verisign), edocs (Siebel), SnapMyLife (Exclaim Mobility), and Goldman Sachs.

As a leader in the entrepreneurship community, he holds several advisor/board memberships and has made 40 angel investments in early-stage startups. Awards include *Boston Business Journal's* Power 50: Most Influential Bostonians, BostInno's 50 on Fire: Education Winner / Investment Winner / Tech Finalist, and Finalist for NEVY Angel of the Year.

David holds a BS with Distinction in Computer Science from Cornell University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Heritage Shredding

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STRONGER COMMUNITIES THROUGH OPEN AND ORGANIZED TRANSPORTATION (SCOOT)



LEADER & PRESENTER:

Dan Strick
New Star
1005 West End Avenue
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
dstrick@newstarservices.org
Presented by: Dan Strick and Kara Pierce
Requested funding amount: \$70,000

INTRODUCTION

Transportation is one of the most significant barriers between people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their full participation in the community. Public transportation can meet some needs but schedules in the suburbs are not friendly. Some suburbs have no public transportation. Ridesharing such as Uber and Lyft can be an option for some people. But, our experience is that many families do not trust an unknown driver to transport their loved one with I/DD. This leaves many individuals without reliable transportation that would allow them to participate more fully in the community. The goal of the SCOOT project is to develop a mobile app to provide ridesharing transportation for persons with disabilities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is unique in that the rideshare drivers will be Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). We currently have DSPs who drive for Uber and Lyft. This will allow them to drive specifically for persons with I/DD. This will allow families to be more comfortable with the driver taking their loved one to a community event, shopping, the movies, church, etc.

SCOOT, the mobile app, will serve as a conduit to connect a person with I/DD and a DSP driver. The passenger will see the profile of the driver and be able to choose the driver. Rides can be made on demand or can be scheduled in advance. The financial transaction will be between the passenger and the driver using a mobile pay app such as Venmo or CashApp. Drivers will use their own vehicles and provide this service separate from their employment.

CAN SOCIAL IMPACT BONDS DRIVE EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES



LEADER & PRESENTER:

James Cassetta
WORK Inc.
25 Beach Street
Dorchester, MA 02122
jcassetta@workinc.org
Requested funding amount: \$17,000

INTRODUCTION

WORK Inc. is requesting support from The Arc Tank for Third Sector Capital Partners Inc., national experts in feasibility studies, to conduct one to determine whether Pay for Success Models can attract investors and government support. WORK Inc. would like to evaluate its readiness to bring its employment strategies to scale in Massachusetts through the use of a Pay for Success Model. This will be the first time in the country that this innovative contracting model would be used to serve individuals with disabilities with a special emphasis on individuals turning 22 and those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Pay for Success is an innovative contracting model that drives government resources towards high performing social programs.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This model will allow an unlimited number of individuals throughout the Commonwealth — and potentially nationally — to obtain employment and increase their quality of life. Currently there are 396,000 individuals with disabilities of working age in Massachusetts and 70 percent are unemployed. These individuals CAN and WANT to work, which would result in savings of billions of dollars nationally. We are confident that the outcome of the study will prove that by putting individuals with intellectual and development disabilities and ASD to work, the government will save valuable tax dollars, individuals' quality of life will improve, poverty numbers will decrease, and employers will be obtaining dedicated and hardworking individuals.



LEADER & PRESENTER:

John Dickerson
Red Road Ventures LLC
5454 Leone Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46226
john@myquillo.com
Requested funding amount: \$50,000

INTRODUCTION

With annual staff turnover nearing 50 percent, threatening continuity of support for individuals with intellectual or development disabilities (I/DD) and their families, we need to disrupt our thinking and change our focus. Quillo delivers a new approach that develops a positive work culture and reminds us of the WHY of this work. Quillo's mission is to strengthen the culture and relationships in organizations that support people with I/DD by focusing on staff well-being and positive psychology. Our goal is to increase retention and overall staff engagement using cutting-edge technology, the power of stories, and positive messaging to engage, inspire, and educate staff. Quillo connects people to build better relationships and better lives.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

With 4.5 million people working as Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), communication is often focused on compliance and billing — the WHAT and HOW, which can leave staff missing the WHY. Thus, it is not surprising that turnover rates are as high as they are, leaving individuals and families stuck without support. Quillo focuses on the WHY, building up staff to feel valued, empowered and supported. Unlike anything else on the market, Quillo is a mobile app that pushes content daily to employees' smart devices via 60-second videos. Each day, users receive messages from the perspective of fellow DSPs, parents, self-advocates, leaders and experts in the field that focus on the WHY of what they are doing. The platform also allows subscribing organizations to record their own videos to send to employees. Quillo also allows staff to build profiles of the people they support, including their likes, dislikes, and key people in their lives — all helping to better relate and support the individuals. Quillo seeks to reach 240,000 DSPs in the first four years, directly impacting staff, the people they support, and their families.

AUTISM LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION COALITION (ALEC): PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR FIRST RESPONDERS



LEADER & PRESENTER:

Captain Bill Cannata
ALEC Coordinator for The Arc of South Norfolk
789 Clapboardtree Street
Westwood, MA 02090
skagan@arcsouthnorfolk.org
Presented by: Capt. Bill Cannata and Sgt. Ryan Roettger
Requested funding amount: \$45,000

INTRODUCTION

ALEC is a program that offers specialized trainings to first responders. The goal of the ALEC program is for first responders to hear directly from other first responders who have personal and professional experience with individuals with autism and to provide additional tools to use in assessing the risk of a situation. Led by former Fire Captain Bill Cannata, the program increases communication between parents within the community and first responders, increasing their ability to interact effectively with individuals with autism. This program promotes safety and reduces risk of injury for individuals with autism.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

ALEC was developed by parents of The Arc of South Norfolk's Family Autism Center in the 90s and has grown to be a national program. Autism is estimated to occur in one out of every 68 births. ALEC training is needed to protect and communicate with people in this fast growing segment of society. This program teaches responders what autism is, what the behaviors/characteristics are, how to communicate properly with these individuals to avoid unfortunate situations, and give tips to ensure safe outcomes. The program is tailored to each arm of the public safety and law enforcement arena and has received exceptional response from the 40,000 professionals trained to date. All trainers are family members of someone diagnosed with autism and a professional in the emergency/law enforcement field. ALEC has partnered with ASET (Autism Safety Education & Training) to start training in local schools — most specifically, educators, school administrators and staff throughout New England.

