



The Arc of Somerset County
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Achieve with us.

The Arc of Somerset County
Strategic Plan
2022 – 2025

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Mission Statement

The Arc of Somerset County provides a lifetime of comprehensive services, advocacy and supports to individuals with Intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to promote growth, achievement and ongoing involvement in the community

Approved by The Board of Directors on November 27th 2018

Value Statement

The Arc of Somerset County embraces this mission by upholding the following values

- Each person is inherently valuable: able to dream grow and learn
- Each person will have the opportunity to live and participate in the community regardless of the level of his/her abilities
- Each person deserves the right to make meaningful choices about how and where they live, learn, work and play
- Each person deserves the opportunity for meaningful relationships
- A dedicated, highly qualified staff is essential to The Arc's ability to best support people with developmental and intellectual disabilities
- Family and community involvement at all levels is essential to our mission

Vision Statement

To be recognized throughout the State of New Jersey, as the role model for Person Centered programs and supports for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Executive Summary

The strategic direction and goals included in this plan are The Arc of Somerset County's response to its understanding of what its stakeholder's value most about the organization, and current opportunities and challenges for offering a high quality system of support in the community for people with disabilities.

The three-year period of this strategic plan will be a time of assessing and deepening The Arc of Somerset County's approaches to its advocacy, service provision, and collaborations. Concurrently, The Arc of Somerset County will take more of a leadership role in working with a broader array of community resources partners and volunteers. With a fresh perspective on its mission, understanding what it does well, and the environment in which it operates, The Arc of Somerset County will pursue the following strategic priorities:

Program Expansion/Consolidation

The Arc of Somerset County will expand the number of individuals served as well as the quality and variety of services offered for both transition age (18-23) and the ageing population.

Expand "in House" Therapeutic services to include offering Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapies and become a resource to other agencies

Create additional opportunities for individualized supports including individuals served at the Achievement Center, People and Children Together and Supported Employment programs

Business Practices/Training

The Arc of Somerset County will create a training that addresses helping individuals integrate into community to include navigating the healthcare system.

Create means to evaluate the structure and effectiveness of trainings.

Move towards a paperless system agency wide.

Increase employee participation in self service processes

Facilities/ Use of technology

The Arc of Somerset County will use online/virtual/ technology platforms to increase independence and access for service recipients.

Increase accessibility and usage of outdoor areas

Increase vehicle security

Foundation Activities

The Arc of Somerset County will expand on planned giving opportunities

Create marketing materials that welcome new stakeholders to the agency

Grow investment accounts to create the foundation of an endowment

Chris Corvino, Executive Director

History and Long Term Accomplishments

The Arc movement began in New Jersey in 1946 when the mother of a child with an intellectual and developmental disability reached out to her community by writing letters to her local newspaper. She wished to keep her child home, rather than in an institution as was the common practice of the day. She asked if other families would be willing to meet to discuss the issues and plan some support alternatives. Eventually local, state, and national groups of concerned families organized into a grassroots movement to address and gain supports for their family members with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To this day, our organization maintains its grassroots beginning with parents and family members being a driving force in our day-to-day operations.

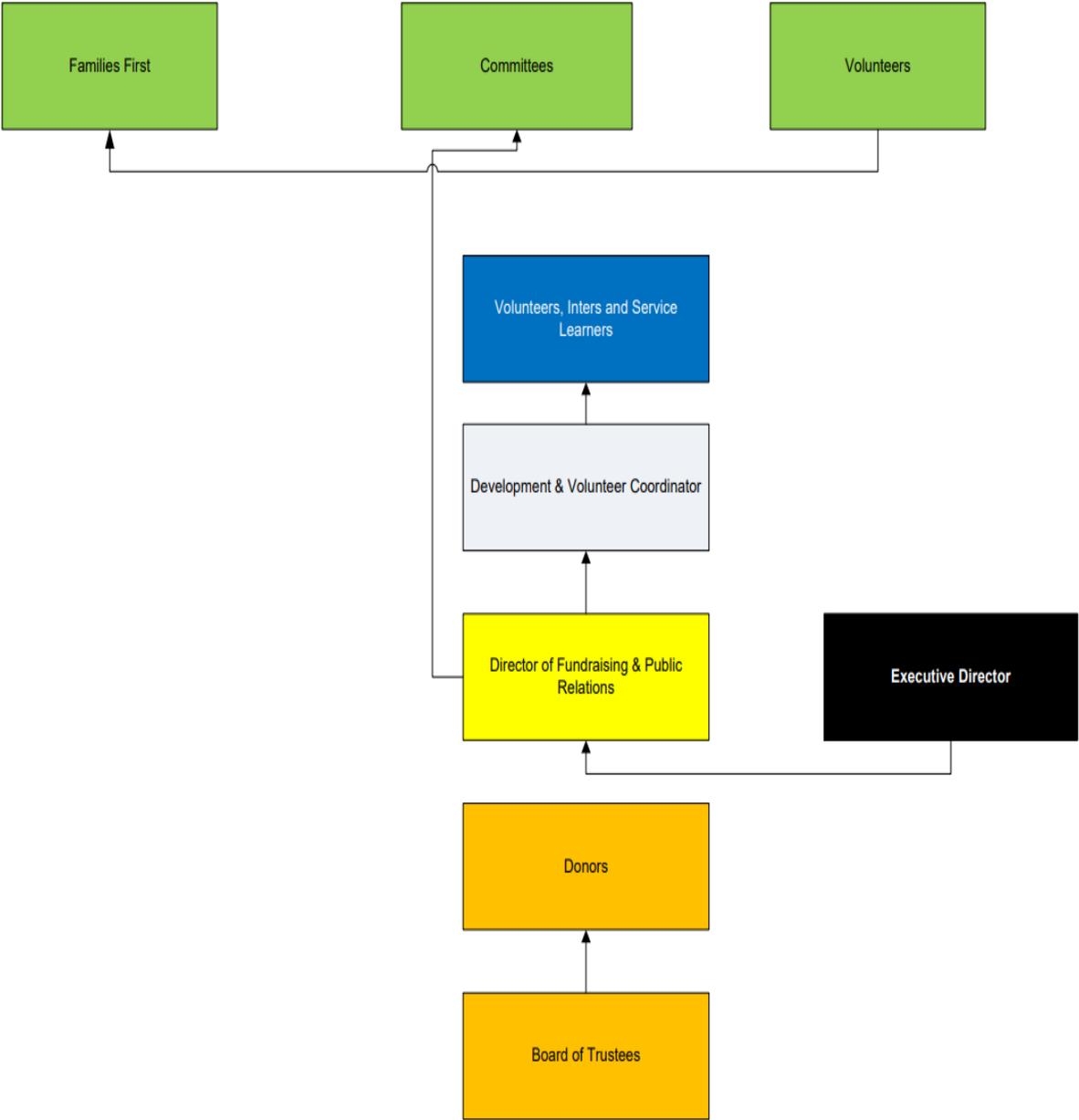
From its humble beginning in 1972 with just sixteen individuals and two employees, The Arc of Somerset County has grown to serving over 1000 persons and families with intellectual and developmental disabilities with over 300 employees. Services for adults include twenty-two residential service programs, two Day Habilitation programs and Supported Employment located throughout the county. Services for children at the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families include an early intervention program, daycare program, an after-school program and our Parents and Children Together program (PACT). PACT is an innovative program that serves parents with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their children. Camp Jotoni, which operates during the summer, serves children and adults. Family Support Services assists individuals and families in their homes throughout the county. The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College is a Three-Year Certificate-based, post-secondary program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities interested in developing their education for continue to gain skills to enter the workforce or expand on their educational pursuits.

Our agency, driven by its founding parents, was and continues to be a strong advocate regarding issues of importance to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through their combined efforts, in conjunction with state and national organizations, our agencies have educated state elected officials and campaigned for change in legislation regarding rights, prevention and awareness. An example of this advocacy was on August 17, 2010, after campaigning against the use of the "R" word, NJ Governor Chris Christie signed into law making it illegal for the state to use the word "mentally retarded" when identifying anyone with an intellectual and or developmental disability.

The Arc of Somerset County serves as a powerful model of individuals working together to effect changes at the local, state, and national levels of government in support of people with disabilities. Several of the chapter's founding parents continue to be vocal advocates for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and The Arc of Somerset County's programs. They and other parents serve as board and committee members who remain committed to perpetuating The Arc of Somerset County's goals of supporting, advising, and advocating for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This active family involvement is unique to The Arc movement and is critical to maintaining The Arc of Somerset County's unique value in providing supports. The Arc recognizes the importance of self-advocacy as a right and a significant part of an individual's growth toward independence. As advocates, The Arc of Somerset County encourages decision-making, free choice and individuality with all the individuals served by the agency regardless of their perceived abilities and challenges. Individuals receiving services by The Arc of Somerset County have opportunities to participate in self-advocacy forums in various forms and have renamed their group "Advocates for Change". Self-advocacy meetings provide an opportunity for the individuals served to learn and speak about their rights, choice and personal growth. Participation at meetings is voluntary. As a group, self-advocates have elections for officers to represent the entire group at internal and external trainings, committees and meetings. The group also interacts with the agency to inform quality initiatives such as surveys, use of language, and mission. The advisors of the self-advocacy group work closely with the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project and the New Jersey Statewide Self Advocacy Network for guidance and updates on statewide advocacy functions.

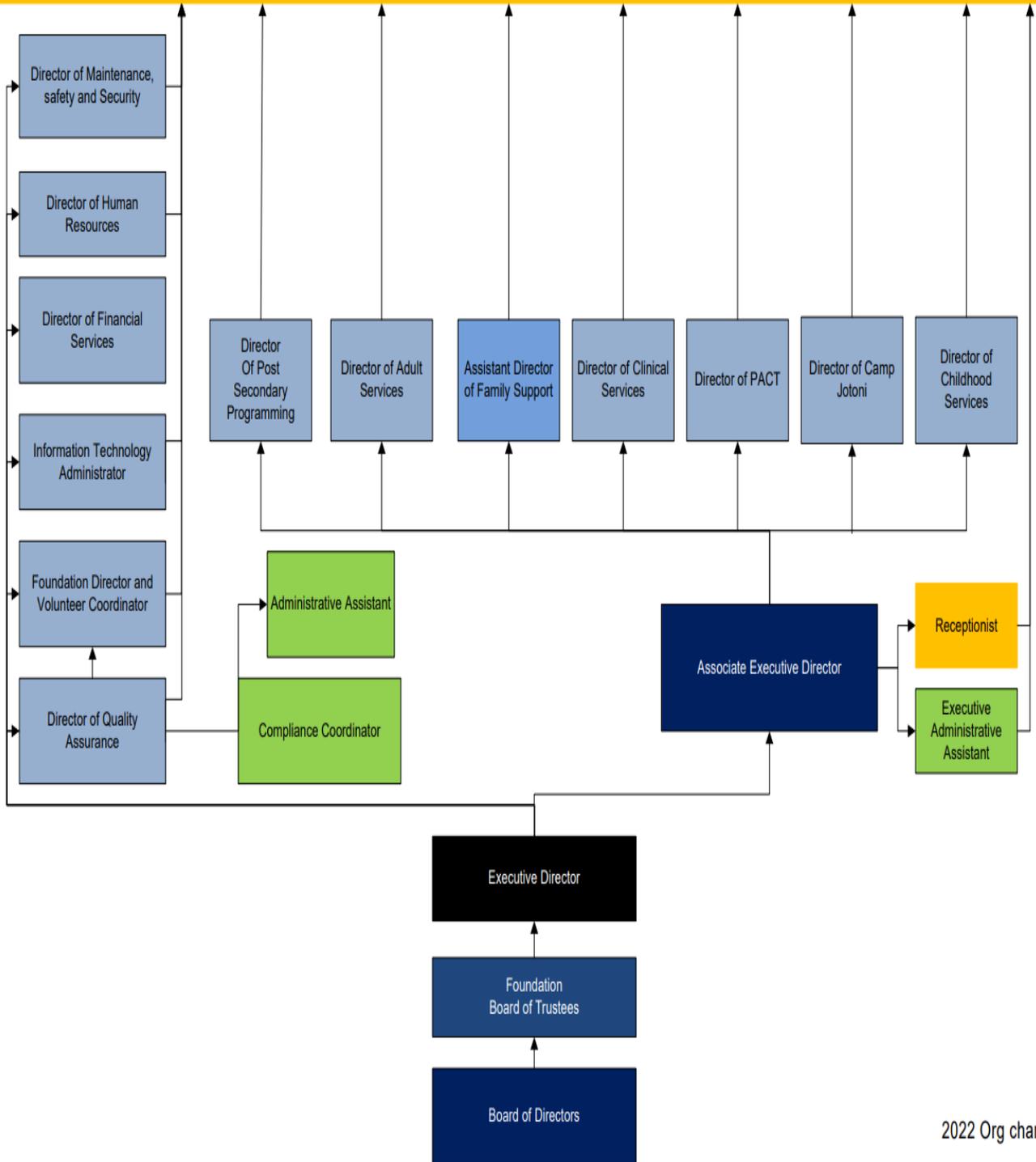
The Arc of Somerset County has a strong and growing legacy of staff and volunteers helping individuals and families in all aspects of their lives. The Arc of Somerset County is proud of its outstanding staff, history of advocacy, and for continuously delivering quality, professional services, and supports.

