



Speaker Bios

2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Annie Acosta, Annie joined The Arc in 2007 as the Director of Communications and Grassroots Advocacy with the public policy office. Annie is a co-chair of the Consortium for Citizens with Fiscal Policy Task Force and the Developmental Disabilities, Autism, and Family Support Task Force. She covers budget & appropriations, Developmental Disabilities Act programs, education, autism, technology, and family support issues in Congress.

Brent Anderson, Brent Anderson, a young adult who lives with autism, shares his life stories in the hilarious book, "Unintentional Humor; Celebrating the Literal Mind®." Brent inspires audiences with his heartwarming, humorous stories and symbolizes acceptance using the universal human bond - HUMOR. He is a graduate of The Arc of Ventura County Training for Independent Living program. He is also an Entrepreneur Alley exhibitor.

Tony Anderson, Tony Anderson joined The Arc California in 2003 and serves as Executive Director and principle lobbyist. In this capacity, he serves on numerous state and national boards and commissions, and is the past national President for the National Executive Directors of The Arc (NCE). He has worked in the leadership for the Napa County Department of Health and Human Services.

Michael Baker, Michael J. Baker, CFRE, is a founder and partner of m3 Development, a full-service consulting firm for non-profits and foundations. His leadership of the firm and consulting efforts has led to a great

deal of success for m3 Development clients throughout the USA. Prior to m3 Development, Michael worked with the American Cancer Society, where he helped the national organization launch its' Major Gift and Campaign Fundraising Program, resulting in over \$85,000,000 in two years.

Peter Berns, Peter V. Berns has been the Chief Executive Officer of The Arc of the United States since 2008. Prior to coming to The Arc, he had been Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations since 1992. In addition, he served as Chief Executive Officer of the Standards for Excellence Institute since its inception in 2004.

Shaun Bickley, Shaun Bickley serves as the Self-Advocate Coordinator for The Arc of Texas and trains other people with I/DD in self-advocacy across the state, both in institutions and in the community. He got his start in community organizing in 2008 and is a 2012 graduate of the Midwest Academy's Organizing for Social Change. Shaun has a state appointment to Texas' Employment First Task Force and is on the Community Advisory Council (and former Co-Chair) for the University of Texas Center for Disability Studies.

Mary Lynne Bisland, Mary Lynn Bisland is the Executive Director of Terrebonne Arc in Houma, Louisiana. Previously, Mary Lynn was a Special Education teacher and a Community Outreach Director at TARC. She is a member of the State and Regional Advisory Committee, on behalf of

the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, and a member of NCE and the Louisiana Conference of Executives of The Arc.

Laura Brackin, Laura Brackin, Ph.D., is a leading expert in the disability field. Dr. Brackin's career includes significant leadership positions within local, state and national non-profit agencies, associations, and governmental offices. Most recently, she served as Assistant Secretary for the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, serving more than 25,000 individuals with disabilities through 2400 employees, 17 programs, and multiple sites statewide.

Maura Buckley, Maura has been an instructor for Operation House Call for two years. Through OHC, she teaches third year medical students at Boston University School of Medicine about intellectual and developmental disabilities from a family perspective. The Arc has made this program possible through their respected leadership in Massachusetts and through funding and advocacy.

Michael Callahan, Michael Callahan of Ocean Springs, MS, has been president of MG&A since 1983. He has also managed and been involved with projects that have included individualized supported employment, choice-based rehabilitation services, one-stop employment for persons with disabilities, self-employment, and micro-enterprise development.

Bill Cannata, Bill has been involved with The Arc of South Norfolk since his youngest son, Ted, was diagnosed with autism. Along with his wife, he is among the group of founding parents of The Arc of South Norfolk's Family Autism Center, a center that provides support and services to people with autism and their families. Bill is the Program Director and a founding member of The ALEC Program at The Arc of South Norfolk.

Charles Caplins, Charles is the Chair for People on the Go of Calvert County. He previously worked at the Holiday Inn, in Solomons, for many years and now spends his time volunteering throughout the community. Charles is an active member of the Knights of Columbus and Special Olympics and is involved in self-advocacy.

Andrea Chen, Andrea Chen worked at the Louisiana Association of Charter Schools where she oversaw grant-making for over \$5 million in charter school start up funds, and launched a \$1.5 million below market rate Bridge Loan Fund. She was named "40 Under 40" by Gambit Magazine, 2010 City Business Women of the Year, World Economic Forum Young Global Shaper, and is an appointed board member of the New Orleans Business Alliance.