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AUTISM SPECTRUM SUPPORT EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS (ASSERT)



LEADER & PRESENTER:

Paul Simeone
May Center School for Autism and Developmental Disabilities
41 Pacella Park Drive
Randolph, MA 02368
psimeone@mayinstitute.org
Requested funding amount: \$55,000

INTRODUCTION

May Institute's Autism Spectrum Support Emergency Response Teams (ASSERT) program will improve access to services during times of displacement due to disaster or emergency. ASSERT will meet the behavioral, sensory, and self-care needs of people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) by training public health and emergency workers across the disaster response cycle and forming regional ASSERT functional access teams. According to the Mass Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (Mass OPEM) and experts in the field of disaster recovery, there is a training and knowledge gap in meeting the needs of individuals with ASD as it relates to first responders such as Medical Response Corps workers and those who provide extended support such as emergency shelter and public health personnel.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Each year, natural disasters such as flooding, wildfires, blizzards, and hurricanes impact communities around the country. Massachusetts experiences yearly weather-related and other emergencies which displace thousands. As a result, many families and individuals with ASD are impacted and displaced. ASSERT seeks to improve the quality of care for thousands of people with ASD who seek assistance from government-organized disaster workers. The majority of these workers are under-prepared to meet this population's needs. ASSERT will leverage existing infrastructure to support people with ASD and their families when they are at their most vulnerable. By training front-line staff and volunteers, ASSERT captures opportunities to develop community partners who will support these individuals' communication, behavioral and self-care needs. While there are some programs that deal specifically with preparedness, no current programs address the areas that ASSERT will cover: strategies to accommodate the behavior, communication, sensory and adaptive needs of people with ASD. The regional Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition (HMCC) managers of Mass OPEM report that their employees and volunteers in community health centers, ambulatory care organizations, emergency shelters, hospitals, and other acute care facilities do not receive any training in these areas and have agreed to pilot the program. This group represents thousands of possible partners and the prospect to create a nationwide support network that does not currently exist, but which is desperately needed.

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LEVERAGING DATA: OPTIMIZING COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH ADVOCACY FOR PEOPLE WITH ID



LEADER & PRESENTER:

Michael Moloney
HMEA
8 Forge Park East
Franklin, MA 02038
mmoloney@hmea.org
Presented by: Michael Moloney and Emily Lauer
Requested funding amount: \$50,000

INTRODUCTION

People with intellectual disabilities (ID) receive poorer quality and less coordinated healthcare; inadequate access to experienced practitioners; and more frequently use emergency and acute care services. To change these patterns, people with ID need more effective health advocates. Our consortium of community-based providers is well poised to provide this advocacy through the wealth of info they collect but likely underutilize. We propose leveraging an innovative multi-provider electronic info system to create a model to monitor health risk, prompt early access of medical services, and communicate timely, relevant info in partnership with healthcare providers to improve quality of healthcare services, reduce unnecessary health services, and improve health outcomes for people with ID.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Our community-based provider consortium consists of 28 agencies serving more than 12,000 people with ID. Together, the agencies have developed a shared electronic information system using a Best Practice model across agencies and services. Currently, we collect an enormous amount of real-time info about the people we support, but we do not effectively use this info to drive health advocacy. Health services are often fragmented across multiple healthcare providers, many of whom have little knowledge or training about treating people with ID. Through skill building and better use of the information we have, community-based providers can become the missing link to access to good quality healthcare. It is time to empower providers to coordinate and seek medical care to improve these health service experiences and outcomes. During the grant period we will: 1) benchmark health outcomes across providers and to external quality health metrics; 2) identify quality gaps for targeted improvement through coordination and advocacy; 3) develop and test models to utilize provider info on health advocacy; and 4) measure the impact on health.

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VIRTUAL REALITY FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES & TRAINING SEMINARS



LEADER & PRESENTER:

Ian Miller
Interactive Media Institute
6540 Lusk Blvd
San Diego, CA 92121
frontoffice@vrphobia.com
Requested funding amount: \$90,000

INTRODUCTION

Social communication and interactive deficit are most often addressed via functional communication activities (FCA). However, FCA are limited in their reach and there is obscure evidence on their ability to teach generalizable skills. Our program introduces innovative virtual reality (VR) FCA to increase accessibility via mobile and online training and enhances skill generalization using proven VR technology. Additionally, via training seminars for service providers and families, we seek to facilitate the dissemination of this new frontier throughout the world. Our main objective is to create an online resource with six clinically validated VR-FCA and corresponding instructional videos for service providers and families. Our secondary objective is to organize two VR-FCA training seminars.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This program combines the most effective features of immersive training technology with a proven intervention. The VR-FCA program will enhance efficacy and access to services that promote social integration and self-advocacy in children and adolescents. As diagnosis rates of ASD continue to climb, mobile technologies like VR increase accessibility of services — a therapy or training session can be delivered in home on a mobile phone, personal computer, tablet, or increasingly affordable VR headset. This module will make the training available to anyone, anytime, anywhere. Corresponding with downloadable VR-FCA, our training seminars will introduce this disruptive technology to service providers and families. This feature will 1) promote clinical adoption of VR-FCA as a supplemental tool and 2) introduce VR-FCA to families for in-home training. Online training videos will scaffold implementation of VR-FCA both clinically and at home to improve access to services and outcomes for children with ASD.

The Arc Tank

UPDATE ON SUCCESS OF 2017 WINNERS

YMCA of the North Shore Water Wise Swim Program



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

According to a 2017 study, children with autism are 160 times more likely to suffer drowning fatalities than the general pediatric population. Also, more than 90 percent of deaths of children with autism are due to drowning. With that in mind, our Y designed a program to ensure children with autism learn to swim while creating a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment.

The YMCA of the North Shore's Water Wise swim program was designed to make swimming lessons accessible to children with autism, while meeting each child and their individual instruction needs through specialized plans which often include integration into regularly scheduled classes.

We have engaged more than 50 children with autism, ages 4-13, in Water Wise at our Beverly and Marblehead locations. We hope to expand to all of our Y locations across the North Shore. Judith Cronin, executive director of our Beverly Y location notes, "There is a critical need for this type of program. People in the autism community don't feel as if they have good options when it comes to getting children into the water safely. The first stage of the Water Wise program is teaching the children to be invited to the water and orienting them to the environment. Parents see that this is different than traditional swim lessons."

Our team is seeing incredibly positive outcomes from this wonderful program. The feedback we are receiving from our instructors, parents and participants is heartwarming. We have witnessed children with autism reaching new milestones, learning to swim, learning not be afraid of the water and most importantly learning to stay safe in and around the water.

One parent said, "My child could never have water on his face or head. The desensitization techniques the instructors use in class to help children submerge in the water carried over to my son's nightly bath time making it much easier for us." Water Wise is not only teaching children the skills they need to be safe and self-sufficient in the water, it is teaching them skills to be more independent out of the water as well.