The Arc Foundation



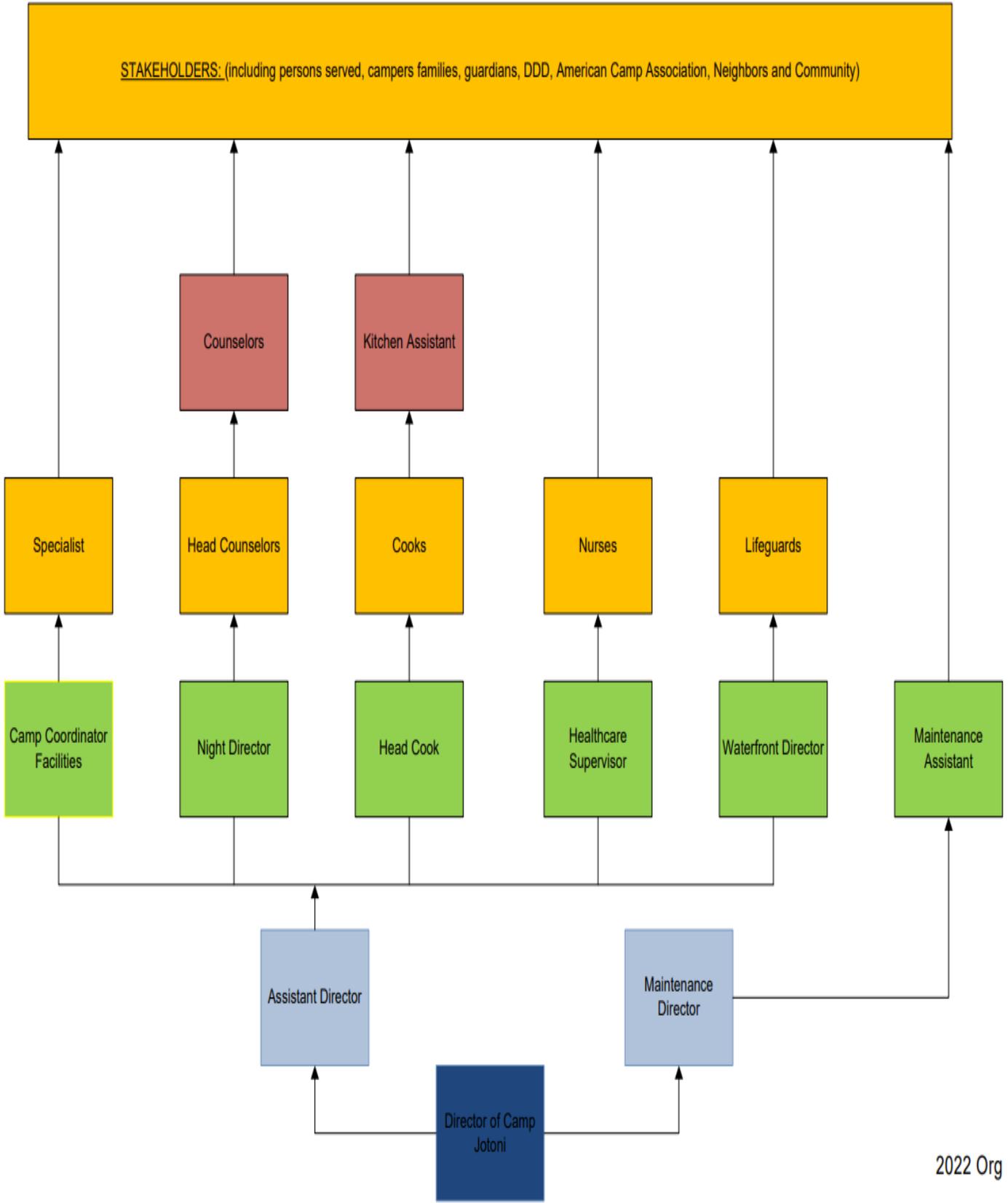
The Arc of Somerset County Executive and Administrative Personnel

Stakeholders (including Persons Served, Children, Campers, Families, Community, Funding Sources, Accreditation Services, Licensing services, DDD, Medicaid, Schools, Local Government, Social Service Organizations, Civic Organizations, Board of Directors).



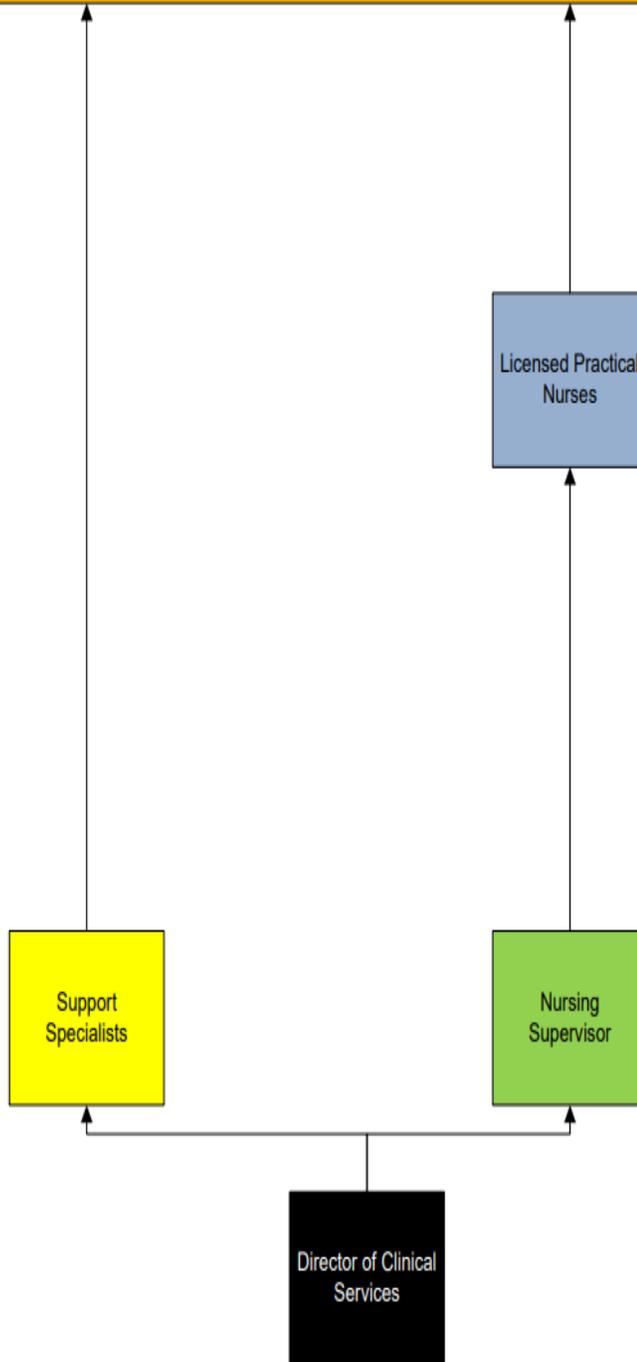
2022 Org chart

The Arc of Somerset County Camp Jotoni

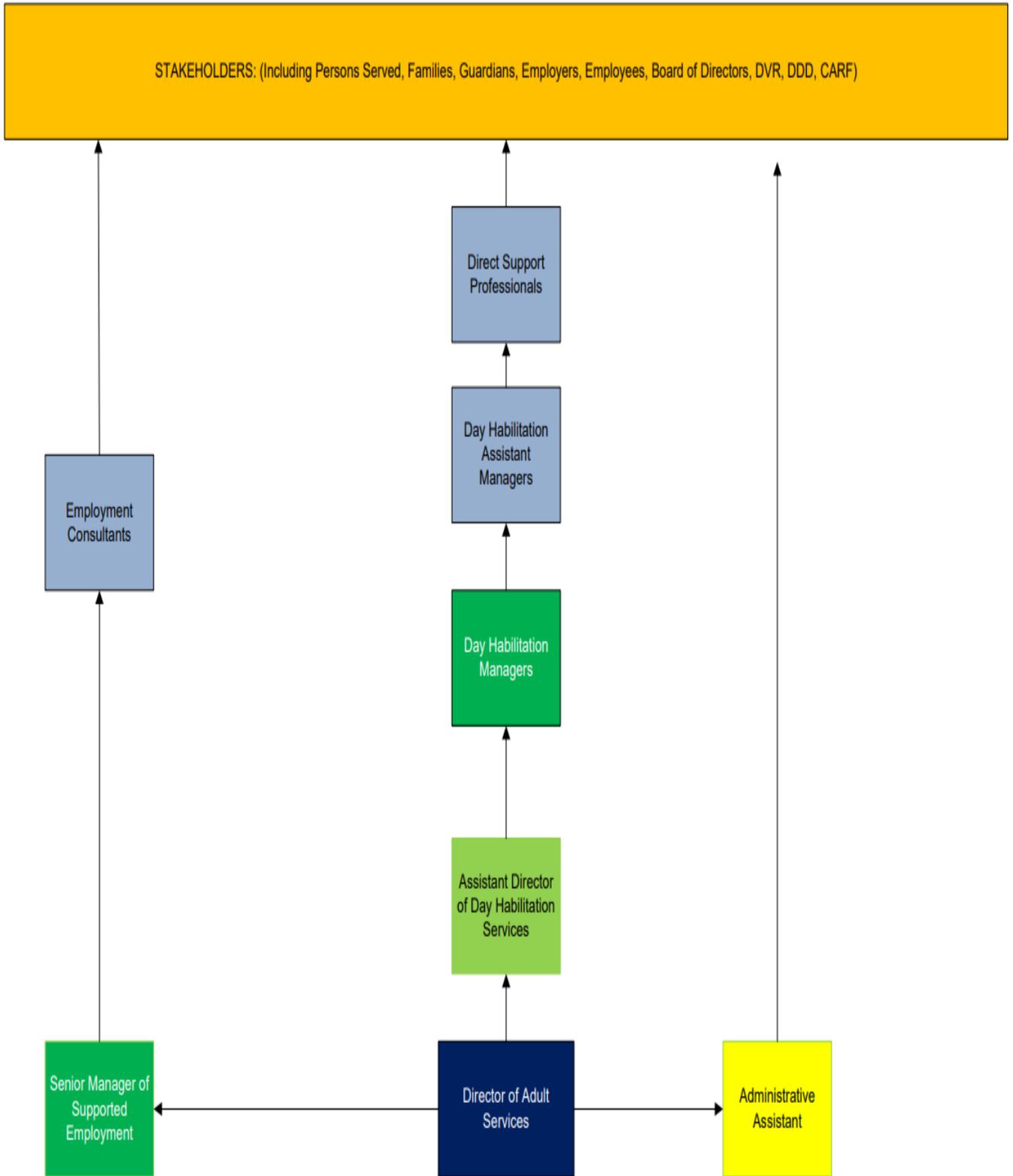


The Arc of Somerset County Clinical Services Department

STAKEHOLDERS: (including Persons served, Families, Guardians, Employees, Board of Directors, DDD, College social Work departments, Neighbors, Health Care Staff, Social Service agencies, Somerset County Community and Faith Communities)

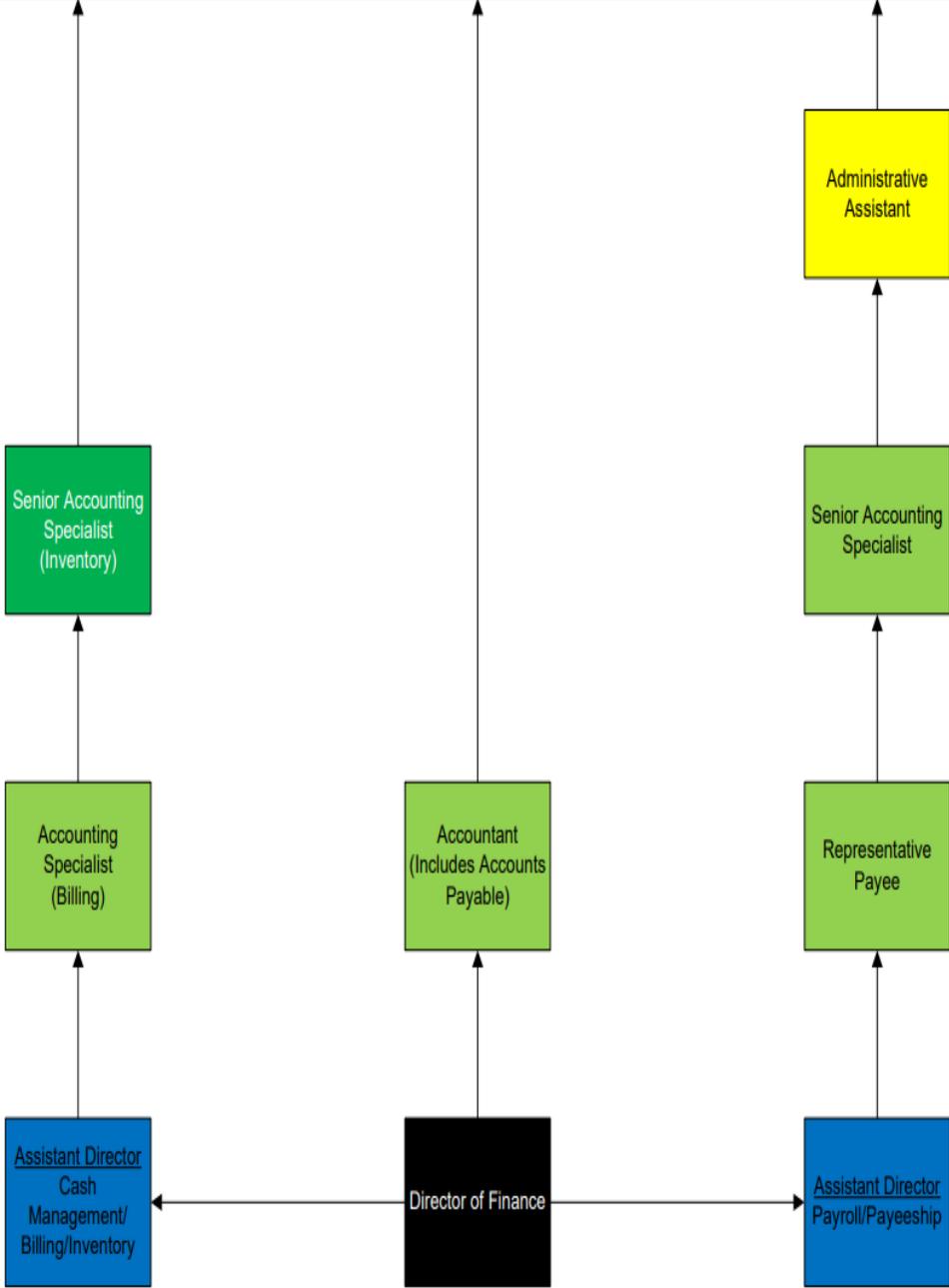


The Arc of Somerset County Adult Services Day Habilitation and Employment Services