Dawn Cooper, Dawn Cooper, Manager, Diversity and Cultural Competency at The Arc of the United States, is responsible for developing and implementing The Arc's strategic plan for creating greater diversity within our chapters and ensuring we are effectively meeting the needs of a diverse I/DD community. Dawn has over 20 years of experience consulting organizations on ways to leverage diversity and build inclusion as an organizational imperative.

Maureen Cronin, Maureen Cronin is the Executive Director for The Arc of Pennsylvania. Her many experiences, including being part of the closure of Pennhurst Center and being a parent of a child with disabilities, have led her to the strong commitment that we must work every day to include all children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their schools and communities.

Kevin Crosley, Kevin has been President/Chief Executive Officer of Herkimer Arc for 8 years. For over two years, Kevin has presented on revenue development outside of Medicaid funding due to organizations such as SUPRA (the national state use program association) and at the state of Delaware and Illinois statewide agency conferences.

Stephen W. Dale, Stephen W. Dale is a disability rights advocate and serves on the Board of The Arc of California. His outreach and level of commitment to the disabled community has received national recognition. Additionally, Steve provides free information, referrals and support in understanding the various issues surrounding special needs benefits, services and care through his public service website, www.achievingindependence.com.

Leigh Ann Davis, Leigh Ann Davis, M.S.S.W., M.P.A., is Program Manager, Justice Initiatives for The Arc's Program Innovations Group, and in that role oversees The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability. She has worked in the area of disability and justice issues since 1994 when hired by The Arc of the United States to direct a Department of Justice project of the national significance of educating people with intellectual disabilities and criminal justice/legal professionals about communicating with one another.

Anthony Di Salvo, Anthony Di Salvo, Founder and Executive Director of Sprout, has written, directed, and edited 13 short films that have been seen on television and in festivals around the world. In 1979 Anthony created a travel program for people with developmental disabilities and has overseen the growth of the travel program from its beginnings to now serving over 1,800 people annually.

Kim Dodson, Kim Dodson joined The Arc of Indiana in 1998 as Director of Government Relations and became Associate Executive Director in 2006. In 2013, she was named Executive Director of The Arc Innovations, Inc. and The Arc of Indiana Foundation. She has over 20 years of work experience in the field of public policy and government affairs.

Cliff Doescher, Cliff has over 35 years of experience in the habilitation field, with expertise in vocational and employment services, as well as extensive experience with social enterprises, and has served as the Executive Director of Arc of Greater New Orleans since 1993. Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, his agency underwent a conversion of services focusing on employment, health and fitness, and community involvement and participation.

Mary Duke, Mary Duke is a Case Coordinator with The Arc of Ventura County Training for Independent Living (TIL) program. For the past 12 years, she has worked with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities teaching life skills that prepare them for living on their own and integrating into the community.

Jill Egle, Jill Egle is a self advocate leader who inspires other self advocates to be the best person they can be. She also influences change and loves public speaking.

Sue Elliott, Sue Elliott brings thirty-eight years of experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities to her current position as Executive Director for The Arc of Washington State. Sue works closely with state agencies, policy makers, parents, self advocates, and other statewide disability organizations to move toward a service delivery system that is responsive to the needs of individuals and families.

Chris Engler, Chris has been a volunteer for the Special Olympics since 2006, where he is a Certified head coach in soccer, basketball, track/field, and golf. He recently received the 2013 National Jefferson Award for volunteerism. His love of helping those in need led to the co-founding of his Company Eruption Athletics LLC (EA). EA is Pittsburgh's first and only Physical Fitness and Exercise program for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Marty Ford, Marty Ford leads the five person Public Policy team representing The Arc on Capitol Hill and before federal agencies. With 29 years of experience, Ford is a recognized leader in federal policy issues affecting people with disabilities, particularly long term services and supports, Medicaid, and Social Security disability issues, and has testified numerous times before Congress.

Karen Grau, Calamari Productions President and Executive Producer Karen Grau brings over 20 years of broadcast experience to all Calamari projects. Karen directs and manages the creative vision that has put the company on the cutting edge of news, documentary and series programming. Today, she continues to take a hands-on approach to all Calamari programming, from show conception to development to executive produc-

ing to final production. Karen began her broadcast career in radio news and quickly moved into television.