We are so grateful to Northeast Arc and their innovative grant program Arc Tank which made this program possible. As with all programs at the Y, Water Wise enables us to meet the growing needs of the communities we serve. Our Y welcomes all and provides a truly inclusive, caring and encouraging community for all and Water Wise is a perfect example of that.

The Arc Tank

UPDATE ON SUCCESS OF 2017 WINNERS

Pathways To Inclusive Health Care (PIHC)



Background: The lack of full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into our society gives rise to numerous health disparities and suboptimal health status experienced by this population. The unprecedented rate of individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and intellectual/ developmental disabilities (IDD) aging into adult services accentuates these health disparities due, in part, to a healthcare workforce that lacks adequate training and experience caring for those with ASD/IDD. Pathways to Inclusive Health Care (PIHC) seeks to address this gap by creating a pipeline of healthcare professionals motivated and equipped to provide quality healthcare

to this population. This is achieved by providing an intensive, meaningful gap year for recent college graduates interested in entering the health professions that is designed to expose them to the needs of children, youth, and adults with ASD/IDD. Specifically, PIHC includes both practicum experiences in area schools and day habilitation programs, as well as a regular weekly seminar series comprising didactic sessions and observations that provide specialized training on clinical, professional, and policy-related topics.

Progress: The PIHC training program was successfully launched this past September with three Scholars for its 2018-19 inaugural year. Each Scholar intends to pursue a career in medicine and is interested in serving youth and adults with ASD/IDD. Currently, each Scholar is working at Nashoba Learning Group or the New England Center for Children, which are practicum sites dedicated to educating and supporting individuals diagnosed with ASD/IDD. Additionally, Scholars are participating in selected graduate courses through the UMass Medical School's Shriver Center's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) program as well as additional didactic and experiential learning opportunities coordinated by the PIHC faculty. Not only are Scholars exposed to an enriched curriculum of didactics covering such topics as Interdisciplinary Perspectives on ASD/IDD, Cultural Competence, Disability Policy and Systems of Care, but they are also encouraged to tap into the vast experience of the Shriver Center and the LEND mid-career health professionals as they begin to plan their own healthcare career paths. Scholars will also have opportunities to shadow UMMS physicians serving persons with IDD/ASD, observe interdisciplinary neurodevelopmental team assessments, and learn about the day-to-day concerns of children, youth, and adults with disabilities or special needs and their families.

The PIHC program is already receiving applicant inquiries for the 2019-20 academic year. We look forward to accepting a larger cohort of Scholars next year and believe that over time, we will indeed close the health care disparities gap between the number of persons with ASD/IDD needing adult primary care, and the number of health care professionals trained, experienced and available to meet this need.

The Arc Tank

UPDATE ON SUCCESS OF 2017 WINNERS

The Center for Public Representation Supported Decision-Making Incubator Project



In the 10 months since the Supported Decision-Making Incubator project received funding from the Arc Tank, the project has built a foundation for Supported Decision-Making in the state of Massachusetts by building capacity at five agencies to use this unique model as an alternative to guardianship.

The response and interest from agency staff, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and the community has been overwhelmingly positive. People have welcomed and embraced this new approach to decision making. As promised, change has begun and momentum is building.

- The project has assisted five participating agencies across the state to engage more than 25 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Supported Decision-Making (SDM). Individuals engaged with SDM include many transition-age youth and individuals with diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. The five agencies that are sites of the incubator pilot projects are: Northeast Arc, Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change, Nonotuck Resource Associates, Inc., Multicultural Community Services, and Advocates, Inc.
- Because of the project, several dozen individuals and families have effectively chosen not to pursue guardianship in favor of using Supported Decision-Making. This includes transition-age youth.
- The SDM project has conducted approximately 50 small and large presentations on SDM for a diverse range of audiences including: people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; family groups; siblings; individual families; LEND program leaders, including health care providers; advocacy organizations; local, state, and national conference participants; school transition events; service providers; support coordinators; and others. We have formally and informally trained several hundreds of people on supported decision making.
- Numerous organizations and individuals have suggested that we develop additional pilots and have requested our assistance with various questions related to supported decision making.
- Staff from the SDM project have provided legal guidance and information to individuals and families on matters related to guardianship, health care proxies, durable power of attorney, special needs trusts, and other legal issues as they relate to Supported Decision-Making.
- In order to increase access to SDM for people from diverse cultural backgrounds, the project has translated the SDM agreement forms into Spanish, with plans to translate into Vietnamese and more languages in the coming weeks.
- The SDM project has participated in a national think tank on SDM, sharing experiences and lessons learned from the five incubator projects.
- The SDM project accumulated and distributed a wide variety of Supported Decision-Making publications, videos, and resource packages to interested persons and groups.
- The SDM project has developed a "To Get You Started" package of initial resources on Supported Decision-Making to introduce and orient newcomers to SDM.
- The SDM project has also collaborated with the SDM initiative of the Georgia Advocacy Office's longstanding Citizen Advocacy programs to develop four new SDM videos that can be used as educational aids in Massachusetts.

The Arc Tank^{2.0}

HOLDING TANK

The following submissions were placed in the *Holding Tank*, to be shared here so that attendees at the competition could pursue or learn more about them by contacting the lead applicant.

ACHIEVAbility – Your Go-To Credible Source for Business Needs

ACHIEVAbility provides a credible one-stop shop for businesses for “all things disability,” including:

- * Meeting workforce needs with talent with a disability
- * Protecting staff investment by retaining talent with a disability
- * Answering ADA questions
- * Offering no-cost or low-cost accommodations info
- * Providing staff disability competency training
- * Being the single point of contact between businesses and all publicly-funded employment programs (e.g., state vocational rehabilitation programs, Medicaid “waiver” programs, etc.)

According to the USBLS only 19 percent of people with disabilities (PWD) are working. Labor participation rates for PWD is about half that of all people while the unemployment rate is about twice that of all people. And businesses can’t find enough workers to meet demand.

CONTACT: ewelsh@achieva.info
Eric Welsh, *ACHIEVA* (412) 995-5000

AmeriCorpsAbility!

The AmeriCorpsAbility! program provides support services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout Philadelphia and Montgomery counties. The program provides customized community support in the areas of economic opportunities and healthy futures, with the goal of full inclusion for individuals receiving services. Individuals with disabilities are less likely to have social supports and connections that meet their specific needs and, as a result, are often not included in their community. People with disabilities are less likely to receive adequate early intervention and health care services, and are less likely to be employed. In fact, the unemployment rate for individuals with disabilities is more than double the rate of individuals without disabilities.