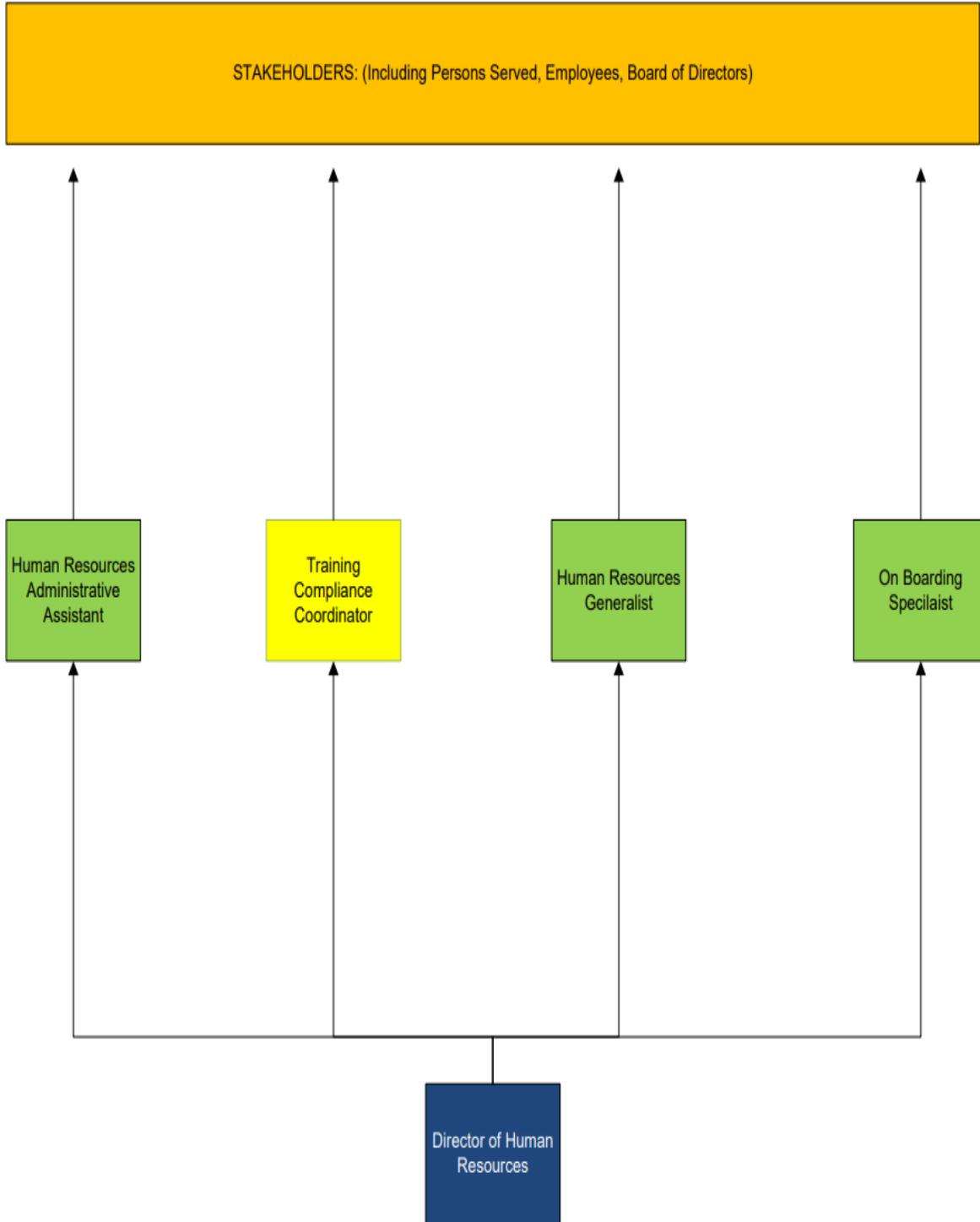


The Arc of Somerset County Financial Services Department

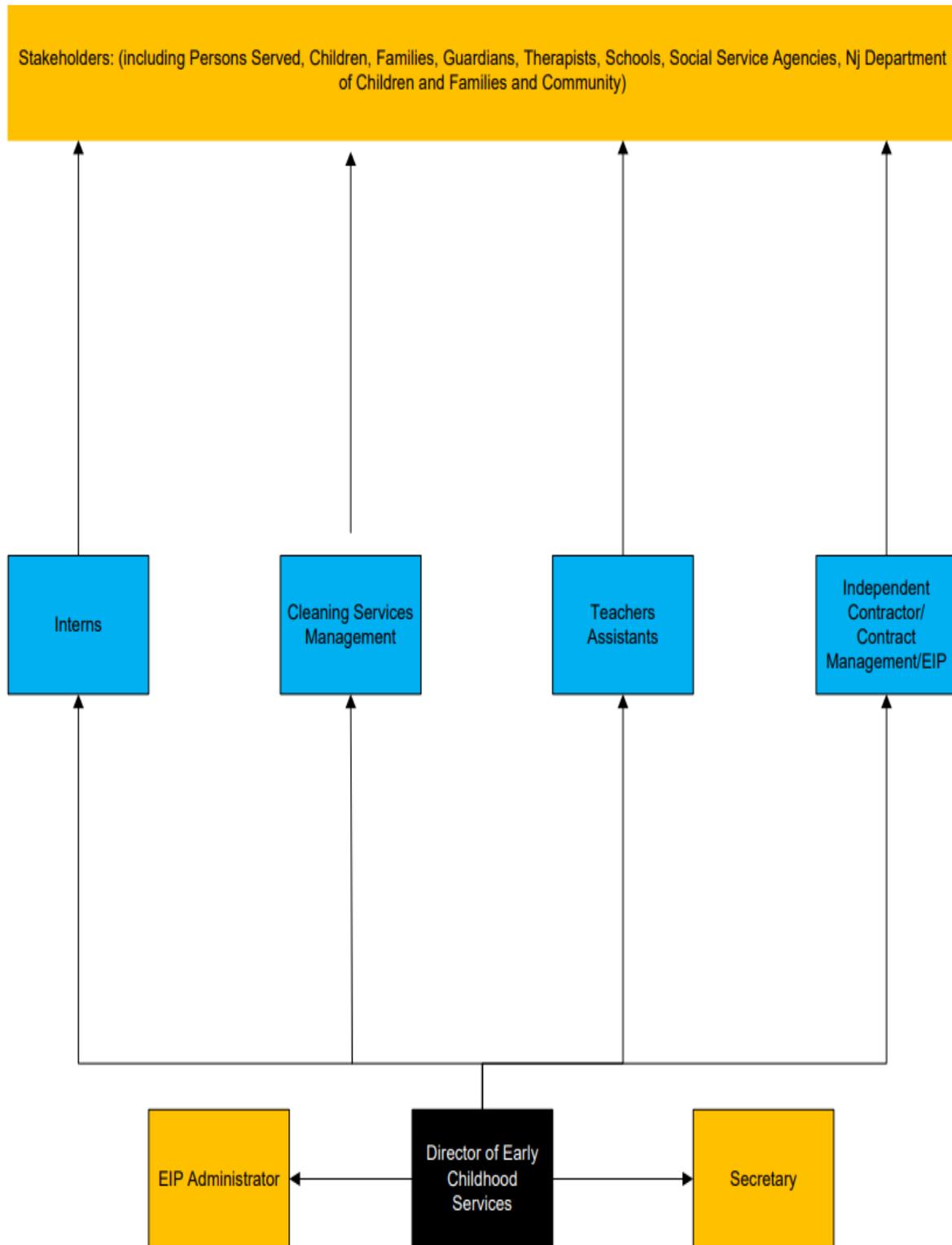
STAKEHOLDERS: (Including Person Served, Community, Employees, Community, DDD, HUD, CDBG, Somerset County United Way, Somerset County Board of Social Services, Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service, Medicaid, Other Funding Sources, Board of Directors)



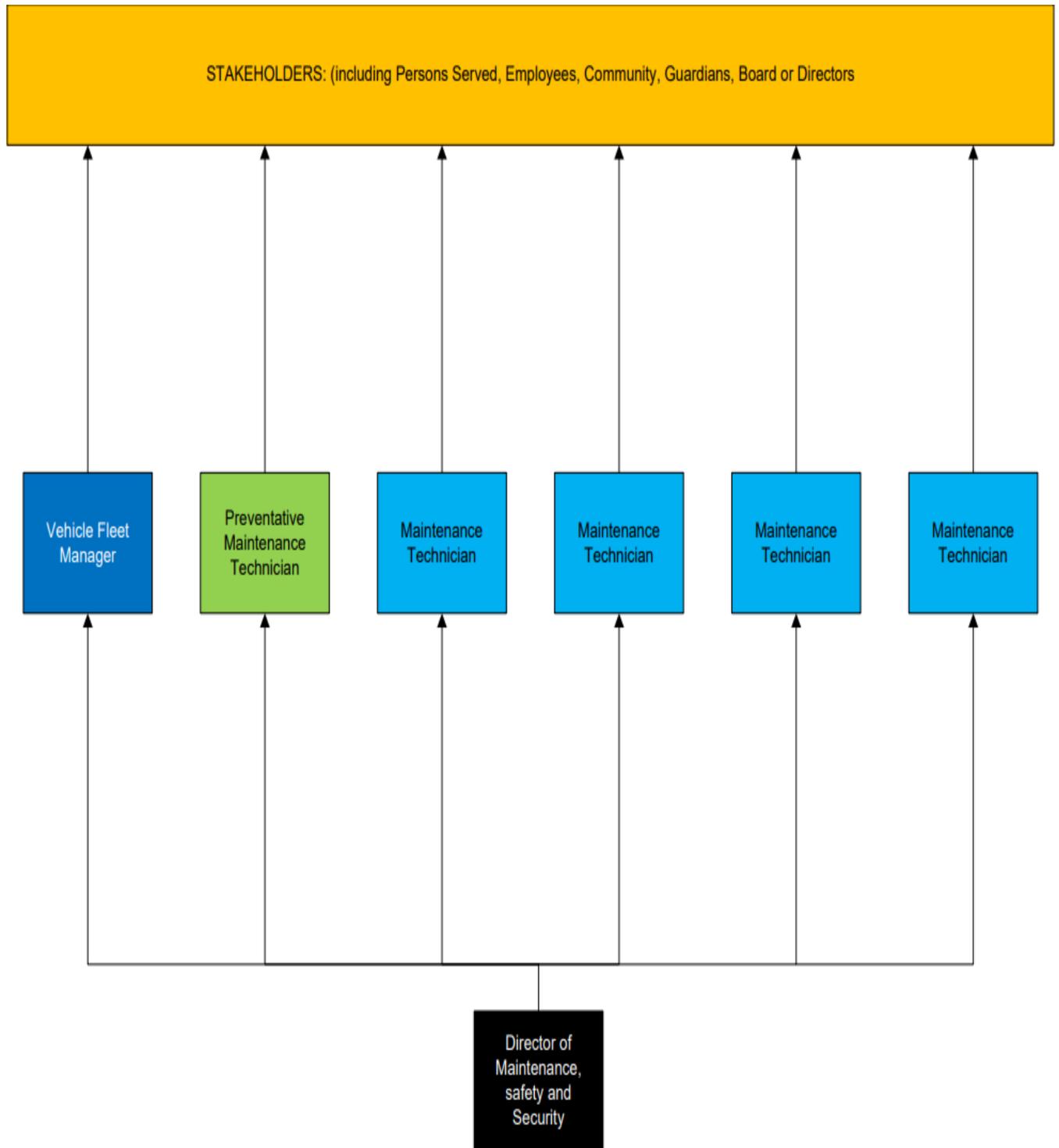
The Arc of Somerset County Human Resource Department



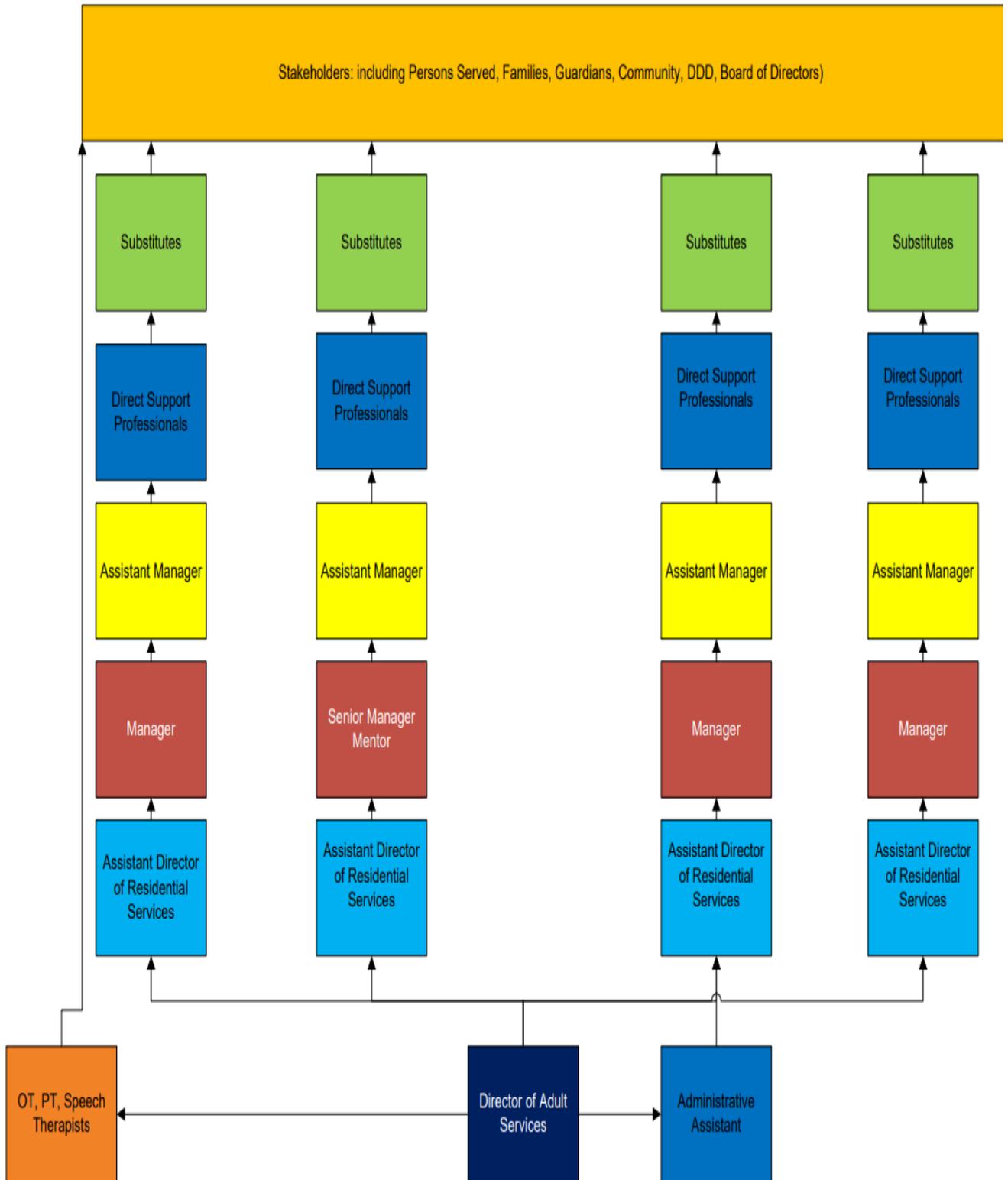
The Arc of Somerset County Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families Department



