

THE FRIENDSHIP OF THOSE WE SUPPORT IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR

PROGRESS

SPRING 2024

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Join Us!



2024 MEMBERSHIP

Champions For Change

Governor Josh Shapiro and Department of Human Services (DHS) Secretary Dr. Val Arkoosh visited BARC Developmental Services

Governor Josh Shapiro and Department of Human Services (DHS) Secretary Dr. Val Arkoosh visited BARC Developmental Services in Bucks County to meet with Pennsylvanians with intellectual disabilities and autism (ID/A), caregivers, and advocates to hear how the proposed investments in the Governor’s 2024-25 budget will expand access to support home and community-based services and address the shortage of direct support professionals in our Commonwealth, and set a course to end Pennsylvania’s emergency waiting list for ID/A services. Governor Shapiro proposed \$483 million in federal and state funding to provide more resources for home and community-based service providers, so they in turn can pay competitive rates to attract and retain the staff who provide these essential services. The investment in direct support professionals (DSPs) and service providers will increase the average starting salary, spurring additional raises for more experienced DSPs at the same time.



Pa. Governor Josh Shapiro greets supported individuals in Warminster, PA.



Pa. Governor Josh Shapiro stops on a tour of BARC Production Services Warminster.

“A budget I think is more than just a set of numbers on a spreadsheet – it’s a statement of what your priorities are and what your principles are. My priorities and principles are helping folks like you, both the people who are receiving the support and the people who are providing the support,” said Governor Josh Shapiro. “This year in our budget, we’re making an unprecedented investment – all in nearly a half a billion dollars of money from the state, money from the federal government – to create more opportunities for services to pay people a higher wage and to be able to hire more people to do this work.”

Champions For Change; Governor Shapiro Visits BARC *continued*

Last year, Governor Shapiro announced that DHS would conduct an early review of reimbursement rates to better support ID/A service providers and the direct support professionals who help Pennsylvanians with intellectual disabilities and autism. Typically, reimbursement rates are readjusted every three years, but Governor Shapiro ordered an early review to address critical workforce shortages among service providers. The Governor’s budget proposal would fund the entirety of this rate increase and support recruitment, retention, and higher wages for direct support professionals who make inclusive, enriching lives possible for people with intellectual disabilities and autism. To illustrate the importance of this investment, Governor Shapiro invited Cindy, Judy, and Matthew Jennings – who live in Lititz – to his budget address in the Capitol Rotunda. He talked about how Matthew requires 24/7 support, something that Cindy hasn’t been able to find because Pennsylvania doesn’t pay



Governor Josh Shapiro accepts a piece of artwork created by Jerome W.

direct support professionals enough. So instead, Cindy, a 60-year-old single mom who’s battled her own health challenges, is forced to provide care herself – along with Matthew’s grandma, Judy. The Governor’s proposal also outlines a plan to eliminate the emergency waiting list for services for adults and reduce barriers to care for thousands of Pennsylvanians over the next several years. The proposal includes a \$78 million investment in federal and state funds to serve an additional 1,500 Pennsylvanians with ID/A currently on the waitlist in the next fiscal year. Governor Shapiro understands that expanding services and ending the emergency waiting list is crucial to recognize basic dignity and opportunity for all people. To accomplish, this DHS is restructuring program administration to give more flexibility to county program administrators to serve more people based on local needs, real-time service utilization, and overall costs. “Achieving a vibrant, everyday life with dignity is a goal for so many of our neighbors, friends, and loved ones in ID/A communities, but when they have to wait for services, we are falling short in helping them meet this goal. Every Pennsylvanian with intellectual disabilities and autism should receive the supports they need when they need them,” said DHS Secretary Val Arkoosh. “Under Governor Shapiro’s budget proposal, Pennsylvania will become a leader in the home and community-based services space by working to eliminate the waiting list for services, investing in the value and importance of ID/A service providers and direct support professionals, and, most importantly, demonstrating our commitment to a better future and opportunity for all Pennsylvanians.”