CONTACT: stownsend@arcphiladelphia.oeg
Sabra Townsend, *The Arc of Philadelphia* (215) 229-4550

Bridging the Gap: Be Safe The Movie

Too many stories in the news end poorly when law enforcement officers and individuals with autism do not understand one another during police encounters. This gap in understanding can have tragic outcomes that are preventable in many cases. Combining all three elements of Experience Autism® and the BE SAFE training sequence is the right decision for Lincoln, Nebraska!

We propose to train up to 50 Law Enforcement Officers and Fire and Rescue Professionals to recognize and respond to individuals with different types of disabilities with a customized version of the Experience Autism Program. It is equally important to train your with developmental disabilities to interact safely with the police. Our goal is to help people understand one another and build relationships to make a difference.

CONTACT: autismfamilynetworklincoln@gmail.com
Vicki Depenbusch, *Autism Family Network* (402) 421-8922

The Arc Tank^{2.0}

HOLDING TANK

Certifications, Credentialing, and Pre-Employment Training for People with Disabilities

High school students with disabilities deserve better than graduating to the couch. Many fail to make the transition to a work setting due to a lack of funding and support systems. Far too many end up unemployed and regress in their skills at no small cost to themselves, their families, and the community. A key to avoiding this outcome is to equip the students with the skills and knowledge that will create more opportunities for a career. At the same time, across industries, technical skill gaps exist which require credentialed, certified workers. VersAbility will launch a formalized program with a focus on the technical areas that culminates in credentials and certifications desperately sought by employers and this age group of these valuable young citizens with disabilities.

CONTACT: WLester@versability.org
Whitney Lester, *VersAbility Resources* (757) 896-8451

The Changing Lives Fellowship

Supported decision-making (SDM) offers a new way of life for people who thought guardianship was their only choice. Agency directors in Massachusetts are recognizing SDM as a viable model that allows individuals to direct their own lives. These select agencies are restructuring programs and retraining staff to reflect the SDM philosophy – a respect-based philosophy that enables people to work with chosen supporters to make their own decisions about everything from roommates to jobs to politics. Many are benefiting, but many more are deterred because they need legal advice to execute an SDM agreement. An Arc Tank Changing Lives Fellow can fill that gap and crisscross the state and help people with disabilities set up SDM agreements so they can start making their own decisions today.

CONTACT: akrieger@cpr-ma.org
Anna Krieger, *Center for Public Representation* (413) 586-6024

Changing The World One Cookie at a Time

The mission of Collettey’s Cookies is to create jobs for people with disabilities, change the public perception of just how capable this population truly is, and work with Congress in Washington, D.C. to adopt policies that would abolish the 14c Exemption to the Fair Labor Standards Act, and provide tax incentives to employers that hire workers with a disability.

CONTACT: collette@colletteys.com
Collette Divitto, *Collettey’s* (857) 264-1697

Choices in Life Learning

Life-long learning is a basic human right.

Most adults completing high school have access to vocational, college, and graduate school education. They can access on- the-job training, and attend adult or continuing education classes. Massachusetts is rich in all of these opportunities.

Life-long learning is a bridge to a better, more meaningful life. And it’s an opportunity denied to far too many adults with developmental disabilities.

Our goal is to establish our modular, participant-directed lifelong learning programming as a self-sustaining, replicable model.

CONTACT: dflaschen@3LPlace.org
Deborah Flaschen, *3LPlace* (617) 764-3280

The Arc Tank^{2.0}

HOLDING TANK

Creating and Replicating Natural Supports

Nearly 75 percent of adults with IDD do not receive formal disability services; 41 states have waiting lists for services (Larson et al., 2014). Without supports, adults with IDD may make no progress (*Taylor & Hodapp, 2012*), their parents may experience caregiving burden (*Haveman, et al., 1997*), and both may experience a reduced quality of life (Gill & Renwick, 2007). Because of limited services, families may rely on natural supports. As such, adults with IDD may not be “locked into” the formal service delivery system—rather, supports can be person-centered (*Turnbull & Turnbull, 2011*). The purpose of this project is to: (1) examine how families create natural supports; (2) investigate family-led agencies which create natural supports; and (3) identify predictors of natural supports.

CONTACT: meghanbm@illinois.edu
Meghan Burke, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign* (217) 300-1226

The Cushing SmartHouse

We would like to convert one of our residences into a SmartHouse to serve as a pilot program for our organization. The concept behind the SmartHouse is to increase the independence of the individual with an intellectual disability who resides in the home while decreasing his or her reliance on individual staff members. Not only does this help create a more fulfilling life for the individual, it also helps us begin to address the issue of the impending workforce crisis in our industry. We have an empty, one-bedroom apartment with a private entrance that would be the perfect fit for this type of project.

CONTACT: gsullivan@cushingcenters.org
Ginger Sullivan, *Associate Vice President of Residential Services, Cardinal Cushing Centers* (781) 829-4676

Disabled Writer’s Workshop

My son is a non-speaking classically autistic 28-year-old man. Anthony’s life skills are extremely limited, and he still lives with our family. Anthony was an inclusion student in the Newton schools, graduated from Newton North High School and is a part-time English major at UMass Boston. Since Anthony aged out of the Newton schools, we have been searching for a stimulating day program. Anthony slips through the cracks of existing programs, and I suspect there are others who do as well. Disability Writer’s Workshop, still in its infancy, will incorporate book discussions and reading from local authors, writer’s groups, copyrighting workshops, music and recreation as part of a stimulating enrichment day program.

CONTACT: jrutenbeck@gmail.com
James Rutenbeck, *Parent* (978) 204-8935

Disrupting Healthcare Delivery and Preventing Health Crises with Timely Information and Expert Guidance: The Right Care Now Project Monitoring System

Adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities (D/ID) experience unconscionably high rates of unmet health needs and health crises despite regular PCP and dentist visits and increasing enrollment in ACOs. The primary barriers to skilled, effective, integrated health services are the “information voids” between and among individuals and their caregivers, and the knowledge deficits of the average providers. Many with D/ID cannot express needs clearly, and more than 90 percent of surveyed PCPs, psychiatrists and nurses don’t feel they have proper skills to treat those with D/ID. The goal of the Right Care Now Project is to assure all caregivers have accurate, timely information and next-step guidance, so all adults with D/ID receive expert care and avoid expensive, needless health crises.