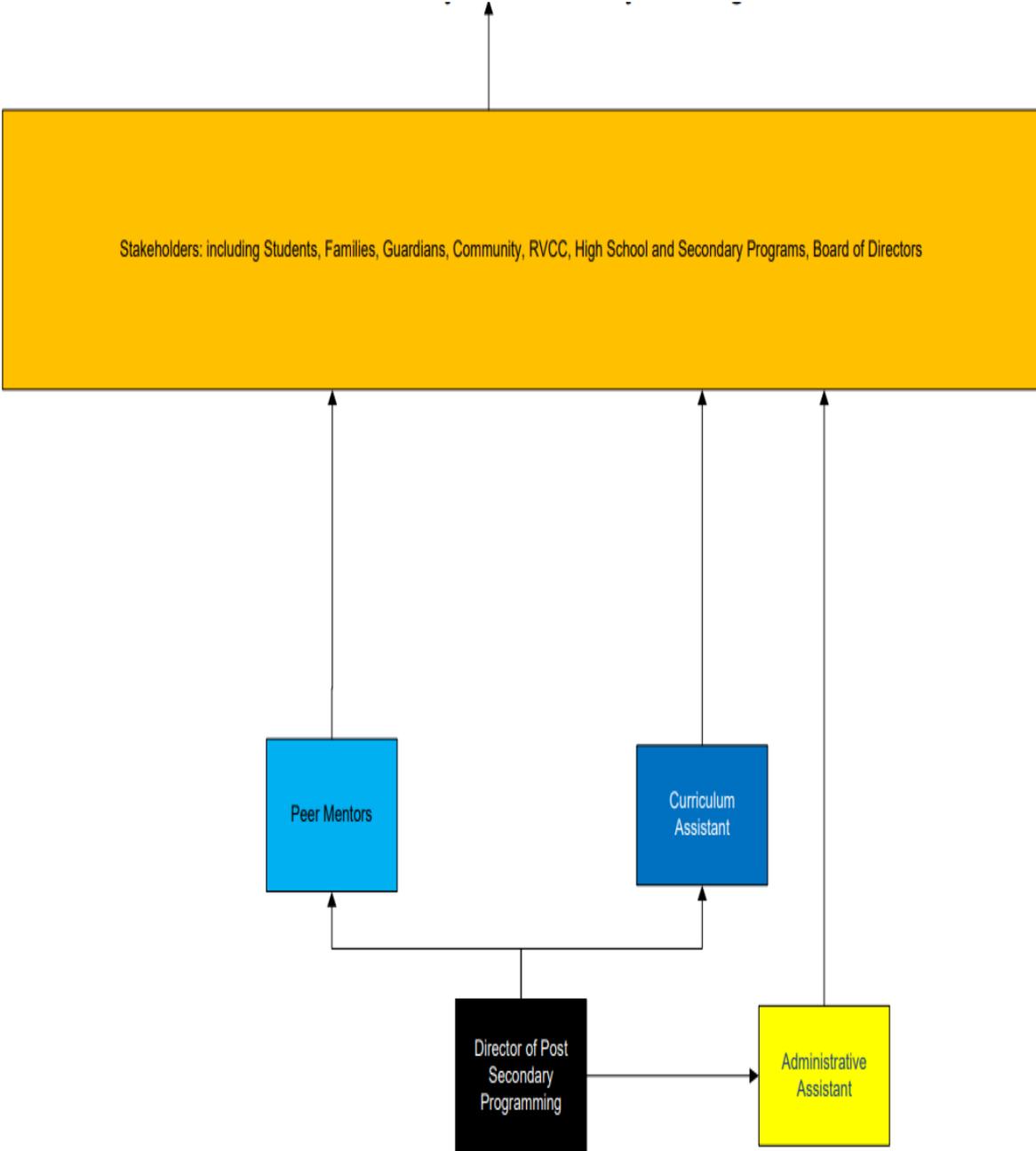
The Arc of Somerset County Maintenance, Safety and Security Department



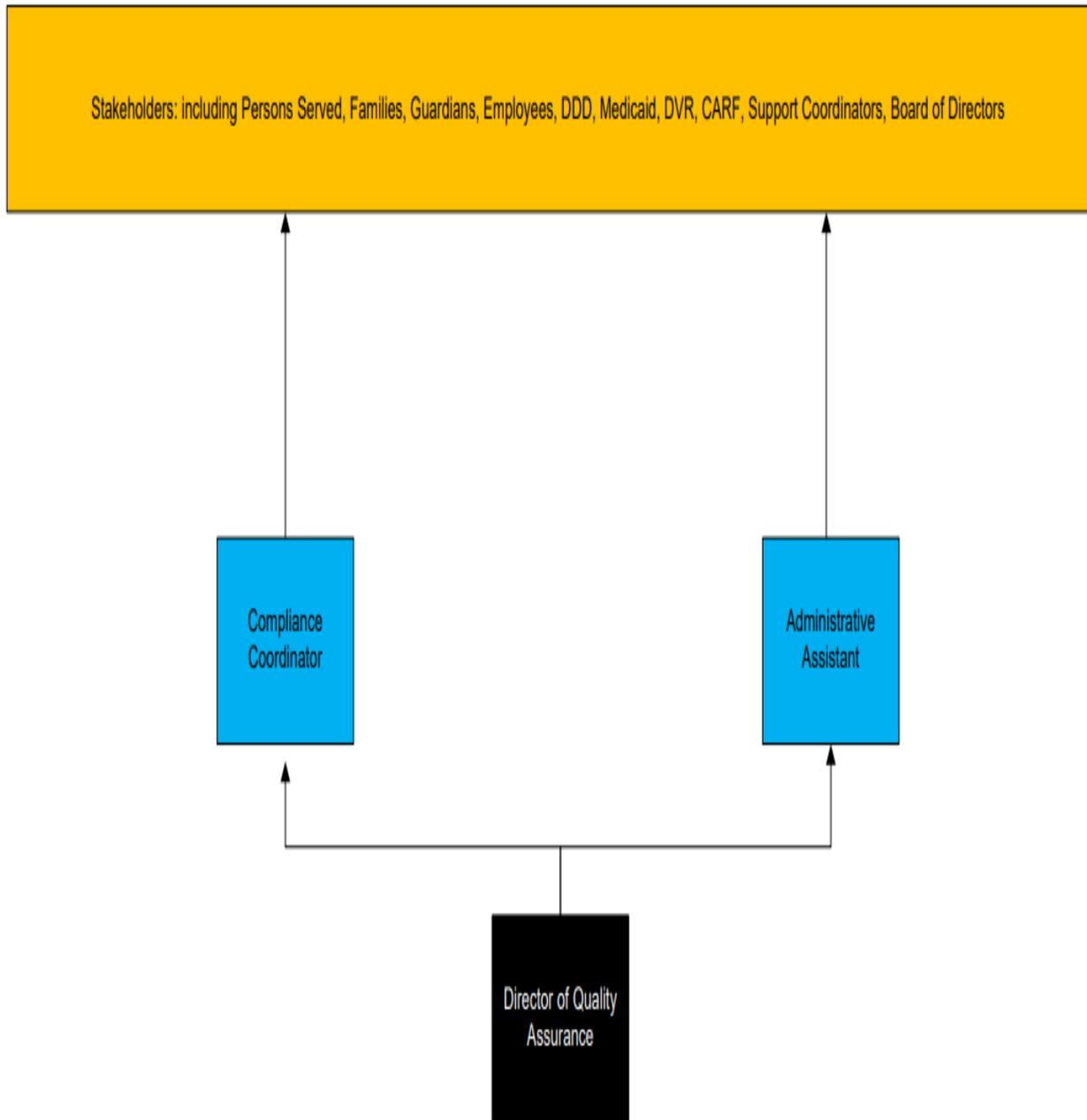
The Arc of Somerset County Adult Services Department Residential Services



The Arc of Somerset County Achievement Center At Raritan Valley Community College



The Arc of Somerset County Quality Assurance Department



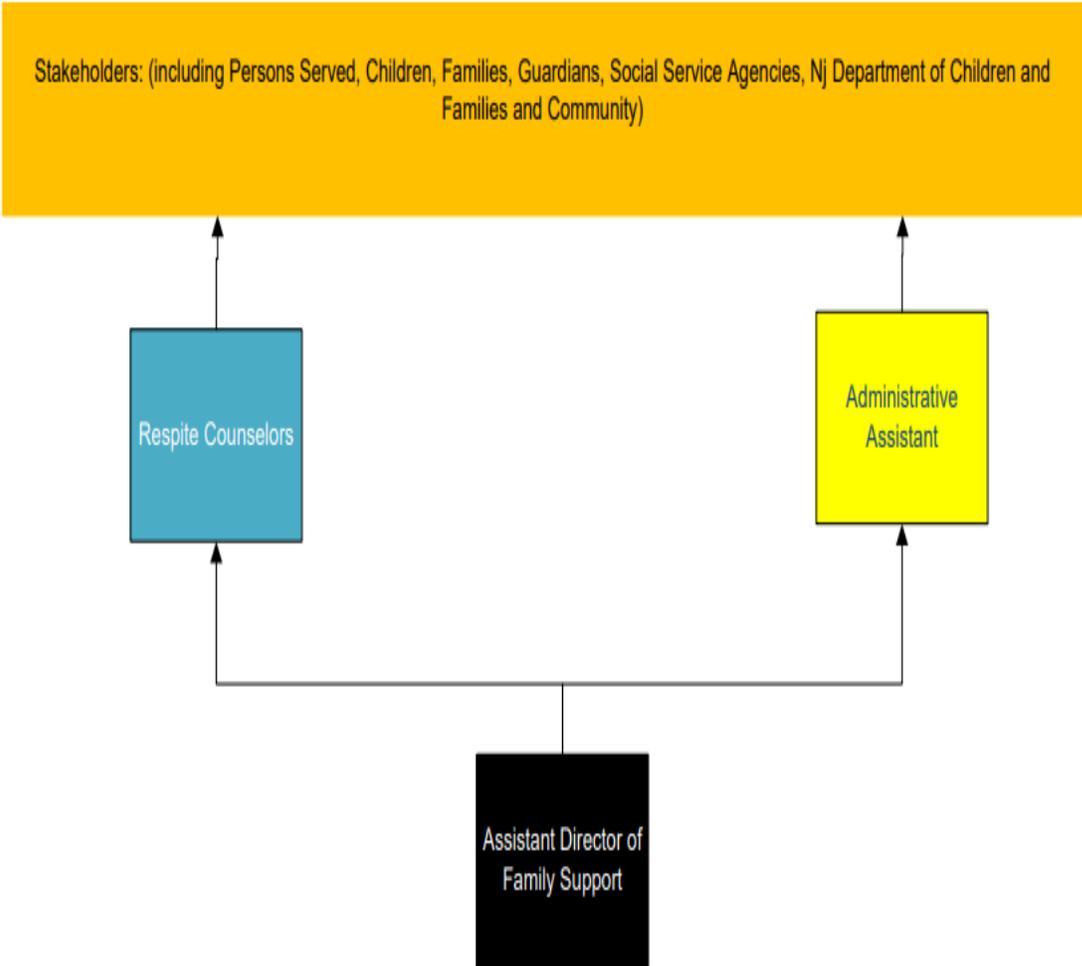
The Arc of Somerset County Information Technology

STAKEHOLDERS: (including Persons Served, Employees, Community, Guardians, Board or Directors)

Desktop
Technician

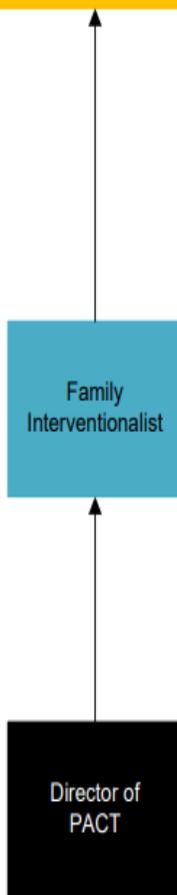
Director of
Information
Technology

The Arc of Somerset County Family Support Department



The Arc of Somerset County People and Children Together Department

Stakeholders: (including Persons Served, Children, Families, Guardians, Social Service Agencies, Nj Department of Children and Families and Community)



Agency Programs and Services

The Arc of Somerset County serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families from birth through the senior years of life through our many programs and services in Somerset County. Today, we serve over one thousand children, adults, and their families in thirty-four locations including twenty-eight residential homes and apartments, four employment centers, the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families, and Camp Jotoni.

Camp Jotoni

Camp Jotoni is a day and residential camp accredited by The American Camp Association for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities ages five to adult. Our program consists of a six-week day camp program, a six-week residential program and three weeks of extended summer day camp. In 2012, a new service was introduced that included weekend respite opportunities for campers and families. Set on 15 acres in rural Warren Township, located in Somerset County, the camp features a junior size Olympic swimming pool, cabins, dining hall, playgrounds, open air pavilions, unspoiled woods, and a nature trail. The camp offers daily activities, special events and community based experiences.