While at BARC Developmental Services, Governor Shapiro and Secretary Arkoosh met with Pennsylvanians with ID/A who benefit from BARC’s residential and vocational services, and caregivers and advocates to discuss how the Governor’s proposed investments will support the ID/A communities. BARC is a non-profit organization based in Bucks County that serves more than 700 individuals with ID/A annually and has provided care through early intervention and residential and vocational programs for over 70 years. “We applaud Governor Shapiro’s proposed investment in ID/A services in Pennsylvania for increased rates, supplemental payments, and more capacity to address the waiting list. The foundation of BARC Developmental Services are the direct support professionals (DSPs) who work tirelessly every day to provide the care needed so our supported individuals can lead happy, fulfilled lives and contribute to their communities,” said Mary Sautter, Executive Director of BARC Development Services. “The Governor’s proposed budget includes critical investments into the ID/A system that will help increase wages for DSPs so agencies like BARC Developmental Services can recruit and retain qualified staff. We are hopeful that the state legislature will maintain this funding in the 2024-25 budget.” This announcement is the latest effort by the Shapiro Administration to support the ID/A community, after the Governor’s 2023-24 budget secured \$17.49 million to help an additional 850 Pennsylvanians with ID/A get off waitlists for home and community-based services.



Governor Shapiro greets staff and supported workers on the Production floor at Warminster.



DHS Secretary Dr. Val Arkoosh greets members of the BARC Human Resources team.

What can you do?

Your legislators want to hear from you!
 Advocate directly to your
 Representatives by phone or email!
www.par.net/actioncenter



(From left) PA Governor Josh Shapiro and DHS Secretary Val Arkoosh, stop to chat with Yaymarie, a supported individual who works at BARC Production Services Warminster. (Right) The group that participated in the Round Table discussion on April 17th, 2024, including BARC Executive Director, Mary Sautter; Parents, Pat and Marlene Palm; BARC Assistant Production Manager, Schnica Smith; Supported Individual, Matt B; Governor Josh Shapiro; DHS Secretary Val Arkoosh; Direct Support Professional, Musa Abalgabar; Family member, Kathy Walker; Supported Individuals, Lisa M and Jerome W. and BARC Home Manager, Mary Judd.

A Message from the Executive Director Mary Sautter, MSOL

BARC Developmental Services has entered its 73rd year of providing supports and service to children and adults with intellectual disabilities and autism. The agency experienced growth in 2023 as we provided supports and services to an increased number of children and adults via the diversity of our programs. Service department growth at BARC Developmental Services was seen in many ways:

- Early Intervention expanded into Montgomery County and added a new service, Social Work
- Residential was asked by the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) to assume the oversight of a 6-bed ICF/ID home
- Vocational services increased units billed by 14%
- Creation of a new position, Employment Specialist, that focuses on community-based employment services

We were fortunate to increase the number of new hires in 2023 by over 60% compared to 2022 and our total workforce grew by 10% over the last 6 months of 2023. IT enhancements were made in several ways including a new agency-wide intranet site that provides all associates with information and resources, strengthened our cyber security, a new phone system was installed across the agency, digital marketing platform initiated, and a new cloud-based software system used by the Quality Resources Department. BARC Developmental Services implemented outreach into the community by joining the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce and hosting a roundtable discussion with local legislators.

The agency's Development Committee oversees and monitors all fundraising activities. We are looking forward to several upcoming events including the Ivyland Open Golf Outing (June 24th), Duck Derby (July 13th), and Cars for a Cause (October 12th). We are grateful for all our sponsors, participants and volunteers and thank them for their generosity. I encourage you all to follow our social media sites (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) to stay connected with BARC.

We continue to be proud of the quality of supports we provide to children and adults with intellectual disabilities and autism. Thank you to all our stakeholders and constituents for your support, it is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mary Sautter, MSOL

J.O.B.S. Program Gains New Momentum

By Jordan Pfister, Director of Vocational Services

Think back on your own experiences applying for a job. How did you feel? What thoughts were going through your mind: Am I qualified for this role? What should my resume say about me? How should I answer the interviewer's question? What should I wear on my first day? Will I even fit in, or what will my coworkers think of me? This is no different for the people we support. Enter, BARC Developmental Services' JOBS Program.

Declared an Employment First State as of 2018, Pennsylvania considers competitive integrated employment services as "the first consideration and preferred outcome of publicly funded education, training, employment and related services, and long-term services and support for individuals with a disability." What does that mean? Above all else, competitive integrated employment

(CIE) services should be a goal, whether a short-term achievement, or long-term outcome, for all people. After all, you meet someone new at a party or on the street and what happens? "Hi, my name is Jordan. What do I do for a living? I'm a Director for BARC Developmental Services." It's more than a job. Many times, it's an identity. BARC's supported employment program receives referrals from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and Office of Developmental Programs (ODP). Majority of our referrals are diagnosed with an Intellectual Disabilities or Autism, but unlike our Vocational workshops, it is not a requirement. People with speech and language disorders, learning and other cognitive impairments, physical disabilities, behavioral and mental health complications, etc. can all apply to receive CIE services.