Kim Grier, As president of the National Guardianship Association, I see a great opportunity for collaboration between our associations to ensure that guardianship is used as a last resort, and people understand options and choices available to them.

Linda Gund Anderson, Linda helped her son Brent create his business, Unintentional Humor. He is now an author and sought after speaker who shares his stories of life with autism and the value of humor in his life. In 2013, Linda and her daughter co-founded Celebrate Autism, a revolutionary non-profit that empowers young adults with disabilities through education and training. Their Supported Entrepreneur Program is providing new solutions to the unemployment crisis.

Crystal Haislip, Crystal is a graduate of East Carolina University with a Bachelor's degree in Therapeutic Recreation. After beginning her career, in adaptive sports and community recreation, she began as the Therapeutic Recreation Specialist with The Arc of Southern Maryland in 2006. She has been co-facilitator for People on the Go of Calvert County since the group began, a little over 2 years ago.

Kevin Hansan, Kevin Hansan has founded and led numerous information technology startup ventures and companies. His expertise is envisioning how technology can improve the experiences people have when interacting with large government agencies and corporations; and overseeing the deployment of large complex computer systems.

Sharon Hennessey, Sharon Hennessey, Executive Director of People First of Louisiana, is a long-time advocate for people with disabilities. Ms. Hennessey has a MEd degree in Special Education/Habilitative Services from the University of New Orleans, and has developed and conducted workshops and trainings on many issues, including self-advocacy, disability sensitivity & awareness, transitioning, employment, and affordable housing.

Carrie Hobbs Guiden, Carrie Guiden has over 18 years of experience working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and during most of this time, she has worked for chapters of The Arc in Indiana, Arizona, and now, Tennessee. Her experience includes being a DSP in a residential group home, training and evaluation, supported employment, transition services, positive behavior support, case management, and quality improvement.

Kim Hommerding, Kim Hommerding, MSW, has been practicing in the field of Human Services for 24 years, the past 22 with The Arc of Calhoun County. In that time she has filled the roles of advocate, facilitator, benefits planner, estate planner, case manager and currently as Executive Director. She is part of numerous county and state coalitions with the focus on upholding the rights and dignity of people with developmental disabilities.

Joe Jelinski, Joe Jelinski, CEO/Co-Founder of Eruption Athletics, is a fitness professional dedicated to improving the exercise and wellness landscape for those with developmental disabilities by creating specialized equipment and programming. Joe works with a wide range of individuals as a Personal Trainer and Coach and

has been coaching high school soccer and Special Olympics for the past 5 years while growing EA.

Ieshia Kinney, Ieshia is the Brand Associate at The Arc's national office. She has been working to help educate chapters and staff about the importance of our national brand.

Bernard Krooks, Bernard A. Krooks is a founding partner of the law firm Littman Krooks LLP and Chair of its Elder Law and Special Needs Department. Mr. Krooks is a nationally-recognized expert in all aspects of elder law and special needs planning. He is the President of the Board of Directors of The Arc of Westchester, the largest agency in Westchester County serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Hye Kyong Jeong, After a successful career in international business, Hye Kyong received her Masters of Social Work degree from the University of Washington. While there she did training in the fields of disability and aging that included clinical, community organization, and public policy. She has worked at The Arc since 2008 and also developed curriculum for The Arc University Class, The Arc Ambassador Class, and other projects.

Chuck Lamson, Chuck has managed various businesses and is also a business owner. He has worked for The Arc of Calhoun County for 3 years as the Program Coordinator of the Volunteer Employment Program. He believes people with disabilities are valuable employees in our workforce.

Toni Ledet, Dr. Ledet serves in a dual role as Director of Children Services for The Arc Baton Rouge (an early intervention program) and Assistant Director for the The Arc Early

Head Start in Baton Rouge where the primary responsibilities for both programs involves providing leadership and management of the day to day activities, budgeting, supervision of personnel, and professional development.

Walter Leger, Walter "Walt" J. Leger III is Speaker Pro Tempore of the Louisiana House of Representatives and the representative for New Orleans' District 91. In the Legislature, he has served on powerful committees and was recently named to a special Revenue Task Force to study and review Tax Expenditures, including Tax Credits, Exemptions, and Rebates.