Camp Jotoni's administration consists of knowledgeable special education teachers. Each member of the administrative team has a minimum of six years' experience at Camp Jotoni. Camp Jotoni makes every effort to ensure that the camp counselor positions are staffed with high quality, enthusiastic, and caring individuals. Most staff in these positions are college age students or teachers. Recruitment has expanded both nationally and internationally due to our website and Internet-based links to our information. Additionally on staff are an art specialist, drama specialist, kitchen staff, lifeguards, music specialist, nature specialist and a physical education specialist. An RN or an LPN who follow established treatment procedures, and are authorized by a physician, staffs our infirmary. Only a trained professional administers medication.

Camp Jotoni is licensed to accommodate 100 participants daily. A maximum ratio of four campers to one staff is not exceeded during any camp sessions. During "day camp only" sessions, the ratio often intensifies to two campers with one staff personnel.

Our facilities include five residential cabins, one of which can accommodate campers with special physical needs. Two bathhouses provide accessible bathing facilities for the campers. All our meals are served in our spacious dining hall and are prepared in our own modern kitchen. Licensed nutritionists create menus with attention to special dietary restrictions.

Clinical Services Department

The Clinical Services Department is staffed by professionals trained in social work, counseling, nursing, ministry, and residential and vocational support. This team includes Support Specialists, one of whom acts as chaplain for the agency, RNs, LPNs, and a social worker, who is the Director of the department.

Support Specialists are available to address the needs of all individuals of residential and employment services. Support Specialists provide the following assistance to individual participants:

- Assistance in transitioning to a new home or job
- Behavioral support to enable individuals to fully participate in their homes, jobs and communities
- Advocacy
- Assistance in finding and accessing community resources, such as physical and mental health care providers, social groups and recreation
- Assistance in making choices regarding their individual habilitation plans
- Emotional support in the form of individual home visits and group meetings

Support Specialists also provide training and assistance to staff. Training offerings include Gentle Teaching, Critical Crossroads, Non-violent Crisis Intervention, and specific instruction in the implementation of individuals' support plans. residential and vocational programs. The nursing team supplies:

- Physical assessments
- Medical treatments
- Monitoring of health conditions
- Medication administration monitoring
- Training of individuals and staff
- Medical advisement twenty-four hours day via telephone.

Our chaplain is available to assist individuals in connecting to faith communities of their choice. Other services offered include assistance with issues of grief and loss and Bible studies for those who are interested. Our chaplain also presents Celebrations of Life when a consumer passes away so that all may be provided an opportunity to honor the individual and grieve their passing.

Day Habilitation and Supported Employment Services

The Day Habilitation and Employment Services Department of The Arc of Somerset County offer a variety of options for adults and families to promote growth, achievement and ongoing involvement in the community. Within the Day and Supported Employment Department, center and community based services are provided in addition to support for the transition to adulthood opportunities. These opportunities may include Supported Employment; career planning; life skill development or exploration of recreational and leisure time pursuits.

Center and Community Based Adult Services:

The Arc of Somerset County offers center and community based adult programming at four facilities in Somerset County to over 200 individuals. Individuals are actively involved in the decision making process of their daily plan during ISP meetings and also through regular communication with staff members. The cognitive, physical and emotional skill levels of each individual are accounted for in addition to person centered interest and motivation. There is a focus on the development of positive attitudes and behaviors either when engaging in center or community based activities.

Individuals who are identified for center based programming have an active role in selecting person centered and age appropriate activities that occur throughout the day that may also involve participation within the community. These activities provide individuals with an opportunity for development of daily living skills, facilitation of cognitive functioning, and exploration of recreational and leisure time activities. Programs that occur within the day program may include: daily exercise, music, basic computer skills, literacy, current events, arts and crafts to promote social engagement and for environmental decoration, movie and discussion groups and games such as bingo. Programs that are naturally occurring within the community that individuals can choose to participate in include: music performances, walking clubs, adult game groups, therapy dogs, exercise classes, aquatics classes, knitting clubs and volunteer groups.

Participation in community activities and job sampling are encouraged as possible with career planning as the method to determine the interests and abilities of the individual. Career planning is a person centered and time-limited service with the outcome being the documentation of a career objective and plan should it be determined that employment be possible in the future.

Individuals served by The Arc of Somerset County have the opportunity to take the skills that they have developed at the former work centers into the community at large such as supermarkets, hospitals, restaurants, fast food outlets, manufacturing sites and libraries. This is separate from the Supported Employment program as these individuals are earlier in the process of skill development. The Arc of Somerset County will place, train and support these individuals in the Somerset County area while they work.

Supported Employment

Supported Employment services are provided to individuals whose vocational aspirations lead them to employment in the community. In schools, warehouses, hospitals, churches, movie theaters, supermarkets and retail stores, this program

currently supports approximately fifty men and women who are making community connections through work, and learning to navigate the vocational landscape in our area.

Supported Employment offers career counseling, assessment, job development, on-the-job training and assistance with job accommodations. A Job Coach is assigned to each individual to provide the prospective employee with personalized strategies to improve their general employability as well as specific job-related trainings. Supported Employment is an excellent choice for someone looking to pursue the most independent employment option possible through staffing opportunities with local organizations. The Arc of Somerset County works closely with the N.J. Division of Developmental Disabilities and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Many employers recognize that hiring persons with disabilities can have a positive impact on their bottom line. People with disabilities perform a wide variety of jobs successfully and profitably while earning a fair wage. Our Supported Employment program recommends strategies tailored to accommodate the needs of both the employer and the employee. The job coach ensures compatibility and productivity for the tasks at hand. The Arc has placed, trained, and supported individuals in many industries in the Somerset County area including supermarkets, hospitals, restaurants/fast food outlets, manufacturing, school cafeterias, movie theaters, churches, pharmaceuticals, retail stores, and libraries.

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Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families

The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families, established in 1976, has been providing quality services to children and their families for over forty-six years. Our New Jersey licensed childcare facility is located in Manville and easily accessible from most major Somerset County roadways.

The mission of the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families (JDCCF) is to ensure every individual's optimal growth and development. JDCCF's comprehensive, interdisciplinary programs are designed to meet the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional needs of individuals who have a diverse range of abilities. These programs are staffed by dedicated professionals including teachers who may be licensed and certified in both early childhood and special education. We challenge, nurture, respect, support, and inspire all participants and staff to excel and achieve their personal best.

The center offers three instrumental programs: Early Intervention, Developmental Daycare, and Family Support

Early Intervention Program:

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) is a system of supports and services provided to children birth to three years of age who have developmental delays and/or some specific medically diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay. The goal of Early Intervention is to help a family meet the developmental and health-related needs of their child. A child's Early Intervention services are based on the individual needs of the child, the primary concerns expressed by the family, and the family's resources. Services and supports are provided in settings that are natural and convenient for the family, such as home, local library, or Childcare including Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families.

If a child is eligible for EIP services, an individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) is then written. The IFSP includes developmental goals and service recommendations. If you choose to receive the recommended services through EIP, your child will then be referred to a comprehensive service provider. Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families is an EIP comprehensive service provider in Somerset County. EIP Services available (Co-pay for services may be required): Developmental Intervention, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Social Work support. Methods that may be utilized by therapists and teachers: The Listening Program, PROMPT, and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Other Specialty Services that may be utilized by therapists and teachers: Feeding, Augmentative Communication, Orthotics, Sensory Integration, Adaptive Equipment, Seating, Ambulation, Fabrication of hand & foot splints

Developmental Daycare Program:

The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families has been providing outstanding services for over forty-six years. Our facility is clean and cheerful with a fenced-in outdoor playground and an indoor play area that are available for daily structure and free play. Teachers and Teacher Assistants are CPR and First Aid certified. We meet NJ Division of Children and Families required teacher/child ratios and all staff have DYFS DCP&P (CARI) background checks. A keypad/ring system at the entrance provides added security. Our tuition includes daily art materials, morning, lunch, and afternoon snacks and a hot lunch prepared daily.

Our curriculum-based program, which serves children infant through 6 years old, helps children grow socially, emotionally and physically in an environment that is professional, positive, and nurturing. We focus on the individual needs of the child and believe each child has individual strengths and challenges that provide opportunities for growth. Our classroom management techniques promote positive behaviors appropriate to the developmental abilities of each child. The classroom environment is designed to meet the individual needs of the children to ensure a smooth transition from one activity to another. High interest activities are provided to motivate and challenge each child to learn new skills.

Childcare services are available to children with developmental delays and typically developing children. Early intervention therapists are welcome! The center offers inclusion opportunities for our children with developmental disabilities with their typically developing peers and community integration activities in our local neighborhoods.

Given that a child's life revolves around the home, we believe it is essential that the parents and teachers communicate on a regular basis. Daily notes are given to parents and a monthly newsletter is distributed. Families are invited to participate in classroom activities. The center offers Daycare from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm with Before and After care available. Flexible schedules are available to accommodate parent's busy schedules.

Family Support Program:

The Arc of Somerset County's Family Support Program assists individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in their efforts to remain together in their homes and communities. The home is typically the best environment for the individual so Family Support is often defined as "whatever it takes" to help an individual stay in his/her natural home. Family involvement and empowerment are key in determining the needs of the individual or family. The Family Support staff works with the family to determine needs and assist with obtaining quality supports necessary to enhance the quality of life for the families and the individual with a disability.

Raising a child with an intellectual and developmental disability can challenge a family's ability to cope, and parents, siblings, caregivers, and friends often feel overwhelmed. Individuals with disabilities have the best opportunity to grow and develop within a loving family environment. The Family Support Program is designed to keep families together. We serve children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families with and without disabilities. The following programs are available:

- **Information and Referral Services:** Assist individuals and their families in obtaining additional services in or beyond the local community. Service includes specific information and direction for the individual and family to follow and encouragement. Family Support can help with information and referral for medical needs, early intervention services, transition services, recreation, guidance, advocacy, and assistance with DDD applications.
- **Kids' Night Out Program:** Offers fun and entertainment to children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their siblings. Children participate in recreation and craft activities while their parents enjoy an evening out. This is a Fee for Service activity and is offered on the third Friday of the month on a first come first serve basis with registration starting thirty days prior to the scheduled event.
- **My Time Program:** This event is free for all brothers and sisters, ages 8 – 12, of siblings with special needs. This event is for siblings and parents to meet make new friends and build a network of support. This group meets at the Hillsborough YMCA. My Time events are held in January, April, July, and October on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 3 pm – 6 pm. The agenda includes free swimming from 3 pm – 4 pm, self-esteem activities (Get To Know Me games) from 4 pm -5 pm, and crafts and refreshments from 5 pm – 6 pm.

- **Ask The Advocate Day:** Offered annually to families to discuss their child’s Individualized Educational Program with The Arc of NJ’s Educational Advocate. This event is offered free to parents of children in the special education system. Parents are encouraged to attend and learn about their rights under the special education laws and how to become an effective educational advocate for their child.
- **Caregivers Day:** An annual event to acknowledge and honor all family members, neighbors, friends and paid caregivers; through their compassion and love, they make such a positive difference in the quality of life for others. This even is a free fun filled day of pampering, guest speakers, respite, and lunch. Dates are announced in our quarterly newsletter, The Herald.
- **The In-Home Respite Voucher Program:** This is a DDD (Department of Developmental Disabilities) funded reimbursement program supporting forty-four families in Somerset County. The family member with a disability must be 6 years or older, registered with the Department of Developmental Disabilities and referred to us by their Case Manager. In-Home Respite offers parents and care givers an opportunity to take time off from caring for their family member with a disability providing about twenty hours a month of support. The families have the flexibility to hire a provider of their choice. Families are then reimbursed for the provider’s services.
- **After School/Work Program:** Designed to assist families with care needs after school or after an individual’s day program. After school/work program provides individuals with a safe, fun place to go after school, while allowing parents to continue to work full time hours. Programs are available Monday through Friday from 3 pm until 6 pm. The After School Program is held at the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families in Manville and supports children ages 5 to 21 years old. The After Work Program is available at our employment centers for adults 21 years or older.
- **Saturday Respite Program:** Offers five hours of social and recreational activities for children ages 5 – 21 years. Families with children can often use a break on Saturdays. We offer an out of home respite service from 10 am – 3 pm where children with special needs have the opportunity to participate in activities that are structured and designed to improve social skills.

Parents and Children Together Program

PACT (Parents And Children Together) is a community-based parenting-education program for Somerset County area families headed by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

PACT’s preventative family support approach helps families access community services so they are able to live, work, and parent independently in order to keep their children emotionally healthy and educationally on track.

Staff includes professionals with advanced degrees and certifications in Special Education, Social Work, and Counseling.

PACT Family Interventionists ensure:

- Family attendance and participation at child evaluations
- Children’s school enrollment and attendance
- Family communication with teachers to enrich student learning and address issues that might interfere with progress in school
- Family participation in the child’s transition from school to post-secondary education, paid employment or a training program for employment.
- Family access and utilization of primary and preventative health care.

- Navigate, locate, and participate in needed concrete services
- Interventionists help increase the family's understanding of services to maximize their wellbeing

The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College

The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College is a Three-Year Certificate-based, post-secondary program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities interested in developing their education for continue to gain skills to enter the workforce or expand on their educational pursuits. The Achievement Center is operated by The Arc of Somerset County in partnership with Raritan Valley Community College.

The Achievement Center recognizes that every student learns and processes information differently. Through the use of student-centered curriculum and individualized strategies, the Achievement Center provides a bridge and support to help students achieve their individualized goals.

Our college-level classes and student-centered approach empowers our students to find the right learning tools for them. To meet their goals, the Achievement Center has created academically inclusive and specialized classes include instruction in

- Reading Comprehension and Critical Thinking
- Writing and Research
- Public Speaking and College Presentations
- Employment and Career strategies
- Interpersonal Communication
- Social Skills Training
- Functional Mathematics
- College Planning and Strategies

Through these series of classes' it offers our students an opportunity to "learn their voice" and acclimate themselves to the classroom and college experience. Each student learns differently and demonstrates their knowledge of class material in various ways. The Achievement Center helps students identify their study habits; note-taking skills; self-advocacy in the classroom and on campus; and learn advantages to student planning and time management.