Not only do people come to us with a variety of challenges, but they also come in various stages of their employment journey. Some have just graduated from high school. Others have decades of work experience and may have just been laid off or are looking for a career change. Our job coaches can provide support to all. Whether it's assessing skills and identifying interests, building resumes, submitting applications, mock interviews, or supporting someone actively working on the job; we assist with whatever is needed.

A main pillar to supported employment supports is a fading strategy. At each stage, we assess and identify ways to increase someone's level of independence and reducing our dependence. This could be anything from identifying key natural supports an individual could go to with questions or help, identifying accommodations necessary, implementing adaptive equipment, visual checklists, or other schedules to use as an aid or guide without the need for our presence and direction.

Since January 2024, the JOBS (Joint Opportunity for Business and Society) program has made a new hire to jump start the program once more. In that time, we've restructured our current clients and accepted an additional four individuals. Job coach, Bill, has been coordinating the activity and hopes to expand the program much further.

With the federal push for community integration for providers such as BARC Developmental Services, and more individuals looking for Competitive Integrated Employment services, our JOBS program is looking at significant growth! As with other programs in ID/A, Competitive Integrated Employment services is underfunded with an excess need! We look forward to the success and growth of this program!



Matt N. preparing to do a cart return at his place of employment in Yardley, PA.



2024 Capital Campaign



This year the campaign will support building new sidewalks at the rear emergency exits at two of our Residential locations to increase safety and efficiency.

Your tax-deductible contribution directly benefits the men, women, and children supported by BARC Developmental Services.



We invite you to join our campaign.
www.barcprograms.org/capitalcampaign

Grow With Us!

Foundations Community Partnership Grant



2024 Baseball Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the 2024 Baseball Raffle Winners!

Proceeds from this raffle benefit the men, women and children supported by BARC Developmental Services.

FIRST PRIZE:
PHILIP CAREY
DOYLESTOWN, PA

SECOND PRIZE:
JIM FURLONG
WARRINGTON, PA

THIRD PRIZE:
MATTHEW
SWIERZEWSKI
SELLERSVILLE, PA

Fundraising events like this and many others directly support the programs offered at BARC Developmental Services. To see our upcoming events, scan here!



(From left) Mary Sautter, BARC CEO, Riley Moylan, Development Coordinator, Erin Barth, Director of Quality Resources and Development and Dr. Tobi Bruhn, Executive Director of FCP.

In early April, Dr. Tobi Bruhn, Executive Director of Foundations Community Partnerships, presented Mary Sautter, Executive Director of BARC Developmental Services and members of the Development Department, Erin Barth, Director and Riley Moylen, Development Coordinator with a check for \$15,000 as recipients of the Target Funding Grant - for capital improvement. As a catalyst for improving the quality of life for those in Bucks County, Foundations Community Partnership's mission is to support the behavioral health and human service needs of children, young adults, and families in Bucks County, Pa.

Welcome, Dr. Anthony Wehbe

Dr. Anthony Wehbe is an award-winning physician and healthcare executive whose people-centric, physician-focused leadership optimizes clinical outcomes and improves clinical performance to achieve optimal health and efficiency. Dr. Wehbe's expertise spans the full range of healthcare and physician leadership-from fiscal stewardship and operations excellence to provider recruitment, team building and patient satisfaction. He has received numerous clinical awards for "Top Doc" in the Philadelphia and New Jersey regions. BARC's relationship with Dr. Anthony Wehbe and his company, SenaCare, began in the fall of 2020 as the pandemic was worsening. We needed a knowledgeable, reliable and accessible medical professional to assist the agency with testing, results, and quarantine. As the pandemic slowed, our relationship with Anthony transformed and, in the Spring of 2023, he became our official Medical Director.



Dr. Anthony Wehbe, Medical Director of BARC Developmental Services

Dr. Wehbe lives in Each Greenwich, New Jersey, with his family. When he's not providing the best care and consulting services possible, he loves keeping up with Philadelphia sports teams, learning more about cars and spending quality time with his family. In his role as Medical Director, he and his team provide 24-hour supplemental physician availability for all residential individuals. The benefits are extensive, and we are consistently pleased with the relationship that continues between BARC and SenaCare.