CONTACT: sabend@rightcarenowproject.org
Susan Abend MD FACP, *The Right Care Now Project, Inc* (508) 983-1488

The Arc Tank^{2.0}

HOLDING TANK

Disrupting Vulnerability: A Holistic Approach to Safety and Wellness

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) are among the most vulnerable members of our society. More often than their neurotypical peers, they become victims of financial and sexual abuse due to their inability to recognize potentially dangerous and abusive situations. Additionally, they are more vulnerable to medical and mental health issues that adversely impact their daily lives leaving them vulnerable to chronic ailments and disorders. The overall goal of the Disrupting Vulnerability project is to empower people ID/DD to protect themselves from sexual and financial abuse, and be agents in their own self care, in order to live healthier, safer lives.

CONTACT: shana@libenu.org
Shana Erenberg, *Executive Director, Libenu* (847) 322-3368

Education Modified

In the U.S., the special education system is broken and inefficient. Existing SPED technologies focus exclusively on compliance with students’ Individualized Education Program (IEP) without adequately integrating with day-to-day instruction. Education Modified bridges compliance to the classroom by empowering teachers with instant access to 300+ research-based instructional strategies to effectively implement the IEP. Our current project is building technology also allows easy input of IEP goals and a streamlined way to measure progress against them, matching them to strategies. With smart content that is tagged to students, evaluated for effectiveness, and easily communicated to all stakeholders, EdMod addresses both instruction and compliance, improving outcomes for students with special needs.

CONTACT: Melissa@educationmodified.com
Melissa Corto, *Education Modified* (860) 796-9143

ES-Coach

At nearly 80 percent, unemployment is a devastating problem for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Something must be done. Nationally, about 32,000 employment consultants are available to help job seekers with IDD. However, often these consultants are left alone on the front lines, struggling with supporting job seekers who may have limited job and social skills experience, while addressing employers’ needs for getting the work done efficiently. Using real-time performance feedback, ES-Coach will track employment consultants’ support practices, compare those practices with state-of-the-art supports, and provide feedback nudging these professionals towards adopting effective employment supports, known to be effective in obtaining better employment outcomes.

CONTACT: alberto.migliore@umb.edu
Alberto Migliore, *Institute for Community Inclusion, University of Massachusetts Boston* (617) 287-4306

Everyday Tech Supports E-Book: A Support Resource for the Use of Cognitive Technology

The Arc Westchester has created the Everyday Tech Supports initiative, an educational effort that provides lesson plans and resources for direct support professionals, other caregivers and self-advocates, covering the use of everyday personal technologies (smartphone and tablet apps, web resources and smart devices) by people with cognitive disabilities. Personal technology outreach is not a Medicaid-billable service in New York and our efforts have been partly supported by private and corporate donations. Our outreach incorporates blogs, webinars, conferences and in-person trainings. We are seeking financial support to assemble these technology resources into an “Everyday Tech Supports” E-Book that can be easily updated, searchable and available on smartphone and tablet platforms.

CONTACT: jjankus@arcwestchester.org
Jordan Jankus, *The Arc Westchester* (914) 495-4474



Expanding Employment for People with Disabilities: A Vision for Scale

RespectAbility was founded in 2013 when a GAO report showed there were 45 government programs attempting to get jobs for people with disabilities, but the programs were overlapping or failing. We advocated 1-1 with 46 governors and testified in all 50 states. Because of the efforts of many allies, including the ARCs, The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act passed overwhelmingly. RespectAbility's national goal is to further expand employment for people with disabilities by: fighting implicit bias against people with disabilities by working in Hollywood for the inclusion of people with disabilities in front of and behind the cameras; educating and advocating with job training agencies, governors, employers, and workforce boards to replicate best practices in disability employment.

CONTACT: jenniferm@respectability.org
Jennifer Mizrahi, *RespectAbility* (202) 517-6272

Galactic Smarties' FireGuide

Caregivers and young adults with disabilities live with a daily tension between safety and independence. Usually independence loses - to the great frustration of the young adult. Our InternetOfThings (IoT) networks, Smarties Suites, provide independence and security for the millions of cognitively impaired, while giving their caregivers oversight and peace of mind. Our first product, FireGuide, is a drill and evacuation app that addresses a huge barrier to independence: fire. Home fires kill people with disabilities up to six times more than the general population, and fires are now deadly within three minutes in the typical home. FireGuide addresses critical gaps in home fire systems that are barriers to people with disabilities who want to live independently.

CONTACT: ldwight@galacticmarties.com
Lili Dwight, *Founder/Developer* (413) 665-8576

Improving Behavioral Assessment of Children Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder through Enhanced Data Acquisition

- *The best outcomes for autistic children are achieved through individualized treatment programs.
- *Detailed data is required to design a treatment program and monitor its effectiveness.
- *Gathering data from outside the classroom is extremely difficult because of the burden it places on parents.
- *Even when data is submitted by parents, it's still incomplete since it's exclusively from their perspective.
- *To gain a complete picture, a parent's narrative data must be combined with video, audio and biometric data.
- *Systems to automatically gather and combine the above data don't currently exist; even if they did, it's not possible for a single BCBA to review all of the data manually.
- *Prominent autism treatment professionals have referred to this blind spot as an Achilles heel.

CONTACT: gary@spinrisetechnologies.com
Gary Higginson, *SpinRise Technologies LLC* (860) 575-3931



Improving Pain Assessment and Treatment in Adults With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Through Technology

Many individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) experience pain and physical discomfort that impacts quality of life, can lead to premature death, or exacerbate self-harming and other challenging behaviors. However, presence of pain is often not identified or is undiagnosed because individuals with IDD may be unable to verbally communicate distress or pain symptoms attributed to their disability. Direct care staff do not receive adequate training nor do they have access to appropriate assessment tools to detect responses indicative of pain. This project aims to improve pain assessment for this population through the development of a technology app that will allow care-providers to better assess pain and make informed decisions on how to respond to pain symptoms.

CONTACT: arothschild@sevenhills.org
Allison Weiss Rothschild, MSW, LICSW, BCBA, LABA, (774) 452-2655
Assistant Vice President and Director of Clinical Services, Seven Hills Community Services (SHCS)

Include Me Too

According to the VERA Institute of Justice, children with disabilities are three times more likely to be victims of sexual assault and abuse. School age students are also being excluded from learning about sexuality and healthy relationships in health classes. Include Me and Me Too will provide Pennsylvania's students with disabilities "a body-positive, empowering, proactive approach to child abuse prevention." Include Me promotes culture change and building capacity for inclusion of students with disabilities in public schools. School administrators and family members will also be educated on this important topic.