We challenge our students to critically examine reading material (short stories, poetry, novels); explore their writing abilities (Essays, Research papers); communication and social skills training; career development; computer classes, and oral presentations. As a result, our students build confidence, empowerment, independence, and create new individual goals and aspirations.

Quality Department

The Arc of Somerset County strives to find new ways to achieve continuous quality improvement by offering programs and services that promote best practices in service delivery, employee training, ISP oversight, and risk management. Varieties of tools are used to access, analyze and evaluate program quality. Among these tools are satisfaction surveys, Unusual Incident Report data, audit results, licensing inspections, Therap Services modules, Quality Management Committee and external accreditations (CARF, ACA, Standards of Excellence).

Recognizing the need to continually change the delivery of services based on the changing needs of the Individuals we served, the Quality Department engages in researching and promoting current best practices and new initiatives in the area of supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Quality Department is responsible for:

- Review, submit, and track all Initial Unusual Incident Reports (UIR), Follow-Up UIRs and Agency Investigations to DDD Reporting Offices (CIMU, OOI, OOL or DDD) in accordance with the DHS Office of Integrity & Accountability Risk Management Systems Data Dash Board
- Track and trend all GER and UIR documentation. Provide Service Departments with monthly analysis & quality trend report of all UIR's
- Oversee Agency Internal Investigations that concern Abuse, Neglect and or Exploitation.
- Development, deployment and analysis of various program and stakeholder satisfaction surveys and Training Class Evaluations
- Provide Departments with Licensing and Accreditation preparation
- Resolve OOL Licensing Deficiencies
- Update Service Department Operations Manuals; Consumer Handbook and Agency Wide Policy & Procedure Manual
- Conduct Fiscal Audits of Residential & Employment Services. Additional audits include: Intake, Medication, Training, Therap Services
- Responsible for overseeing the Agency's Strategic Plan, components, and quarterly and annual updates
- Responsible for overseeing the Agency's accessibility plan, components, and quarterly and annual update
- Agency Administrator for Therap Services; launch & train all employees in module use and procedure
- Oversee Therap Services Modules as Administrator/Moderator; train all staff in modules
- Update the Quality Departments Therap Policy and Procedure Manual
- Complete regular audits of programs to ensure compliances with Medicaid, licensing, CARF, ACA, Standards of Excellence and Agency policies and procedures

Residential Services Department

The goal of the Residential Services Department is to provide a safe and healthy place to live, to provide a resident-lead learning environment, to support community inclusion, to offer varied recreational opportunities, and to provide the supports required for individuals to achieve their goals and create a permanent home.

The Arc of Somerset County's Residential Services Department provides services to 118 men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities in twenty-eight different locations throughout Somerset County. Over 200 staff provide support in one of four types of programs based on the level of support and supervision required. These include Group Homes, Supervised Apartments, Supported Living Programs, and Respite Care Services.

- *Group Homes:* The department operates thirteen group homes ranging in size from three to ten individuals receiving 24 hours support
- *Supervised Apartments:* Two large and two small-supervised apartment settings. Individuals live in a one or a two-bedroom apartment with 24 hour staff support.
- *Supported Living Programs:* The department oversees seven Supported Living settings where individuals live independently in the community and receive a limited amount of support from five to twenty-five hours each week, based on the level of service desired.
- *Respite Care Services:* The department operates one Respite group home capable of serving seven residents. Respite stays are intended to be short-term due to changing living situations or emergency needs.

Direct Support Professionals, Program Management, and Administration for the Residential Department provide a great number of services and supports that include:

- Medical Oversight- as directed by the individual's personal doctor.
- Accessibility- A continual reassessment process to ensure that all programs are accessible to maximize independence, create permanent residency into advanced age while ensuring safety.
- Recreation- as desired by one, many or all.

Strategies and Objectives

Area #1: Program Expansion and Consolidation

Person Responsible: Executive Director, Associate Executive Director, Director of PACT, Director of Camp, Director of Post Secondary Programs, Director of Clinical Services, Director of Adult Services

Goal: Expand services to Transition age (18-23)

Activities:

- Designate camp respite weeks for the age group.
- Community Based programs
- Recreation programs
- New Residential model
- Job Training
- Transition from school to employment

Measure: Increase the number of Transition age individuals being served to 200

Goal: Expand services to the aging population (60 and above)

Activities

- Therapeutic supports and fall prevention
- Education on the aging process
- Partnering with children and pets
- Expanding education to families in the community

Measure: Increase the variety of activities geared toward the aging population. Develop 5 new regular service offerings

Goal: Expand “in-house” Therapeutic Services (OT, PT, Speech)

Activities

- Offer Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT) and Speech Therapy
- Become a resource to other agencies for Therapeutic services
- Support individuals with Mental Health concerns

Measure: Hire Occupational Therapist (OT), Physical Therapist (PT) and Speech Therapist by 1/2024

Goal: Create additional opportunities for Individual Supports, Community Based Supports (CBS)

Activities

- Increase number of individuals served in The Achievement Center (TAC)
- Increase number of individuals served in Parents and Children Together (PACT)
- Increase number of individuals served in Supported Employment

Measure: 10 new CBS individuals each year for 3 years

Area #2: Business Practices and Training

Person Responsible: Director of Human Resource, Director of Quality Assurance, Director of Clinical Department, Director of PACT, Director of Adult Services, Director of Finance, Director of IT

Goal: Create training that addresses helping individuals integrate into the community

Activities

- Navigating the healthcare system
- Tracking inquiries from families
- Rehabilitation tour to get information on best practices

Measure: Training created and part of the training schedule by 1/2023

Goal: Create a means to evaluate the structure and effectiveness of trainings

Activities

- Pre-training assessment
- Post-training assessment
- Competency test
- Ongoing assessments

Measure:

- Pre/post tests incorporated into trainings by 1/2023

- 95% of staff pass post test on first try
- 85% of employees will pass trainings at the time of training
- Employees gain 24 additional hours of training per year.

Goal: Move towards a paperless system agency wide

Activities

- Communication regarding retention and what can be shredded.
- Provide trainings of storage of documents

Measure Reduction in total number of boxes/expense of paper

Goal: Increase employee participation in self service processes (HR)

Activities

- Increase number of hits to ADP HRIS
- Purchase of self service bundle
- Training of staff

Measure

- Employees access ADP services independently
- Decrease in calls to HR for assistance

Area #3: Facilities and use of Technology

Person Responsible: Executive Director, Associate Executive Director, Director of Quality Assurance, Director of Adult Services, Director of Clinical, Director of Information Technology,

Goal: Use On-line/virtual technology platforms to increase independence and access for Service Recipients

Activities

- Increase the number of available platforms
- VR headsets

Measure

- Number of new features per person

Goal: Increased accessibility and usage of outdoor areas

Activities

- Accessibility and stimulation in outdoor spaces
- Sensory gardens
- Expand use of JDCCF garden
- Expand use of camp

Measure

- Number of properties with accessible outdoor space will increase to 20

Goal: Increase vehicle security

Activities

- Reduce number of consumer accidents
- Safety devices (Cameras in vehicles)

Measure

- GPS and Cameras in all vehicles by 3/2023

Area #4: Foundation Activities and Fundraising

Foundation, Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, Executive Director, Associate Executive Director, Program Directors, Director of Finance

Goal: Expand on planned giving opportunities

Activities

- Planned Gift seminars
- Outreach to Families by Directors

Measure

- 10 cultivation meetings each year for 3 years

Goal: Create marketing materials that welcome new stakeholders to the agency

Activities

- Packets sent out to potential partners
- Wider distribution of Annual Report
- Add taglines regarding 50th anniversary
- Billboards

Measure

- Create materials and send to all known families and supporters in year one. Send to all new families and supporters in subsequent years.

Goal: Grow the investment account. Create a foundation endowment

Activities

- Agency will contribute at least 50K annually to Investment Account

Measure

- Provide an annual bonus to employees from investment interest by 2025.

Chronological History

1950's

- 1950** Pockets of parents meet throughout the region, state, and nation. A movement begins. The Arc is founded in Minnesota.
- 1959** Research in intellectual and developmental disabilities is presented by Elizabeth Boggs, Ph.D., a brochure produced by the Research Fund, is distributed to all chapters of The Arc. The Arc intensifies its advocacy for research and asks Congress for full support for an International Research Plan.

1960's

- 1960** The Arc opens a Governmental Affairs Office in Washington, DC.
- 1962** The Arc helps expose the link between lead poisoning and brain damage in infants and children. The first article about the dangers of lead poisoning upon child development is published in Children Limited.
- 1966** The Arc's advocacy with other national organizations results in the enactment of Medicare and Medicaid.

1970's

- 1972** The Arc of Somerset County incorporates and receives its own nonprofit recognition. It began with 16 individuals, and is recognized as the foremost provider of services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Somerset County. There were two programs offered, a preschool program, and an adult center.
- 1976** In January, The Arc of Somerset County purchases a seventeen-acre tract in Warren Township, Somerset County that was a former YMCA Day Camp. By spring, Camp Jotoni opens for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- The Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center in Bound Brook is named in remembrance of a child diagnosed with Down Syndrome who dies at 18 months of age.
- 1977** FIFTH ANNIVERSARY: The Arc of Somerset County has grown to include two adult activity centers, one adult workshop, an early childhood center, a summer camp, a citizen advocacy program, a job placement program, a police training program, a "Come and Dance" program and an adult canteen program.
- 1979** Opening of the first community residence for The Arc of Somerset County with the help of One to One Foundation and the Paterniti Family. It is located in Branchburg. More group homes will open soon.

1980's

- 1982** TENTH ANNIVERSARY: There are 829 individuals making use of a five group homes, five adult centers, a summer camp, a pre-school, an infant program and year-round recreation. Staff grows to 100 employees. The Far Hills Country Day School matches fifth graders with children at the Jerry Davis Center to learn about children with developmental delays.

1984 The Arc of Somerset County receives its first HUD grant of \$536,200 to construct ten housing units in Somerset County. Construction is set to begin in January 1985.

The Arc of Somerset County opened its first sheltered workshop in Bridgewater and will employ fifty people in food service, subcontract work, and light manufacturing. The Respite Care facility opens in Branchburg.

1990's

1985 The Occupational Training Center (OTC) in Branchburg opens in February to begin with forty-five adults, previously receiving services out-of-county. The facility is barrier free. The OTC launches the Somerset County Recycling Program.

1986 Claremont Group Home opens in Franklin Township. The Arc begins a national partnership with Johnson & Johnson, promoting public awareness and fundraising. The Arc of Somerset announces its goal of \$500,000 in its second capital campaign, themed: Helping Children Grow. Opening of the agency's eighth group home for The Arc of Somerset County located in Griggstown.

1987 The Arc of Somerset County moves to Manville and combines The Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center with the administrative offices at 141 South Main Street. Ground is broken for the Old Stirling Group Home. Twenty towns are involved in the recycling program. The Arc of Somerset County appears on CBS National news for its award winning recycling program.

Old Stirling Group Home opens and brings the total to nine residential programs.

The Arc of Somerset County receives the 1987 Presidential Award from the Somerville Rotary.

Joan Sapienza retires as Executive Director, a position she held for fifteen years, since the inception of The Arc of Somerset County.

Parents and Children Together (PACT) Program begins. It is an innovative parenting program for families headed by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

1988 Louis M Baldino is the new Executive Director.

Dedication ceremonies of the Manville building, designating classrooms, therapy rooms, indoor gym and adaptive playground in honor of donors, was held in January. National Starch and Chemical Company, Johnson & Johnson Somerset County Family of Companies, Mr. John Nooney, the Barker Bus Company and Mr. & Mrs. Fred Patterson donated generously towards the goal of \$500,000.

In December, the "Safe Kids Prevention Program" involves over 1000 elementary students begins in Somerset Hills.

Residential Camping is first offered at Camp Jotoni. Four weeks were designated for this new initiative.

Employment Services OTC receives a one-year CARF accreditation. (CARF – Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) and begins working for the three year certification.

The Alternative Supportive Employment (ASE) program, formerly the Work Activities Trainings Center (WATC) program begins its conversion to an enclave program based in businesses in the community.

Construction begins on the first supervised apartments program located in Bridgewater.

1989 The Somerset County Freeholders give PACT a \$10,000 grant. Bridgewater Township offers land adjacent to the Bridgewater Commons Mall to build a second supervised apartment.

Thanks to the volunteer effort by the NJ Building Contractors and NJ Subcontractors Associations, Camp Jotoni builds a new bathhouse at no cost to The Arc.

1990's

1991 President Bush signs the Americans with Disabilities Act, and our own Fred Patterson who fought so long and hard for it, was there. Fred also wins the coveted NJ Governor's Award, "Pride of New Jersey," the highest award the state can bestow on one of its citizens, for his advocacy in the field of developmental disabilities.

1992 TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY: The Arc of Somerset County receives a \$40,000 prevention grant from the Office for Prevention, NJ Department of Human Services for bike helmet distribution and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Campaign.

The statewide waiting list for residential placement grows to over 3000 people. Families are urged to explore a variety of private housing opportunities.

Employment Services receives their first three year accreditation from CARF

1993 Family Support Program initiated.

The Arc of Somerset County purchases three industrial condominiums in Branchburg. The Somerville Adult Training Centers and Occupational Training Center move to the new location.

The Jerry Davis Center opens a class for children of typical development to interact with children with developmental delays and disabilities for an inclusive education program.

1994 The operating budget exceeds \$10 million and fixed assets are worth \$4.5 million. A Future Search Conference is conducted to map a strategy to prepare The Arc for 2010. Key concepts are: To Promote housing and employment, Support choice of inclusion, Increase community awareness, Improve communications with like agencies, and expand funding resources.

1995 The "Key of Our Own" Campaign promotes residential issues for people with developmental disabilities. Over 100 people living in residences, across seven townships and twenty-two locations.

Email comes to The Arc of Somerset County employees for interoffice communication.

A video is filmed with The Arc of Somerset County individuals who are paid royalties for every one sold "Addressing Mental Health Problems in People with Developmental Disabilities"

Information Technology Department is created.

1999 Tea with Honey fund raising event is held for the first time. This annual event, benefiting the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center, is 100% volunteer driven.