Can you hear me now?

We want to hear from you!

Have you noticed a reduction in mail from BARC Developmental Services?

Our flyers are not as colorful lately. This has been done to reduce printing costs overall.

With the increased costs associated with not only mail, but printing, we have been moving much of our content to digital formats. Our information is readily available on our website, our social media and sent monthly in our email newsletter, *Bits of BARC!* We want to hear from you! How do you prefer to get your information? Text message? Email? Following on social media? Website? Good ol' direct mail? Please let us know in the Development Department!

melissa.bradford@barcprograms.net



Karate

Master Alex from Action Martial Arts Jamison along with Danielle Fox as his assistant, provided a karate lesson to individuals at BARC Production Services in Warminster. They taught hammer fists and front kicks managing to make sure EVERYONE felt included... even those in wheelchairs. Everyone used these new techniques to break some boards! With the request of many, Master Alex even gave out autographs! We can't wait until the next lesson!



Butterfly Release

Our supported individuals had the unique opportunity to experience a Butterfly release! What a magical encounter!



Phillies Opening Day

Around the agency everyone dressed in their Phillies best to support Opening Day for the 2024 season! Go Phils!



Masquerade Ball



On April 27th, 2024, the ballroom at Franconia Heritage was transformed into a wonderful Masquerade Ball. Attendees wore fancy masks, danced to their favorite tunes, enjoyed a delicious lunch and dessert and of course posed for photos! Many thanks to the Social Recreation Committee and the sponsorship of U.S. Medical Staffing for this event.



Annual Membership Meeting and Community Awards Ceremony

As per the By-Laws of BARC Developmental Services, a Membership Meeting is held the first Thursday of May each year, and it is during this meeting that an election for the Board of Directors is conducted. At the May 2nd meeting, the members presented the re-elected incumbents, Teresa Manero, Philip Carey, Nicholas Ciliberto, J. Scott Kramer, and Richard Brown.

The meeting was followed by the Community Awards Ceremony. The Community Awards Ceremony alternates every other year with the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. Community Award recipients were recognized for their outstanding commitment to fundraising, monetary or in-kind donations, professional services, advocacy and/or social recreational opportunities. The 2024 Awards had eleven recipients. Thank you to all who came out for the event!



Membership Is An Opportunity To Make A Difference

As a member:

- You are invited to attend the annual Membership Meeting held in May and participate in the election of the volunteer Board of Directors;
- Your vote directly impacts the future of the organization;
- Your tax deductible gift contributes to the support of the men, women, and children receiving services through our early intervention, residential, and vocational programs;
- You will receive this bi-annual newsletter, PROGRESS, which keeps you up to date on the agency's goals and accomplishments, as well as informing you of upcoming events.

YES! I would like to support the 2024 BARC Membership Campaign. Please accept my donation of:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$15 Other \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

___ **Check.** Make payable to BARC Developmental Services

___ **Visa or Mastercard (circle)** Amt: _____

Name on Card: _____

Address (including zip): _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV: _____

Signature: _____

**Mail membership form and payment to:
BARC Developmental Services, P.O. Box
470, Holicong, PA 18928-0470**

For Fiscal Use Only - 14-17-4410



BARC Developmental Services
P.O. Box 470
Holicong, PA 18928-0470

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
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Permit No. 7

*Large enough to serve,
small enough to care!*

2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 24:** Ivyland Open Golf Outing
Five Ponds Golf Club, Warminster, PA
- July 1:** **NEW Soccer Raffle: Liverpool vs. Arsenal**
LIVE on our Facebook Page
- July 13:** **4th Annual Duck Derby**
LIVE on our Facebook Page
- September 20:** **Designer Handbag & Gift Card Bingo**
St. Cyril of Jerusalem Church, Jamison, PA
- October 12:** **Cars For A Cause Car Show & TRUNK OR TREAT**
October 13: Rain Date
Warminster Community Park, Warminster, PA
- November 3:** **Annual Autumn Fundraising Luncheon & Vacation Raffle**
Spring Mill Manor, Ivyland, PA

For the most up to date information regarding our fundraising efforts, visit our website at:
www.barcprograms.org

Find us on our social media platforms:

