



## Membership Update



The Arc of Bay County is proud of its membership which currently stands at about 110 individuals, families and businesses. Some of our members and families were here in the beginning. That might be you, what were you doing in 1952, or maybe you weren't born yet? As we continue to grow our chapter, we are planning to host a Membership dinner. This event will likely take place in February of 2025. We will send a ***"save the date"*** after the holidays. This is important for us to meet our Chapter obligations, and to align with the State and Arc US. Also, who doesn't want an update on activities, programs and future plans? This also is your opportunity to nominate members to create a slate for election of board members who then serve on your behalf.

---

## Medicare/Medicaid **ALERT!**

In addition to Medicare's annual "Open Enrollment" some popular insurance plans for people who have Medicare and Medicaid (dual eligibles) are ending coverage. This means doctors and healthcare providers will no longer accept this insurance in 2025. Persons need to chose a different plan. Here's why it matters:

1. For 2025, three of the most popular dual eligible insurance plans that included up to \$200 EACH Month for buying groceries, personal care items, and pet food...will NOT be available in 2025, they are:  
***United Health Care, Aetna and WellCare***
2. In the past, most people had a Case Manager at Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health, a contract organization or another Community Mental Health who helped them chose healthcare coverage. Many people have been dropped from service either because they missed appointments, were not able to get to them, or because the system decided they no longer needed support, if this is you, or someone you support chose a new plan. If you want to talk about it before making a choice, call Michigan's Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program operated locally by Region VII AAA or 800-858-1637, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or give us a call (989) 893-1346.
3. Don't panic! If you're eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, you can change your plan every 30 days.

## End of Year Giving?



If you're in a position to do some end of the year giving, consider The Arc of Bay County, we are a Thrivent "Donor choice" organization, or help us save for the future by adding to our endowment fund at Bay Area Community Foundation.

If you have a fundraising idea for us, or want to talk more about where the money goes call us up, and we'll setup a a visit. *The Arc of Bay County is a not for profit 501 c 3 tax deductible organization.*

---

## Independent Facilitation

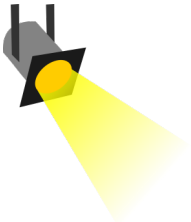
When a person receives services from community mental health organization, those services are based on a person-centered plan, or iPOS (plan of service) that budgets and outlines what is needed, wanted and how it will be provided.

The Arc of Bay County has facilitators available to assist any person who wishes to have us at the table for their meeting, and also the pre-planning session at no cost to them. The Arc is reimbursed \$150 for each facilitation by the community mental health organization.

Contracts are in place for 2025 with:

- ◆ Bay Arenac Behavioral Health
- ◆ Clinton, Eaton, Ingham CMH
- ◆ Saginaw CMH
- ◆ Shiawassee Wellness
- ◆ Tuscola Behavioral Health

Facilitators have a variety of planning tools that can be used to help a person identify and communicate to the professionals what is important to them, outline supports and persons outside of the systems who are part of a person's life, and organize before the meeting.



### Facilitator Spotlight: Joani Hogan

Meet Joani Hogan, a retired social worker who works one day a week with The Arc of Bay

County. When she's not facilitating a person-centered plan, she is advocating and providing support to people we serve. Ms. Hogan comes to us with experience having worked with children with complex disabilities in California, at the Macomb Oakland Regional Center in Metro Detroit with people who have DD/IDD, and as a case manager with Michigan's nursing facility diversion, known as the Medicaid MI Choice home and community-based waiver. Find her bio along with the other facilitators on our website at [www.arcbc.com](http://www.arcbc.com)



## Rep Payee Update

Our work as an Organizational Representative Payee helps people who otherwise would struggle to pay their basic need bills using their income from Social Security Administration.

Our Lead Rep Payee Karen Cramer starts by meeting with the person and building them an individual budget, learning about their financial needs and desires and then setting up the routine payment of their basic need bills. Personal spending is dispensed in a responsible manner with a variety of choices available including prepaid debit cards, bank transfers or handwritten checks. We partner with the Great Lakes Federal Credit Union, and continue to automate processes for efficient financial management. If you, or someone you know might benefit from this service give us a call.



*Karen Cramer & Laura Roth  
on your 2nd Anniversary of work at  
The Arc of Bay County*

## We Appreciate Your Support

Thank You Meijer team members at Store #48 Wilder Road Bay City for choosing the Arc of Bay County for a \$5000 donation.



Thank You to everyone who “rounded up” their purchases at Goodwill store at North Pointe Plaza this summer to benefit us, your donations added up to \$709!

Thank You to Cops & Doughnuts on Midland Street for providing doughnuts for our Coffee and Doughnut mornings at the Arc of Bay County.

Thank You to everyone who sends us money for supplies, stops by to say hi, and to our volunteers who keep our building and grounds in shape.

## Educational Advocacy

Even before school started this fall, calls were coming in from families looking for help for their children. Sometimes the disabilities that impact a child’s ability to learn are obvious, or known to both school personnel and parent, but not always. That’s where Jan Lampman comes in, not a day goes by that she’s not talking to a family, building relationships with the schools or troubleshooting. This work is funded by grants from the Arc of Michigan and the Michigan Alliance for Families. Every child has a right to a *Free, and Appropriate Public Education*. If you know of a child struggling at school, give Jan a call at (989) 859-0173.

## Bay County Neighborhood Watch



The Bay County Sheriff and Mike Bristow are re-introducing Neighborhood Watch by hosting presentations to community groups. They are providing a checklist and tips on how you can make your home safe, and discussing when to call 911 versus calling the backline to law enforcement to report a concern. Here at the Arc of Bay County we realize that calls made to 911 by people we serve are sometimes situations where a person with DD/IDD needs support. If you’d like a copy of the Neighborhood Watch information complete with a laminated sign to place in your window, call Laura at the Arc (989) 893-1346 and let her know.

## Welcome Linda Cassar

We are pleased to welcome Linda Cassar to The Arc of Bay County. Ms. Cassar comes to us with experience in fundraising and event coordination, along with a background in art, and teaching art to persons with DD/IDD most recently at the Arnold Center in Midland, and prior to that at Do Art in Bay City.

One of her first tasks will be to implement the Community-wide survey of persons with DD/IDD along with businesses, organizations, families and natural supports. This project is funded by the Squires Foundation and is expected to provide the Arc with data so we can write for larger grants.



## Christmas is coming...



...and we could use some gift cards. As winter approaches, we get extra requests from people we serve for everything from clothing and food to cleaning supplies. If you’re looking for a way to make an immediate difference in someone’s life, we can make that happen. Donations of any amount are appreciated, it’s often a sandwich and coffee at McDonalds, or \$10 from Dollar General or Walmart that makes someone’s day.



709 Columbus Avenue  
Bay City MI 48708

Your Arc is open Monday thru Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM & other times by appointment  
CALL (989) 893-1346 • e-mail: [annette.jeske@arcbc.com](mailto:annette.jeske@arcbc.com) • find us on Facebook

-----  
***Join, donate or renew your membership at [www.arcbc.com](http://www.arcbc.com) or return this form with payment, Thank You!***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ MI Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Save a stamp & send e-mails to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ New Member

\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_ \$30/year Single

\_\_\_\_ \$50/year Family

\_\_\_\_ \$100/Business

Return this form w/payment to: The Arc of Bay County  
709 Columbus Avenue  
Bay City, MI 48708