2000's

2001 Record NJ State budget deficits and tragedy of 9-11 significantly affect The Arc of Somerset County and all nonprofits. Volunteerism increases as people partner with the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to increase their quality of life. The legislature adds one dollar per hour increase for direct care staff.

Nearly 1000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities receive services and/or supports through The Arc of Somerset County. There are twenty-two residential locations, and six employment

services program throughout Somerset County. Childhood Services includes the Early Intervention Program, Day Care, Preschool Disabled, Private Preschool, After School, Saturday Recreational, Camp Jotoni and PACT. Family Support Services continue to help people in their homes.

2002 Respite Group Home relocates to an accessible facility in Hillsborough. The prior Respite program now becomes the Branchburg Group Home.

The township of Rocky Hill donates land to The Arc of Somerset County and ground is broken to build a new residential facility.

The Arc of Somerset County restated their bylaws, affirming the commitment to remain a membership-based, family-directed organization. The State of New Jersey issues "New Directions."

Adult Training Center at Kirby Avenue moves into a new facility located in Hillsborough and renamed Valley Park Adult Training Center.

2003 The first annual "Step Up For The Arc" walk-a-thon for Somerset County is held in conjunction with Arcs throughout the state and with the help from the Free and Accepted Masons.

The Arc of Somerset County Foundation is launched to ensure long-term financial visibility.

Rocky Hill Group Home opens with two first floor barrier free apartments.

The Representative Payeeship Program is created and is launched with fifteen individuals.

The agency creates a Quality Department.

2004 The Arc of Somerset County develops their first Strategic Plan that the agency will follow for the next five years.

The Arc of Somerset's newsletter, The Challenge, is renamed The Herald.

Website launched for the agency.

2005 After more than twenty-eight years of service to the agency, Executive Director Louis Baldino takes an early retirement to spend more time with his family. The Lou Baldino Legacy Recreation Fund is established to enhance the health and well-being of individuals with disabilities through recreational and fitness-related activities.

Newly appointed Executive Director Judy Miao makes a concerted effort in the development of a Vision Statement for the agency.

Therap Services comes to The Arc of Somerset County. Therap is a state of the art secure internet application that provides integrated on-line reporting, documentation and communication technology for organizations working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

A new program, called Education Advocacy is launched to help parents and guardians of children with special needs develop and maintain an Individualized Education Plan.

Governor Codey reappoints Fred Patterson as Chair of the Governor's Council on the Prevention and Developmental Disabilities.

The first Service Learning Day begins at Branchburg OTC. High School students from Bernard's High School are provided with an opportunity to enhance their awareness, sensitivity, and on-going support of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

2006 Ask The Advocate workshop is initiated for the first time. This workshop is to address quality of life issues for parents and guardians who have questions about their rights within the special education system.

A recreation club is formed, named the Excursion Club and becomes an instant sensation.

Increase in volunteerism with participants in Community Day events.

Three therapy rooms are added to the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center, which include the gym, sensory and quiet rooms.

Principals of the Vision Statement are completed.

2007

THIRTYFIFTH ANNIVERSARY as The Arc of Somerset County provides services and supports to more than 1000 children, adults, and families in Somerset County.

Volunteerism and Community support has soared to an all time high. United Way provided seventeen Days of Caring, twenty-one Corporations, four Civic Organizations and 635 volunteers provided more than \$200,000.00 in time and materials in improvements in the agencies programs.

Tenth anniversary of individuals delivering newspapers to patients in Somerset Medical Center

Judy Miao separates from the agency.

Action Adventure Week at Camp Jotoni takes off for the first time. This successful program takes campers on a new trip for five consecutive days.

The Somerset County Commission on the Status of Women honors Fran Maher, a parent advocate for twenty-five years, The Arc of Somerset County Board Member from 1981 – 1990 including two terms as Board President, for her decades of volunteerism.

Ethicon awards the agency a \$20,000 grant to purchase an industrial sized shredder to begin a shredding business for Supportive Employment.

The Family Support Department holds its first Kid's Night Out program. This monthly program provides parents with a safe and caring place to bring their children so they can go out on their own for an evening.

The Arc of Somerset County separates from the workforce one stop, Tanif (Cap) from Somerset County Board of Social Services.

Ministry Consultant from Rutgers Bogg Center provides assistance in connecting to faith communities and provides grief consulting.

2008

With more than eighteen years of service to The Arc of Somerset County, Lauren Panarella is appointed as Executive Director.

The Arc of Somerset County joins a statewide initiative to build a career path for direct support professionals (DSP's). The initiative is a pilot project of the NJ Direct Support Professionals Workforce Development Coalition to increase the skills, capabilities, and rewards of being a DSP in NJ.

First annual Business Partnership Award Ceremony takes place at Branchburg Adult Training Center to recognize our appreciation to the companies that contract with the adult training centers. Executives from 36 business partners attended the event.

The Family Support Department held its first Caring for Mothers and Others Day.

S.E.E.D.S. program debuts for the first time.

The trend in the education system was/is to keep children with disabilities included in their own districts educational programs and therefore, out of district placements were decreasing across the state. The trend-impacted enrollment in preschool programs and due to low enrollment the Preschool Disabled Program at the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center closed.

Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities from The Arc of Somerset County form a Self-Advocate Group. Their mission is to encourage more people with disabilities to lead independent and productive lives.

After more than a year of planning, the Greenbrook ATC moves to a new bright accessible facility in Hillsborough and the name changes to Jill Court Adult Training Center.

The Supportive Employment shredding business, named The Arc of Somerset County Shredding, opens for customers.

NJDVR approved The Arc of Somerset County to be an authorized vendor of Supported Employment Services.

An additional staff, specifically designed for Prevention is added to the Maintenance, Safety, and Security Department. As a result, Preventative Maintenance plan and activities are initiated.

2009

The Self Advocate Group changes its name to Advocates for Change.

Initiation of quarterly Walk-In Days for potential applicants begins.

Master Gardeners Program formed at Camp Jotoni for enhancing new outdoor curriculum.

Beloved and founding Executive Director Joan Sapienza passes away. A memorial service takes place at Camp Jotoni where a red oak planted in her honor. A memorial fund in Joan's name is established.

The Family Support Department holds its first 'My Time' Sibling Support Group at the Hillsborough YMCA. This event is for siblings and parents to meet make new friends and build a network of support.

All time highs in productivity in record numbers are reached in the adult training centers.

The Arc of Somerset County embraces social media outlets You-Tube, Twitter and Facebook as a vehicle for communication, fundraising, and development.

The trend in the education system was/is to keep children with disabilities included in their own districts educational programs and therefore, out of district placements were decreasing across the state. The trend-impacted enrollment in preschool programs and due to low enrollment the Private Preschool Program at the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center closes due to low enrollment.

The Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center changes its name to the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families. (JDCCF) The Arc of Somerset County's Family Support Department is now part of JDCCF.

The Elizabeth M. Bogg Center on Developmental Disabilities, of The Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, provides more than 50 employees from The Arc of Somerset County with two-day training on "Person Centered Thinking."

The Arc of Somerset County received the 2008 Communications Award from The Arc of New Jersey for generating enthusiasm and achievement in outreach efforts that set a standard of quality for the entire Arc community.

Cablevision produced five public service announcements promoting The Arc of Somerset County's pivotal programs and events.

The Buddy Program, a program that matches up volunteers age 17 and older with an individual by location, skill, and mutual interests is created. The result is to create friendships that are thriving.

The NJ Direct Support Professional Workforce Development Coalition awarded eight DSP's with Certificates of Achievement for completing special DSP training programs in the College of Direct Support Pilot program.

The Arc of Somerset County is invited to participate in a yearlong project with The Elizabeth M. Bogg Center and The Division of Developmental Disabilities titled Building a Person – Centered System that will take the concepts from the Person Centered Thinking training and begin to apply them to our organization as a whole and the entire system of service delivery for individuals with a disability.

Completion of the Disaster Recovery Plan for Management and Disaster Recovery Administrative Computer Application Restore Plan.

2010

The Arc of Somerset County conducts a series of Focus Groups for Parents, Families and Guardians designed to improve the quality of services for The Arc of Somerset County. Participation spanned all service departments.

Mission Statement is updated and revised.

With an annual budget of \$15.6 million and a net worth of \$1.58 million, the agency provides services and supports to over 1000 people countywide. Over 115 individuals reside in our fourteen residential group homes; two HUD supervised apartment buildings; seven supportive living programs and two supervised apartment programs. Employment Services provides center-based adult programs at four facilities in Somerset County to over 260 individuals. In 2010, the JDCCF grew to include family Support Services and open the center providing a long needed home program for educational and advocacy efforts. The economic recession has an overwhelming affect on the agency. The Arc of Somerset County looks within itself to rely on increased volunteerism and expand partnerships with other providing agencies and vendors to consolidate resources.

Funding cuts from major funders including DHS, DVR, United Way, and County DHS occur due to country's economic decline. The cuts are unprecedented in the agency's history.

Enrollment in Early Intervention Program reaches a record high of 160 children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Human Resource Department hosts their first annual Health & Wellness Fair for all employees to participate in free health screenings and exposure to health and wellness vendors.

The Arc of Somerset County's Family Support Center officially opened its doors. The center provides families with resources, information, and advocacy to assist in their commitment to provide supports and services for their loved ones.

A new five-year strategic plan is developed in a direct response to our agency's understanding of what its stakeholders value most concerning the organization while at the same time taking on the challenges for continuing to provide high quality services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

S.E.E.D.S (Student Education and Experience for Disability Sensitivity Program) is presented at the National Arc Conference in Florida by creator and former Arc of Somerset staff person Amy Burns.

Dr. Lucille M. Esralew, PhD, Program Director for the Statewide Clinical Consultation and Training at Trinitas Regional Medical Center partnered with the Clinical Services Department to provide Dementia Assessments and employee workshops.

Clinical Services developed a partnership with The Mental Health Association of NJ providing employee workshops..

As part of the Person Centered Systems Initiative, the Quality Department launches a monthly newsletter, The Quality News, with emphasis on Person Centered Thinking and Therap tips.

Executive Director, Lauren Panarella, holds the agency's first Afternoon with The Executive Director event. Created to provide family members with information on national public policy, NJ State budget updates and local initiatives that affect individuals with a disability.

Governor Chris Christie issues a Proclamation designating September 12 – 18 as Direct Support Professionals Week. This proclamation demonstrates the Governor's understanding of the value of our DSP's and the vital services they provide to individuals with a disability.

Employment Services is awarded a three-year accreditation by CARF, the highest recognition provided by the organization. For the first time ever, this honor includes Gannett ATC, Jill Court ATC and Valley Park ATC in addition to the Branchburg ATC/OTC and Supported Employment programs.

In October, nearly 100 volunteers from local companies spent a day at various agency programs completing beautification projects.

The annual Arc Angel Gala honored two former Board Members in December. Tom S. Brooks of AT&T, was presented with the coveted Arc Angel Award for his longtime support of the agency through volunteerism, board service and philanthropy. Fred R. Patterson was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication and lifelong commitment to advocating for people with developmental disabilities.

The Arc of Somerset County received a number of grants and donations that enhanced services including: A \$15,000 grant from sanofi-aventis to help support the Developmental Day Care program as well as the "Play and Learn" therapeutic groups for children. E.J. Grassman Trust awarded a \$10,000 grant to purchase a generator for the Old Stirling Group Home. \$77,000 was awarded by the Community Development Block Grant, which were applied to our Developmental Day Care program and to fund accessibility initiatives in our community group homes. Thrivent/Good Shepard Lutheran Church presented the agency with a donation of \$1,800 to help support Camp Jotoni "campership" program which allows children and adults with disabilities to attend a week of summer camp under a scholarship. The Knights of Columbus, Manville Chapter awarded \$1,855 donation to the agency to be used for general program support.

In 2010, individuals working at our Branchburg center prepared more than five million cosmetic bottles for glass manufacturer, Stoelzle-Oberglas, in support of its customer, L'Oreal, production line.

NJ Governor Chris Christie made it illegal for state laws or rules to identify anyone with an intellectual or developmental disability as "mentally retarded" by signing legislation sought by people who have felt belittled by the offensive and outdated term.

2011 The Arc of the United States launched an agency-wide rebranding process, which included an updated look, and logo in an effort to ensure The Arc has a standardized look, which will result in a greater recognition on a local and national level. The new logo will represent The Arc as a strong and untied organization that is embracing by organization providing services, supports and advocacy; experienced as The Arc is the oldest and largest national organization serving individuals with intellectually and developmental disabilities and their families and determined as we are a human and civil rights organization. In addition, we will remain The Arc – not ARC. Arc will never again be used as an acronym and will eliminate the use of the "R" word in our name.

are Dr. Lucille Esralew, Program Director of Trinitas Hospital to addresses the needs of those individuals who experiencing cognitive decline, dementia or who are at high risk for developing this neurological disorder. Dr. Esralew conducted presentations for our staff and families, but also offered monthly "mini-clinics" providing psychological assessment for those individuals who seem to be experiencing cognitive decline as they age. Dr. Esralew then consulted with the program staff to determine the service needs of these individuals to ensure that their home and work environments continue to allow a safe, healthy and productive lifestyle as they age.

Advocate, The Family Support Center offers workshops and seminars including Special Needs Planning, Ask the dementia assessments, and special needs trusts. The center partners with the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network and the Regional Family Support Council to provide meeting space and parent group sessions.

The Agency hosts its first Spanish-speaking support group with an interpreter in partnership with Somerset Children’s Treatment Center.

Ethicon awards The Arc of Somerset County with a \$20,000 grant to help support accessibility projects in Residential programs.

Johnson and Johnson awards The Arc of Somerset County with matching funds in the amount of \$10,000 previous donation to be utilized to support the mission and activities of the agency.

PCT on The agency enters our second year of the Person Centered Initiative. All new employees are introduced to their second day of employment in Orientation; PCT has become infused and is a structured dynamic in our training department curriculums and a natural part of our language; and PCT Tools are introduced at monthly manager and meetings.

Developmental The Arc of Somerset County’s annual Arc Angel Gala honors The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Disabilities.

Year by Paul Petitti, a person served with The Arc of Somerset County is honored as the Supported Employee of the NJ APSE (Association for Persons in Supported Employment).

residence Hurricane Irene makes landfall in August. The Branchburg Group Home takes on a foot of water and the is declared uninhabitable. The three Person Served are displaced in different residential programs within the agency. The search is on to find a new home.