CONTACT: ritac@includemepa.org
Rita Cheskiewicz, *Include Me Program Director* (717) 234-2621

The Inclusion Project (TIP)

Historically, individuals with disabilities have not fared well in the U.S. labor market. Of more than 21 million working-age adults with disabilities, only 4 out of 10 work full- or part-time. Despite legislation that prohibits the discrimination of this group in work settings, employers are still reluctant to hire people with disabilities. In contrast, the employment rate among non-disabled working-age adults is 8 out of 10. Modeled after an AWSP program (Alternative Workforce Supplier Program) CWS is already piloting with a large e-retail company, this initiative will help employers and employees bridge this gap to meet both parties' needs. In doing so, this initiative will radically transform the way companies hire, and individuals with disabilities find employment, in the U.S.

CONTACT: cstenning@cwsne.org
Craig Stenning, *Community Work Services* (617) 571-5456

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Inclusive Education in Mozambique Collaborative

The Inclusive Education in Mozambique Collaborative project seeks to address the lack of access to inclusive education for children with disabilities' in Mozambique. According to in-country data there are approximately 80,000 children with disabilities in primary and secondary schools. However, there are approximately 800,000 children with disabilities in Mozambique. There are only three regional special education centers and three special schools in Mozambique. Most children with disabilities do not attend school and a few of them (10%) are sent to special segregated schools. Even existing special schools lack qualified teachers and staff and most schools are not accessible. USICD and APODEMOS will collaborate together to develop in-country training and webinars on a variety of inclusive education topics.

CONTACT: ihodge@uscd.org
Isabel Hodge, *United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD)* (202) 495-7712

Jump-Ability/Splash!

The Old Colony Y (OCY) is proposing Jump-Ability/Splash! as the newest addition to our Y-Ability initiative. Jump-Ability/Splash! combines two types of activities that provide sensory benefits proven beneficial to people with disabilities: trampoline and pool. Y-Ability is a series of community advised wellness, artistic, social and activity based programs created to respond to the needs of our members with functional limitations. Our goal for Y-Ability is to offer comfortable, safe and exciting programming to serve as an entry point into ongoing Y participation for non-typically developing children and young adults and their families. Y-Ability programs are guided by data and best practices and involve input from community advisory committees with the ultimate goal of full inclusion.

CONTACT: sselmon@oldcolonymca.org
Serah Selmon, *Old Colony Y* (508) 238-9758

The LeanOnMe Intelligent Software Platform for Life Management and Support

Introducing the LeanOnMe Platform, intelligent software designed to EXTEND THE INDEPENDENCE AND SAFETY of people with cognitive differences using the Internet and smart phones. While no software can guarantee safety for any of us, it CAN help us to be safer and more independent.

- * LeanOnMe houses simplified life skills tools in one easy to use interface
- * LeanOnMe helps Users know what's next, get where they need to be, and know what they need to do once they get there
- * LeanOnMe helps when things go wrong, leading Users back to predefined "safe places," communicating injuries in graphical ways, and providing medical information when needed
- * LeanOnMe connects Users who need help organizing their information - with information managed by Helpers

CONTACT: Tim.leanonmeapp@gmail.com
Timothy Jones, *Viscient LLC* (513) 939-9772

N.O.T.E.S. (Neural Optimization To Empower Success) of the Neural Tango

The key to long-lasting and meaningful community inclusion has been, and will continue to be, positive and harmonious behavior. Without this behavior, "inclusion" reverts to "tolerance." This is not what we want for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Attention-control issues are common with this population; the inability to focus on a task or a person can impede the development of relationship-building skills for living in community. Musical Attention Control Training (MACT) is a biomedical music protocol utilizing music to improve attention focus. Improving attention focus will increase inclusion appropriate behavior to be better suited for living, working, and playing in community. We seek to automate MACT into software for a smartphone app or computer.

CONTACT: summa@marthasumma.com
Martha Summa-Chadwick, DMA, *Executive Director, Music Therapy Gateway In Communications, Inc.* (423) 605-3547

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Navigating Life

Navigating Life® is an all-in-one mobile app that addresses the widely understood need for greater transparency within Human Services and allows agencies to manage teams and keep families, caregivers, staff and clients informed and connected throughout the day.

- * Social Feed - allows members to like, comment and post photos
- * Messaging - direct message with team members, family, caregivers and staff
- * Groups - create private or public groups to securely share with specific users
- * Record Data - note clinical data securely that only appears to authorized members
- *Track History - real time location and access to an archive at the fingertips
- *Safe & Secure – industry standard encryption

CONTACT: gmmorris@nupathinc.org
Greg Morris, *NuPath, Inc.* (978) 873-3354

Neurodiversity in the Workplace

Providing people with autism pathways to competitive employment saves our government money in support services, benefits employers, and increases independence and quality-of-life for people with autism. Yet, despite the clear benefits, adults with autism are disproportionately unemployed compared to people without disabilities and people with other kinds of disabilities. We are committed to filling the gap in services that prevents people with autism from joining the local workforce. We are partnering with Dell Computer Corporation and The Arc of Philadelphia to expand Neurodiversity in the Workplace, a proven supported employment model that supports people with autism.

CONTACT: drmary@arcaustin.org
Mary VanHaneghan, *The Arc of the Capital Area* (512) 476-7044

On the Road For Rural

Unfortunately, most organizations serve rural and tribal areas with mailed information, phone calls, webinars and downloads from a website. All of these methods have a place, but the most effective way to serve rural and tribal areas in need of information and resources, is to take a conference to them, with subjects and topics chosen by them. The National Down Syndrome Congress has the resources (both human and otherwise) to serve rural communities, in person, therefore providing interactive conferences that allow for individuals, families, medical professionals and educators to interact together, and receive the best information available. Further, when we leave an area, we have helped facilitate a small community of people who have the same needs, and they can support one another.

CONTACT: kathy@ndsccenter.org
Kathy Edwards, *National Down Syndrome Congress* (404) 242-3640

Plan-Able

As numbers of individuals and families of those living with different abilities continue to rise, it is imperative for communities to develop along with them. At this time, there are few popular applications people can utilize to plan inclusive activities for families and individuals with disabilities. In brief, the overall goal of this project is to create and develop a user-friendly phone application and website, to support individuals and families, of all abilities, with planning activities suitable for their specific needs.

CONTACT: nhydebradford@gmail.com
Nicole Hyde-Bradford (781) 913-3622

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Portal Entryways

People who use handicap-accessible buttons may have conditions that affect their entire body which severely limit their physical ability to activate an automatic door.

These buttons are often positioned in awkward locations or obstructed, making it impossible to access. Doors connected to these buttons may open too slowly and/or close too quickly, not giving enough time for a user to get all the way through an entryway and close on their body, causing injury.

Property owners with entryways in disrepair are liable under the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Portal empowers people with mobility-type disabilities, helping them be independent in entering buildings to access information, goods, services and experiences.

CONTACT: sam@portalentryways.com
Sam Lew, CEO (714) 318-1202

Project Jacki

While there are many services and supports to help Minnesotans with disabilities address the challenges they face, they aren't easy to access. The disability services system is complex, fragmented, and difficult to understand. The Arc Minnesota helps people navigate these difficult systems and obtain necessary services at every stage of life, so they can pursue productive and meaningful lives in the community. The Arc Minnesota (formed through a merger of regional chapters on Jan. 1, 2018) serves approximately 20,000 individuals and families each year. But conservative estimates suggest this represents only 25 percent of the Minnesotans who could benefit from our services. The overall goal of our project is to close this gap by making our programs and services more easily accessible.

CONTACT: nickboerum@arcminnesota.org
Nick Boerum, *The Arc Minnesota* (651) 269-0785

RespiteEase

We are responding to the No. 1 need expressed by caregivers of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities: respite from 24/7 stress of caring for their loved ones. Eighty-four percent of those surveyed say they want respite care (*Rivers, 2017*). But respite is difficult to arrange, unaffordable, or not available. There is no efficient method of connecting with trained respite providers.

Demand for respite care is growing due to the rise in autism diagnoses, as well as an aging population. Families are frustrated by "the tension and exhaustion" as one mom explains.

Our goal is to create a new service model for respite care by connecting families directly with vetted, trained respite providers who can be scheduled through a website application called RespiteEase.

CONTACT: egrady@fidelityhhs.org
Elizabeth Grady, *Fidelity House, Inc.* (978) 685-9471

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The SDM Family Ambassadors Project

Let's move from the concept to the concrete.

Across the country, Supported Decision-Making (SDM) is gaining momentum as an effective alternative to guardianship for people with disabilities. Here, agency directors are recognizing SDM as a viable model that allows individuals to retain the right to direct their own lives. These directors are restructuring programs and retraining staff to reflect the SDM philosophy — a respect- based philosophy that encourages people to work with chosen supporters to make their own decisions about everything from roommates to jobs to politics. Many people are benefiting, but not enough. Now it is time to mobilize parents and families. With training and on-the-ground assistance from CPR's parent-and-family leadership project, they will be SDM ambassadors.

CONTACT: mkendrick@cpr-ma.org
Michael Kendrick, *Center for Public Representation (CPR)* (413) 586-6024

Self-Advocates: Building Homes Together Project

Beaverbrook STEP's Self-Advocates: Building Homes Together project establishes a new, innovative, creative and self-directed support model that addresses the growing demand by self-advocates and families for affordable, long-term, self-directed, residential services. Designed as a bold, comprehensive and unique partnership between Self-Advocates, Beaverbrook STEP and STEP's extensive cadre of community businesses and organizations, the project will develop a viable self-determination model using creative design, financing and home-ownership options. The overall goals are: 1) offer uniquely designed housing models different from traditionally delivered 24-hour or less-than-24-hour services; and 2) meet the urgent needs of adults/families as they enter the adult service system.

CONTACT: vaconnolly@beaverbrookstep.org
Virginia Connolly, *Beaverbrook STEP, Inc.* (617) 926-1113

Side by Side Learning

"Nothing about us without us."

This is a saying anyone who works in the disability community will be familiar with. Yet in our world of services we still do so much without the people we support. Training is just one more thing we do without people. But it doesn't need to be that way. What if direct support professionals and the people they support could use the time they spend together, to learn together?

We designed Side by Side so that people who receive support and people who provide support can learn together. Using our online multimedia learning modules we make training inclusive. Our goal is to help people to learn how to stop abuse, make friends, get a job, understand relationships, be safe, feel well, know what disability does and doesn't mean and so much more.

CONTACT: ben@openfuturelearning.org
Benjamin Drew, *Founder* (631) 385-5090

The Arc Tank^{2.0}

HOLDING TANK

SPEAKall! and SPEAKmore! Speech and Language Training to Transform the Lives of Those affected by Autism or Developmental Disabilities

This project aims to further develop and deploy a suite of research-based mobile applications for learners with severe autism who are minimally-verbal. The SPEAK*** technology targets functional communication, natural speech development, early language, and social interaction.

The specific goals are to update the existing programs for iOS software and hardware compatibility and to deploy and evaluate usability of the tools with clients of the Northeast Arc in the Massachusetts region. Our goal will be to reach 30 learners with autism and/or developmental disability by working with local service providers (schools, clinics, and rehabilitation settings). This implementation in the field will help to reach broader market acceptance and create a strong position for subsequent commercialization

CONTACT: oliver.wendt@ucf.edu
Oliver Wendt, *University of Central Florida* (407) 823-4772

Specialized Makerspace

People with disabilities face need for customized assistive devices to better suit their disability and stimulate rehabilitative participation in activities of daily living, and in particular adaptive sports and recreation. Because of their customized nature, such devices are prohibitively expensive, and sometimes not covered by insurance. However, the trend of community makerspace is spreading throughout the nation and the world and empowers makers, and all sorts of entrepreneurs, to build customized devices at minimal cost, with the limit being only the imagination and resourcefulness of the maker. As a person with disability deeply involved with various disability communities, I have been humbled by the reservoir of untapped adaptive design creativity in people with disabilities.

CONTACT: kongtcheu@emotionrx.com
Phil Kongtcheu, *eMotionRx* (617) 308-3339

The Tech Kids Unlimited Digital Agency

The TKU Digital Agency is transforming the shape of employment for young people on the autism spectrum. We are a fee-for-service income producing model and an incubator where students with autism (ages 15-21) gain real job skills and work competencies as they produce client-centered digital projects. TKU disrupts the current paradigm of education and employment for teens and young adults with disabilities. With dismal employment options for individuals with ASD, TKU works to open the doors to the field of technology so students can be independent and learn the computer science principles and technology skills they need to prepare them for internships, post-secondary education and ultimately jobs.

CONTACT: beth@techkidsunlimited.org
Beth Rosenberg, *TechKidsUnlimited.org* (917) 334-7880

The Arc Tank^{2.0}

HOLDING TANK

Transportability

To create a safe, affordable, reliable, and direct form of transportation for individuals with IDD. Transportation by city is the most affordable but the least direct and often leaves caregivers feeling unsure of the safety of their loved ones. Transportation by private companies is too expensive for individuals that rely on SSI benefits as their only income. We have solved the issue with our Transportability model.

CONTACT: azrile@arcntx.org
Amanda Zrile, *The Arc of North Texas* (817) 793-2304

Turning Sickness Into Strength: Adaptive Apparel That Utilizes Fabric Technology

Mighty Well transforms the patient experience through innovative apparel, gear, and digital community with the vision to be the Under Armour of healthcare. We utilize fabric and closure technologies that have been developed for athletes and we are applying them to the medical industry with an initial focus on patients with physical disabilities and those living with medical devices. Our mission is to turn sickness into strength and to build a community of patients and their loved ones, whom we call "Friends in the Fight."

CONTACT: emily@mightywell.com
Emily Levy, *Mighty Well, Inc.* (617) 804-1837

Understanding Our Differences 2.0

People with disabilities make up the largest US minority group, representing 1 in 4 Americans per the CDC. Most people will experience a disability or know someone who has one. "Learning more about people with disabilities helps us better understand and meet their health needs," said the CDC's Dr. Coleen Boyle. People with disabilities face barriers every day, from architecture to employment, but the most difficult barrier is biased attitudes. UOD changes attitudes by teaching young students about disabilities, imparting the skill of interacting respectfully. UOD 2.0 harnesses current technology to teach students nationwide to be allies of PWD, empower PWD to self-advocate and develop professional skills as speakers, and change school and community culture to be inclusive for all.

CONTACT: rlubens@understandingourdifferences.org
Rebecca Lubens, *Understanding Our Differences* (617) 559-6075

The Arc Tank^{2.0}

HOLDING TANK

Unified Health and Performance

The goal of the project is to create a franchise model for Unified Health and Performance; and in the process accomplish a handful of things. As our crew builds the Unified brand to reach other states, we will broadcast the achievements of our adaptive athletes, shifting the perspective from disability to different abilities. We will collaborate with like-minded individuals who have the desire to bring this business to their community while also providing them with the resources necessary to do so: operations manuals, training certifications, networking, and an online database of programming, exercise demonstrations, and ideas to grow the business. I would like to bring the opportunity for inclusive fitness to thousands of individuals across dozens of states around the U.S.

CONTACT: unifiedhp@gmail.com
Brendan Aylward, *Unified Health and Performance* (978) 855-9141

Virtual Reality: An Innovative tool for Enrichment, Rehabilitation, and Vocational Training Lab for Adults

People with disabilities face barriers daily, including adrenaline generating experiences; thus, lack access to events that increase self-confidence that push us past our limitations. Virtual reality (VR), an immersive technology, is an unrivaled training tool. Our goal: develop a VR Lab, an innovative approach to address needs and barriers of people with disabilities in education, employment, social and therapeutic services. Activities, free from limitations imposed by disability, offer experiential learning of transferable skills. VR brings exposure to dire information of real-world concepts in a simulated environment creating outcomes of reduced stress and anxiety, improved environmental awareness, preparedness and safety, and increased confidence while engaging in physiological stimuli.

CONTACT: oscar.guerra@marc-cr.org
Oscar Guerra, *MARC Community Resources* (860) 342-0700

WellStats Informatics: Making POM's Data Analysis Predictive, Contemporaneous, and Practical

In the move towards a POM's-driven approach to service delivery, the integration of data management and real-time data analysis, is critical to optimize an individuals' ability to reach valued outcomes, and providers to sustain the health of their organization. WellStats Informatics predicative analysis software is a solution to this need, allowing data to be presented practically with predictive tools to help facilitate meaningful change. The user friendly platform incorporates a distinct algorithm to data sets assigned to an individuals' POM's, and guides the IDT to which disruptive variables should be introduced, and their probability of impact. While most tools utilize their POM's measurements during an annual assessment, WellStats Informatics can produce results contemporaneously.

CONTACT: maliaf@wellstats.com
Malia Faleafine, *WellStats* (510) 499-7979



JAMES FAMILY STAGE

Opened in April 2018, Peabody's Black Box provides state-of-the-art space for theater, comedy, dance, film, music, poetry and other performances.

The Black Box offers extremely versatile space, with a capacity of

238, that can be used for a variety of events, such as: weddings and anniversaries, birthday parties, meetings, film screenings, Fundraising events, Baptisms and First Communion, and Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.

Peabody's Black Box can be rented on an hourly, daily or weekly basis. For more information on renting this flexible space, contact Lisa Geczi at blackbox@ne-arc.org or 978-548-5854.



Honoring Chris MacKenzie with the *Changing Lives Award*

Thursday, April 25, 2019, 5:30 p.m.
Seaport Hotel, Boston
bit.ly/nearcgala

50th anniversary



Monday, September 16, 2019, 11 a.m.
Myopia Hunt Club, South Hamilton
bit.ly/nearcgolf

and a special thanks to:

GRAVOC

For sharing their artistic talents by filming
today's competition and editing it into an
official *Arc Tank* 'episode.'



NortheastArc

Northeast Arc (NeArc) was founded in 1954 by parents of children with developmental disabilities who wanted to raise their sons and daughters as full members of the community. By having the courage to challenge professionals who told them their children could not be educated and would not live to become adults, these parents created the systems that enabled them to attend public schools, develop friendships, reside in the neighborhoods of their choice and to earn a paycheck.

Over the years, the agency's programs have expanded to support children and adults with a broader range of disabilities, including autism and physical disabilities. Today, NeArc serves more than 10,000 people from more than 190 cities and towns on an operating budget of \$279 million. It is the largest Arc in Massachusetts and the second-largest Arc of 700 across the country.

NeArc's goal is to ensure that children and adults with disabilities are given every opportunity and are able to live, work, engage in civic life and play in the community in the way they chose. Examples include Noah, a little boy who was paralyzed at 6 months old due to an illness, who is now walking after receiving Early Intervention Services; Whitney, who built her customer and food-service skills at NeArc's Breaking Grounds Café before finding lasting and meaningful employment elsewhere in the community; and Ryan, a young man with autism who is living independently in his own apartment for the first time.

Northeast Arc has an extensive network of services and resources serving all ages, starting at birth and spanning a lifetime. In addition to Early Intervention, Employment Supports and Residential Services, the agency offers Autism Services, Adult Family Care, Day Habilitation, Personal Care Management, Recreation and Transition Services.

www.ne-arc.org



JOHN F. KENNEDY

L I B R A R Y F O U N D A T I O N

The mission of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation was first articulated by Jacqueline Kennedy, who, when describing the yet-to-be-built library, envisioned it as a "vital center of education and exchange and thought, which will grow and change with the times."

"It will be," she wrote, "not only a memorial to President Kennedy but a living center of study of the times in which he lived, which will inspire the ideals of democracy and freedom in young people all over the world."

The primary mission of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation is to support the work of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. In addition to its support of the Kennedy Library, the Kennedy Foundation directly sponsors programs and activities that help people understand the major challenges facing democracy today; that inspire current and future generations to political participation and public service; and that promote debate and discussion of issues at the heart of contemporary democracy that relate to the legacy of President John F. Kennedy.

www.jfklibrary.org