Christopher Littlefield, Christopher, the founder of AcknowledgeWorks, is based jointly in South America and the United States. Over the last six years, Chris conducted over 400 street interviews and numerous studies around the globe, all to understand what employees need to feel valued at work. His findings have been translated into workshops, and coaching services geared to help leaders develop the skills and self-awareness to produce extraordinary results.

Jonathan Lucus, Jonathan Lucus is the Managing Director of Employment and Transition Services at The Arc of the United States. Jonathan brings over fifteen years of program administration experience. He has written language for Congressional legislation and has provided consultation to the United Nations, European Union, Department of State, Department of Health and Human Services, and various countries around the world.

Amie Lulinski, Amie, the newest member of The Arc's Public Policy team, began covering issues related to rights, including: Medicaid long-term

supports and services, direct support professionals, employment, rights/civil rights, immigration/naturalization, and emergency management. Amie has worked with and for individuals who have I/DD and their families for over two decades in roles ranging from direct support professional to Director of Training and Quality Assurance to Senior Researcher.

Michael Mack, Michael Mack began his national board service in 2004. During his service, he has held the positions of Treasurer and Secretary of The Arc of the United States. Michael is also a Co-Chair of the Policy and Positions Committee that is responsible for updating The Arc's Position Statements. He is also a member of the board of The Arc of Montgomery County and is a former board member of The Arc of Maryland.

Fred Maahs, Fred Maahs joined Comcast in 2007 and is the Director, Community Investment, Comcast Corporation, and Vice President, Comcast Foundation. He is responsible for the strategic leadership of Comcast's national community partnerships with The Arc and many other organizations, at the corporate and regional level. In addition, he serves on Comcast's Joint Diversity Council and is an Executive Champion of Abilities Alliance - one of Comcast's Employee Resource Groups. Fred also serves on the board of many other organizations, including the American Association of People with Disabilities.

Patrick Manion, Patrick Manion is the Director of Philanthropy for The Arc of Atlantic County in New Jersey. Prior to his position at The Arc, Mr. Manion served as Associate Director of Planned Giving and as a Leadership Gift Officer for an international non-profit and held several fundrais-

ing positions in other agencies. He has closed over \$30,000,000.00 in planned and major gifts.

Ginger Mayeaux, Ginger Mayeaux has 6 years experience working with self-advocates, families, and other stakeholders on advocacy and systems change. She has a Master's of Science in Social Work, has attended the Midwest Academy on Community Organizing and utilizes their strategies with advocates through her job. Ginger provides training and advocacy support for Texans with I/DD, their families, and other stakeholders so individuals are able to speak for themselves.

James McCarten, Jim is a partner at his firm's Tax, Trusts and Estates and Corporate practice group and works with a broad spectrum of clients, including start-up businesses, mid-market family businesses, publicly traded entities, and retired corporate executives and business owners. His practice encompasses the entire range of tax planning and is very involved in special needs planning for clients who have family members with a disability.

Elise McMillian, Elise McMillan currently serves as Secretary of the board of The Arc of the United States. Elise also serves as a Co-Chair of the Policy and Positions Committee that is responsible for updating The Arc's Position Statements. She is a Past President of The Arc of Davidson County and The Arc of Tennessee and remains actively involved with both chapters.

James Meadours, James Meadours currently serves as a consultant for the Vera Institute of Justice project that is creating self-advocacy peer-to-peer training related to sexual abuse. As a survivor of sexual assault and other victimizations, he is ded-

icated to uncovering the reality of violence that many people with disabilities experience throughout their lifetime. He has presented at rape crisis centers, to both disability and child advocates, as well as law enforcement about victimization issues. He has also held various leadership positions in the disability community.

Avidan Milevsky, Avidan Milevsky has 20 years of experience working in various settings, focusing on systems approach to interventions. His clinical research has produced 100 presentations and more than 20 papers in journals, including a contribution to the Encyclopedia of Adolescence. His recent book on siblings titled "Sibling relationships in childhood and adolescence: Predictors and outcomes" was published by Columbia University Press.

Shiela Moore, Sheila Moore has been involved in the disability community on a local, statewide and national level for 24 years. She is one of the Founders of the Down Syndrome Association of Middle Tennessee and served as their Executive Director for 17 years. Currently, she is the CEO of The Arc Davidson County and Greater Nashville and has been with The Arc for over 2 years.

