**CHOICES (Communities Helping Others in Creating Effective Solutions)**

is pleased to offer the

**Planning for Adult Life Presentation (PFAL) Series**

**Does your child receive Special Education?**

**Are you unsure about what your adult child will do after graduation from high school?**

**A representative from The Arc of NJ, Planning for Adult Life (PFAL)**, will visit a number of locations throughout the region to teach skills related to six (6) core areas (Transition Planning/Visioning, Health/Behavioral Health, Housing, Legal/Financial, Social, Self-Direction, and Post-Secondary Education/Employment).

The outcomes of participation in this program will provide students and their families with the experience, practice, and understanding the importance of creating a plan/vision for their life after they leave school. PFAL includes step by step timelines, guides, and other resources to assist families in making decisions on where they want to work and live, who they want to be socially, what legal decisions will they have to make, how to manage their finances, and how to have a healthy lifestyle. This experience also gives them an opportunity to make informed decisions about present and future goals.

The PFAL program has six (6) goals:

1. Students and their families will develop appropriate and effective transition plans that address their specific needs to successfully transition to adult life.

2. Students and their families will be able to effectively navigate service systems and access benefits/supports in all core areas.

3. Students and their families will effectively engage with, and access support, from service systems.

4. Students and their families will make appropriate future planning decisions.

5. Students and their families will plan for post-secondary goals that may include employment.

6. Students and their families will develop skills to assist them in forming positive social relationships and networks outside of school.

These informational sessions will last approximately 1 hour and are open to all interested parties, especially for those considering support for their loved one with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). Please note that each presentation will be held in a different location, and we ask that you **RSVP to the person listed underneath that particular session** so that appropriate seating can be provided. In addition, **if you require a Spanish-speaking interpreter and/or additional accommodations, please indicate that as well**.

Should you require further information regarding these sessions, please contact Jerisa Jerisa Chiumbu-Maseko, Director, Planning for Adult Life, The Arc of New Jersey, (732) 733-6013, the individual Host listed for a particular presentation, or Roger Askins Millburn High School Transition Coordinator 973-564-7130 ext 100035 roger.askins@millburn.org

**Please note:**

**This information is only to be used as a reference tool and is not to be taken as a formal recommendation by any of the participating partners. These resources are not intended to service all populations, and we ask that you**

**contact your Child Study Team (CST) Case Manager to further discuss more specific and individualized plans**

**for you/your child.**

**Planning for Adult Life Presentation (PFAL) Series**

**Jerisa Chiumbu-Maseko, Director, Planning for Adult Life**

The Arc of New Jersey, 985 Livingston Avenue, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

(732) 733-6013, cfortin@arcnj.org

[www.arcnj.org](http://www.arcnj.org), [www.PlanningforAdultLife.org](http://www.PlanningforAdultLife.org)

**Please RSVP to the person listed below EACH presentation.**

(Please note: These workshops may be appropriate for **middle/high school students**

(who receive Special Education) and their parents/guardians.

**October 21, 2021 7:30pm**

**Virtual only**

**\*Planning for Transition: Why it is Vital for your Student’s Future**

The transition planning process is evaluating the student’s skills, abilities, strengths, challenges, and preferences to envision their life after leaving school. Planning involves setting goals for the student to strive toward and identifying the needs for support. Carrying out the transition plan can begin and should be a part of the students’ Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). Students and families must be actively involved in the transition planning process as early as possible and keep it moving forward. This presentation discusses the importance of planning, the steps necessary to plan, and provides hands-on tools to put a plan in place.

**RSVP:** Roger Askins, Transition Coordinator, (973) 564-7130, ext. 379, roger.askins@millburn.org

**November 18, 2021 7:30pm**

**Virtual only**

**\*SSI and Medicaid: How to Apply and Why You Need To Do So**

There are many different ways to initiate the Medicaid eligibility process, and it is important to make sure you have all of the necessary information. This workshop will help parents and caregivers understand how to access health care services for their loved one with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) from the current health care system.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Medicaid is required to receive any adult services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) after graduation from high school.

**RSVP:** Jodi Goldstein jgoldstein@westorangeschools.org

**December 16, 2021 7:30pm**

**Union County Educational Services Commission Central Offices, (UCESC)**

**45 Cardinal Drive, 2nd Floor, Westfield, NJ 07090 Online option available as well.**

**\*Guardianship and Supported Decision Making: Just the Basics**

Guardianship can be a valuable tool that can be used to protect individuals who don’t or no longer possess the ability to make appropriate personal or financial decisions for themselves. This workshop will help parents and caregivers understand the guardianship process, levels of guardianship, and alternatives to guardianship.

**RSVP:** Josh Bornstein jbornstein@ucesc.org

**January 20, 2022**

**Hosted by Linden Public Schools (LPS), Held at the Academy of Excellence (formally known as St. Elizabeth)**

**170 Hussa Street, Linden, NJ 07036 Online option available as well.**

**\*Accessing Services and ‘Natural Supports’**

Everyone has a right to be involved in their community. There are many supports for people with disabilities to help them do just that. This workshop will discuss services for accessing the community and will provide hands-on tools for helping students to obtain natural supports in the community. It will also include conversations on how to navigate some of the challenges associated with accessing services.

**RSVP:** Celia Dipolvere cdipolvere@lindenps.org

**February 17, 2022 at 7:30 pm**

**Virtual Only**

**\*Yes, Your Child Can Work! Working Toward Employment for People With I/DD**

For many people, a job is something that helps define who they are. It gives us a meaningful place to go every day, a way to explore our interests, a means of earning money, and a way to be a part of our community. This workshop will discuss different employment options available to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and hands-on tools for preparing students for employment.

**RSVP:** Sarah McCulloh, Transition Coordinator, (908) 851-4431, smcculloh@twpunionschools.org

**May 19, 2022 at 7:30pm**

**Governor Livingston High School IMC (library), 175 Watchung Blvd., Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922 Online option available as well.**

**\*Yes, Your Child Can Work! Working Toward Employment for People With I/DD**

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**RSVP:** Steve Siebelts, Social Worker, Berkeley Heights Public Schools, (908) 464-3100 ext. 2413, ssiebelts@bhpsnj.org

**CHOICES MEMBERS:**

Sarah McCulloh, Transition Coordinator

Vanessa Tuohy, Transition Coordinator

Township of Union School District

Union High School (UHS)

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VT- (908) 851-6538, vtuohy@twpunionschools.org

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921 Elizabeth Avenue, 3rd Floor

Elizabeth, N. J. 07201-2306

Tel: (908) 965-3940

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Linden School District

908-587-3285x8663, cdipolvere@lindenps.org

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