5K More than 400 participants participate in The Arc of Somerset County’s annual “Step Up For The Arc Walk & support vital Run” at Duke Island Park. The event raised net revenue of more than \$31,000.00 that will be used to programs and services.

mission SJP Properties awards The Arc of Somerset County with \$16,702.50 donation to help support the agency’s and activities. This is the 12th consecutive year that SJP Properties has provided The Arc of Somerset County with a generous donation through a unique philanthropic initiative in collaboration with Johnson & Johnson.

business. Qualcomm awards the agency with a \$10,000 grant to support The Arc of Somerset County’s Shredding The funds were used to purchase and install close circuit monitoring system that will provide security required to pursue an industry accreditation.

health Dorothy B. Hersh Foundation awards \$20,000 grant to help fund the renovation and construction of a new and nursing office at Camp Jotoni.

“Morella’s Ethicon, a Johnson & Johnson Company awards a \$15,800 grand to fund a new senior day program called developmental Place” that will enable the agency to address the unique needs of individuals with intellectual and disabilities as they age.

Group E.J. Grassmann Trust awards a \$10,000 grant to help fund a new fire alarm sprinkler system at the Mobus Home.

experiences Advocates for Change speak at a graduate class at Montclair University graduate class about their life and how being an advocate has positively changed their lives.

the Advocate and Board Member, Brian O’Malley, on behalf of the Advocates for Change, delivers flowers to Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Majority Office and Assembly by Majority Office at the State House in Trenton for the support the state government demonstrated in closing Vineland Developmental Center.

2012 The Arc of Somerset County celebrates our 40th year of service!

	Employment Services receives its first state contract through Access NJ that will allow the agency to place document bins at the Department of Labor in Phillipsburg, NJ
of NJ's intellectual students received disability population.	Two groups from The Arc of Somerset County were recipients at The Arc of NJs' Annual Awards Dinner and Celebration to recognize and applaud the exceptional efforts of individuals and organizations in the state's disability. Ortho Clinical Diagnostics and Making A Difference Everywhere (MADE). Ortho received The Arc Employer of the Year Award for its longstanding commitment to the employment of individuals with and developmental disabilities. MADE, a group of civic-minded Bridgewater-Raritan High School the Distinguished Community Service Award for their commitment to volunteering with the
individuals Employability" event.	The Arc of Somerset County honors local business leaders who provide employment opportunities for with intellectual and developmental disabilities at its "Celebration of Partnership for
participate in	Volunteers from the local community businesses including Janssen, Johnson & Johnson and Tibotec brightening up a number of our programs with painting and closing Camp Jotoni for the winter.
opportunity community	Camp Jotoni announces a new program called The Trail Blazers Club, which is to offer participants the to reconnect with their friends from summer camp while enjoying a full schedule of activities and outings.
program maintenance of	Named in honor of a former service recipient, Morella Nooney, "Morella's Place" is launched! This new will address the unique needs of persons served as they age, designed to encourage and foster skill participants.
based provide global	The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families offer a new curriculum, "rethink autism" which is a web-comprehensive program that allows teachers and therapists to read and watch the program samples that systematic, research based teaching strategies for professionals who work with children who experience delays and/or autism. The JDCCF started the program with 12 children.
at Camp	The Arnold A Schwartz Foundation awarded the agency with a \$2500 grant to support accessibility projects Jotoni.
program.	Novo Nordisk provided the agency with a \$5000 grant to provide diabetes education and prevention
their	The Knights of Columbus (Raritan Council #13264) awarded \$2,600.95, funds that the Knights raised during annual drive.
	Toys "R" Us presented the agency with a \$15,000 grant through its Children's Fund to support subsidize therapeutic programs and childcare for children with intellectual and development disabilities
members, Through the continue to address the one with a disability.	The Arc of Somerset County announces the creation of Donor Legacy Society to recognize and thank our families and friends who have made a commitment to our agency, our mission and our future. generosity, members of the Realizing Dreams Legacy Society will allow the agency to lifelong needs of families in the Somerset County area who have a child, sibling or loved This society is recognized as having outstanding philanthropic leaders.
2012 New under	The Arc of Somerset County is the recipient of a generous donation of eight iPads from Healing the Children Jersey. The iPads will be used to enhance the therapeutic benefits provided by our therapists to children three years of age in our Early Intervention program.
the	Branchburg Adult Training Center was awarded a work contract with AT&T to assemble gift bags for both Democratic and Republican National Conventions.

Over 400 people participated in our annual “Step Up For The Arc Walk & 5K Run” at Duke Island Park. Over \$29,000 was raised to support services.

The Herald launches “Success Stories” which will be an ongoing feature, presenting articles and pictures illustrating a look into the lives and families of many of the individuals we serve.

Calcutta Affair donated \$1103 to the agency to support Camp Jotoni.

The Knights of Columbus (Councils #11409 and #1432) raised \$537 and \$2000 respectively for the agency through their annual drives.

Magyar Bank awarded the agency with a \$1000 grant to support Kid’s Night Out.

Tricore Interactive awarded the agency with \$1000 grant to cover supply costs for the group’s volunteer effort at Camp Jotoni.

2013 before. water in Super Storm Sandy makes landfall in October leaving the agency to face challenges and situations like never before. Jill Court ATC becomes a shelter for many of the displaced Person’s Served who are without power and their homes. Many staff members demonstrate extraordinary commitment and dedication.

home Persons Served from Branchburg Group Home, who were displaced by Hurricane Irene, move into their new home in Hillsborough, renamed Pioneer Group Home.

Barry The Zuckerman Fresh Air Fund is established through generous contributions from Dr. Diana Zuckerman, Dr. Zuckerman and Mr. & Mrs. Fred & Roe Patterson. The purpose is to support healthy living and recreational opportunities for the intellectual and developmental disabled. Named in honor of the late Leo and Anne Zuckerman, Leo a longtime Johnson & Johnson employee was responsible for the groundbreaking discovery of the Rh factor, which paved the way for the prevention of many disabilities. One of Leo and Anne’s children is a Person Served in one of the agency’s Residential Department.

of the Person Camp Jotoni built rain barrels during “Build a Rain Barrel” workshop sponsored by the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

The Bishop James United Methodist Church of Basking Ridge donated \$1000 to the agency/

The Franklin Township Development Block Program has awarded the agency with a grant of \$21,150 to fund accessibility renovations for a bathroom at Griggstown.

The Green Knolls Ladies Goof League donated \$775 to Camp Jotoni.

Janssen Pharmaceuticals awarded \$2500 grant to support Camp Jotoni.

\$2000 and The Knights of Columbus Councils #6573 (St. Jude), #11409 (Warren) and #13264 (Raritan) raised \$871, \$2610 respectively for the agency through their annual fund drives.

agency’s The Kreitchman Family Foundation donated \$1500 to support programming at Camp Jotoni. This is the first grant from the Foundation.

of their The Temple Har Shalom Teen Philanthropy Board chose the JDCCF Developmental Daycare as the recipient annual grant of \$2200.

The Union Foundation awarded \$5000 grant to support accessibility projects at Camp Jotoni.

increasing An Advocate for Change testifies in front of the State Assembly and Senate regarding concerns over the funding for cost of living.

In celebration of “Disability Awareness Month”, Advocates for Change visit the State House in Trenton. The Advocates share their life experiences with NJ State member of the Assembly and Congress.

2014

The revitalization of The Arc Foundation of Somerset County. Our Foundation, which was established in 1997, has begun to emerge as the fundraising arm of The Arc of Somerset County. Our board of trustees is committed to creating the opportunities and structure to allow donors to give to The Arc to create a lasting legacy for themselves while securing the financial future of our agency.

The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families continues to participate in the pilot of the Quality Rating Improvement Scales; Grow NJ Kids, test program. This past quarter the Center developed a quality improvement plan based on the outcomes of several internal environmental ratings and scoring on the pilot QRIS self-assessment scale. Grow NJ Kids has presented monthly directors workshops on topics that have included: The Birth to 3 Learning Standards, The Preschool Learning Standards, further training in the Early Childhood and Infant & Toddler Development, Environmental Rating Scales (ECERS & ITERS), Preschool Classroom Mathematics Inventory (PCMI), and the Supports for Early Literacy Assessment (SELA). All of these materials and tools will be used in the classrooms and will determine future changes and improvements. In addition, a \$2,000 grant from Grow NJ Kids will help the school to purchase the materials and items that are necessary to enhance curriculum and the school environment.

Adult Employment Services department is currently working on the on the creation of two new rooms at the Gannett and Branchburg ATC's. The rooms will have the purpose of allowing for greater flexibility during the day for those individuals who may not be focused on the contract work that is currently available. Both rooms will provide those individuals who need to have more frequent breaks and opportunity for relaxation during the day with a quite space to do so. The goal is to allow individuals with the ability to continue their day services while having the ability to address their personal needs for a more soothing environment.

Temple Har Shalom awarded the Jerry Davis Center with \$2,150 for specialized gym equipment for our Developmental Daycare Center.

The Provident Bank Foundation awarded the Jerry Davis Center with \$2,500 for the "Kids Night Out" respite program.

Henkel of America, Inc. awarded Camp Jotoni with \$13,000 for the revitalization of the camp grounds which helped with the cost of paving paths at camp as well as new plants and shrubs.

The Hyde and Watson Foundation awarded Camp Jotoni with \$5,000 for Camp Jotoni's facility renovation project.

Qualcomm awarded \$2,000 that went toward the repairs and renovation of the Old Stirling Group Home deck. Arc Donations

Fraternal Order of Eagles # 2137 Somerset Aerie donated \$5,000 to The Arc of Somerset County; which will be used to update our training room.

The Jewish Federation of Somerset Hunterdon & Warren Counties donated \$8,517 for scholarships to children attending the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families.

NJ State Council Knights of Columbus #11409 of Warren NJ donated \$2,000 with cooperation of local merchants in the Warren area and Our Lady of the Mount church parishioners who donated to the 2014 Camp Jotoni Capital Campaign.

McGough Family Trust donated \$500 toward new chairs for the Branchburg facility.

United Way of Roanoke Valley donated \$1,000 to The Arc of Somerset County, which was sponsored by the new Advance Auto Store in Manville.

Lebanon Reformed Church donated \$1,000 to The Arc of Somerset County.

Green Knoll Ladies Golf League donated \$730 to the Camp Jotoni campership.

2015 The Arc of Somerset County to Launch “The Achievement Center” at Raritan Valley Community College The Arc of Somerset County is proud to announce a new partnership with Raritan Valley Community College and The Arc of Hunterdon County. “The Achievement Center” at Raritan Valley College is a three year post secondary educational program for students recently graduated from their high school program. The Center, which will pilot enrollment this Fall semester will offer advanced experience in preparation for greater or more sophisticated employment outcomes as well as exposure to accessible college courses in the liberal arts and integrated exposure to college life. Students will attend classes designed to create both a college education and career plan while gaining access to the social and interpersonal experience of a busy college campus. Physical education will be consistently offered throughout the program with the goal of fully integrating into at least one college sport or club activity. Students will have the chance to work with a peer mentor and join increasingly more integrated subject classes as the three year program progresses. As part of The Arc of Somerset County’s Employment Services Department, The Achievement Center will bring the assessments, job exploration and preparation activities typically associated with the job search process into an academic environment to allow students to develop their preferences and skills at a level that offers both more time and depth for those interested while work continues on supporting skills such as functional and educational reading and mathematics.

Capital Campaign Kick Off for Camp Jotoni is launched.

The Arc of Somerset County’s Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families (JDCCF) was awarded the 2015 Somerset County Disability Advocate Award by the Somerset County Office on Aging and Disability Services on Tuesday evening, November 24th at the Freeholder’s Meeting in Somerville New Jersey. The honor was in recognition for “Outstanding Service” demonstrating significant impact in meeting the needs of Somerset County citizens with disabilities and also for making a commitment to promote positive awareness to the needs of Somerset County citizens with disabilities. “The success of JDCCF lies mainly with the dedicated, knowledgeable and talented group of staff who provide a broad range of supports to the individuals served”, stated Michelle McMahon, Associate Executive Director for The Arc of Somerset County. JDCCF provides special education; therapeutic programs and child care to children with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities ranging from 2 month to 6 years of age and remains the only developmental daycare/ preschool in and around Somerset County.

2016 The Branchburg Adult Training Center will once again be busy this summer working on a contract with AT&T filling thousands of gift bags for the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia this July. The communications company provides products and services for this event and adults from our employment day program have been hired once again to assemble gift bags for convention delegates. 10,000 bags for the Democratic National Convention Committee will be filled with 24 different components. “For many years AT&T has supported The Arc of Somerset

Foundation Donation Helps Consumers Increase Access to Technology Thanks to a generous \$10,000 donation from the Fidelity Charitable Trust Foundation – consumers at The Arc of Somerset County will enjoy greater access to technology including computers and the internet. Our past Board President, Ron Slahetka saw the need for consumer access.

With the State of New Jersey moving towards a Fee for Service system, The Arc has begun to offer new services that will provide enhanced supports to individuals in the community. Two of our new programs are based out of our PACT (Parents and Children Together) program and are designed to provide intensive in home supports to children ages 5-21 who are experiencing difficulty with daily living skills and emotional / behavior challenges. The program’s goal is to work with the child in their natural setting, while also increasing the skills of the parents and the success of the family as a whole.

Our children’s services have also had an active year, participating in the “NJ Race to The Top” initiatives to help develop a rating scale for childcare providers and to help enhance the quality of daycares across the state. Our Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families was one of only a handful of centers chosen to participate in the pilot phase of this initiative—and we are the only child care center that serves children with disabilities in the pilot.

Our self advocates participated in several important initiatives that will further our efforts to ensure that all individuals, regardless of ability, are given the opportunities and rights that all community members enjoy. The Arc of Somerset County's self-advocates were awarded an advocacy award at the State Self Advocacy Annual Luncheon and several of our self advocates efforts were acknowledged through individual awards. Our self advocates are at the heart of our organization and they have worked tirelessly and passionately to move our mission and vision for individuals with disabilities forward