Nancy Murray, Nancy J. Murray is the President of The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh at ACHIEVA. She has more than 32 years of experience in the disabilities field in the areas of public policy, advocacy, supports coordination, medical care and state government serving people with disabilities and their families. And serves as a board member of The Arc of Pennsylvania and as a member of The Arc of the United States' Policy and Positions Committee.

Andrew Musegades, Andrew is one of the younger members of People on the Go of Calvert County. After graduating in 2012, he is now employed at Holiday Inn part time, and enjoys participating in track and swimming with Special Olympics. He is a great advocate who knows how to speak up for himself and brings a younger perspective to the group.

Lori Opiela, Lori Opiela currently serves as Vice President of Adult Employment and Day Services for UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago. She provides leadership to Adult Employment and Training Services for adults with disabilities. Starting in 1999, Lori led the agency through a rigorous self-evaluation and strategic planning process associated with the National Center for Social Entrepreneurs.

Mary Jo Podgurski, Dr. Mary Jo Podgurski has been volunteering with pregnant teens since 1976. Dr. Podgurski has partnered with The Arc of Washington County to pilot a sexuality educator training (Me Too) that includes professionals, caregivers/families, and individuals. Her goal is to provide each child with evidence-based educational programs that are innovative, empowering, and respectful of individual needs.

Karie Ragan, Karie Ragan is the Program Supervisor for The Arc of Ventura County's Training for Independent Living Program (TIL). Karie, employed with The Arc for over 12 years, started out as an instructor at the TIL program providing supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, teaching them everyday life skills to be able to live as successful members of their communities.

Lori Ramirez, Lori Ramirez joined The Arc Fresno/Madera Counties in 1990 and has served as the Executive

Director since 1998. The Arc Fresno entirely changed the culture of the organization once they became aware of the Shift Happens philosophy. This chapter is the leader of services in the central valley and is consistently raising the bar to ensure those served are given every opportunity to succeed.

Tanya Regli, Tanya Regli currently serves as the Executive Director of The Arc of Philadelphia. After her son's diagnosis of Autism in 2002, she founded the Special Needs Advocacy Group (SNAG) to address issues affecting children with special needs in Cheltenham and Montgomery County. Regli also co-founded and ran Viewpoints Learning Project, a 501c3 not for profit organization designed to support inclusive environments in community centers and throughout the area.

Cordelia Robinson, Corry Robinson, Ph.D., is a professor of pediatrics and psychiatry. She has been the director of JFK Partners, an interdepartmental program of pediatrics and psychiatry, since 1993.

Lori Ropa, Lori Ropa has served as Executive Director of The Arc Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties in Colorado for just over four years. In 2012, she was presented with NCE's Rising Star Award. She also serves on the NCE Steering Committee, The Arc's Board Development Committee, and the American Society of Association Executives' Professional Conduct Committee.

Donald Rowe, Don Rowe is currently the executive director at The Arc Carroll County. Don began his career 25 years ago as a house manager supporting 3 men with I/DD. He has managed both residential and employment programs. As a strong proponent of servant leadership, he is excited to be presenting at The Arc's National Convention.

Benjamin Rubin, Attorney Benjamin (Benji) Rubin graduated from the University of Illinois Law School, and received his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University. Benji serves as the President of SIBS (Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters), the Illinois chapter of the national Sibling Leadership Network; is a member of the Board of Directors of The Arc of Illinois; and serves on the Leadership/Steering Committee of the Supported Community Living Initiative.

Brian Rubin, Attorney Brian Rubin is President of The Arc of Illinois and has a law practice specializing in "Special Needs Planning". Brian served as Chairman of the State of Illinois Advisory Council on I/DD, is Co-Chairman of the Illinois Task Force on Autism, has served on Illinois State Commissions related to I/DD, as well as on the Board of many organizations related to I/DD.

Marijo Rymer, Marijo Rymer has been Executive Director of The Arc of Colorado since 2007. She has served on the Board of the National Council of Executives of The Arc, on the Committee on the Future of The Arc, and was awarded the NCE Executive Excellence Award in 2012. She is a gubernatorial appointee to the Colorado Community Living Advisory Group and co-chairs the CO Waiver Simplification Committee.

Monica Sanjur, Monica Sanjur joined The Arc's national office in 2013 and previously worked as a bilingual parent support specialist for families of children with disabilities at Alexandria City Public Schools in Virginia. Monica has also provided parent to parent support for Hispanic families for over 10 years with the Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia.

Karen Scallan, Karen became involved in advocacy as a parent of a child with multiple disabilities and health care issues. Karen now supports families in Louisiana with issues surrounding health and access to care and benefits through her own agency, and is dedicated to advocating for long-term supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Kay Schmidt, Ms. Schmidt has worked for The Arc Baton Rouge in their Infant Program since 1979, serving as a classroom teacher, providing development assessments and screenings for home-based children, and as Parent Educator for the Early Steps Program. She currently serves as Disability Coordinator for Early Head Start where she is responsible for the coordination of all services for children with disabilities in Early Head Start.

Ric Schwartz, Ric Schwartz has been Executive Director of Sullivan Arc since 2003. He has over 36 years of experience working for agencies that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Prior to becoming Associative Executive and later Executive Director, his primary experience was in residential and vocational services.

Robin Shaffert, Robin L. Shaffert is the Senior Executive Officer, Individual and Family Support at The Arc of the United States. She is leading the launch of the Center for Future Planning. Before joining The Arc, Robin was the policy director for the Caring Across Generations campaign, which is a coalition of over 200 diverse organizations committed to reforming long term services and supports for seniors and people with disabilities.

Heidi Shapiro, Ms. Shapiro is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She has over thirty years of direct social work experience and since 1984 she worked at The Arc Children's Services in Baton Rouge. Ms. Shapiro is currently a social worker for Early Steps, assisting parents of developmentally delayed birth to three year olds with their needs, and is participating in other projects to provide mental health consultation to Head Start programs and a group for teen parents.

Leslie Simoes, Leslie Simoes has over 15 years' experience with intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD) advocacy in Connecticut. Her vision to create a grassroots movement to mobilize hundreds of families and individuals with I/DD resulted in the nation's first state level I/DD Caucus. This critically acclaimed Caucus represents the first step in making Connecticut's support system better for individuals and families.

Ken Singer, Kenneth W. Singer has served as Executive Director of Berkshire County Arc since 1994, and holds a Master's Degree in Human Services and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Organizational Development from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Currently, he oversees a \$24 million budget, 600 staff, and a large number of services.

Linda Smith, For more 30 years, Linda Smith has revolutionized the principles of non-profit fundraising, community relations and event management in Las Vegas, Nevada. As a fundraising specialist for Opportunity Village, now Nevada's largest organization for people with intellectual disabilities, she has gained an international reputation as an innovative leader, public speaker, and most of all, a humanitarian.

Kevin Smith, Kevin Smith is the Self-Advocate Coordinator for People First of West Virginia. He has received training through Partners in Policymaking, People First of Tennessee and People First International. He has served as a member of the Statewide Independent Living Council, the Medley/Hartley Advocacy Program's Advisory Council, and is currently a member of the Olmstead Advisory Board, West Virginia Assistive Technology System Advisory Council, the Take Me Home West Virginia Advisory Council, as well being actively involved in his local church board.

Andrew Sperling, Andrew Sperling is the Director of Federal Legislative Advocacy for NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, where he leads NAMI's legislative advocacy in Congress and before federal agencies. Since 1994, Mr. Sperling has also served as Co-Chair of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force.

Shane Spotts, Shane Spotts offers a well-rounded perspective for the coordination of systems changes. His work is focused on financial modeling for agencies in the fields of: state behavioral health, I/DD, and managed care systems. Shane also has experience using data for systems reform, including transforming long-term care fee-for-service systems to outcomes-based systems.

Barbara Stewart, Barbara Williams Stewart is a clinical social worker whose practice is devoted exclusively to individuals with disabilities and their families. With a speciality in grief counseling, she currently works for the St. Louis Arc and is a professor of Education at Webster University. Barbara founded and served as the Executive Director for the Belle Center, an early intervention program

for children with and without disabilities. She worked as a Deputy Director for Missouri's Department of Mental Health.

George Suess, George Suess, M.S. has worked with people intellectual and developmental disabilities for over 40 years. He has been employed by The Arc of Delaware County, NY (Delarc) for 35 years and has served as CEO for the past 28. Delarc has published 3 best-selling books by Mr. Suess.

Ron Suskind, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Ron Suskind has written some of America's most important works of nonfiction, framing national debates while exploring the complexities of human experience. In addition to his books, he often appears on network television and has been a contributor for The New York Times Magazine and Esquire. Mr. Suskind was the Wall Street Journal's senior national affairs reporter from 1993 until his departure in 2000, and won the 1995 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing.

T.J. Sutcliffe, As part of the public policy team at The Arc's national office, T.J. covers Social Security, SSI, housing, employment, and anti-poverty programs.

Donna Talley, Ms. Talley has worked for The Arc Baton Rouge since 1976. She has eighteen years experience working with mentally and developmentally disabled adults and their families. She serves as Co-Coordinator for The Arc's Transdisciplinary Teaming Project serving children in Early Steps.

Peggy Terhune, Peggy, a professional occupational therapist with an MBA and Ph.D., has been the CEO of Monarch since 1995. Monarch provides multiple types of supports and services to people with I/DD, mental illness,

and substance abuse issues, including those with multiple diagnoses.

Margaret-Lee Thompson, Margaret-Lee Thompson has recently retired as the Coordinator of the King County Parent Coalition for Developmental Disabilities, which is a program of The Arc of King County. The Parent Coalition was formed by Margaret-Lee in 1990 and is active in systems advocacy with the state legislature. The King County Parent Coalition was the first of its kind in the state of Washington. There are now Parent Coalitions established or forming in 18 counties in Washington State.

Mary Anne Tolliver, Mary Anne Tolliver started in direct support in 1984 and currently serves as the Director of Residential Services. Over the past five years, Mary Anne has worked to support several individuals who have made end of life decisions, individuals who died suddenly, and others with serious illness. Along with her colleague Barbara Stewart, they have supported the friends, family and direct support staff of the people who have passed away, and collaborated with medical, hospice, and government entities.

Mary Jo Walla, Mary Jo Walla is currently the deputy executive director at The Arc Carroll County. Mary Jo started in 1999 as the director of community living services and was promoted to her current position in 2007. She has previously managed mental health programs, worked with court involved juveniles and inmates with chronic mental illnesses.

Julie Ward, Julie Ward is responsible for representing The Arc before Congress and Federal agencies on health

care reform, Medicaid, Medicare and related issues. Prior to this position, she represented The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy for seven years as part of the Disability Policy Collaboration (DPC) where she had primary responsibility for budget and appropriations, employment, TANF and transportation issues.

Chip Warren, Chip Warren began working with Calamari in 2007, developing educational media from the company's vast archive of juvenile justice and child welfare footage. He brought a decade-plus of experience with photography and production to the table, as well as firsthand experience with both juvenile justice and child welfare. Fifteen years after entering the juvenile justice system in Reno, Chip worked as a consultant with New York City's social services agency, helping line staff overhaul the way they provide services.

Nancy Webster, Nancy Webster currently serves as President of the Board of Directors for The Arc of the United States. Her affiliation with The Arc began in 2001 when she served as a member of the Development Committee. In 2002, she was elected to The Arc's national board and has served on and chaired the Development Committee and has served on the Governance and Rules Committee and the Task force on Affiliation and Growth.

Rebecca White, Rebecca White is an experienced project developer and manager. With The Arc Central Chesapeake Region, Rebecca creates opportunities for people with a disability to engage in their community, grow their careers, and challenge assumptions.

Betty Williams, Betty Williams has been an active self-advocate since 1991 and is currently the Coordinator of Consumer Education and Training at The Arc of Indiana. In her position, Betty works to promote employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through a variety of committees and initiatives, including The Arc of Indiana's Employment Advocacy Team and the Indiana Alliance for Participation. She also serves on the President Obama's Committee for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Connie Willoughby, Connie has been with The Arc of Southern Maryland for 5 years as a Senior Employment Team Specialist, and has been a co-facilitator for People on the Go of Calvert County for a little over 2 years. Connie is constantly learning how to be a better facilitator by being around advocates from other groups. Connie was able to learn a lot about self-advocacy by attending the SABE Convention in 2012 in Minnesota.

Harriet Yaffe, Harriet recently joined the Sprout team after retiring from her position as the Executive Director of The Arc of Southern Maryland. After discovering the Sprout Film Festival at The Arc's National Convention, she became inspired and began to see the films as a terrific resource for fundraising, community development, staff training, and board development.

**We apologize for any omissions. With more than 100 speakers and information coming in through different channels it is possible that something was missed.*



Achieve with us.