

## **The Arc of New Jersey's 28th Annual Conference on Medical Care for Persons with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities June 2, 2017**

On June 2, The Arc of New Jersey's Mainstreaming Medical Care Program hosted its 28th Annual Conference at the Westin Princeton Hotel. In attendance were more than 330 health care professionals; staff from agencies providing services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD); family members; staff from the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD); and representatives from Medicaid managed care organizations.

The day-long conference began with opening remarks from The Arc of New Jersey President, **Robert Hage**; Executive Director, **Thomas Baffuto**; Chair of the Mainstreaming Medical Care Advisory Board, **Leone Murphy**; and Director of the Mainstreaming Medical Care Program, **Beverly Roberts**.

**Elizabeth Connolly**, Acting Commissioner of New Jersey's Department of Human Services, started the morning Plenary Session, emphasizing the significance of The Arc of New Jersey's work, year after year, helping families and staff understand how to access health care services for individuals with I/DD.

The morning keynote speaker **Janet Shouse**, Program Coordinator for the IDD Toolkit at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center in Nashville TN, gave a very informative presentation on the IDD Toolkit, a valuable online resource for health care providers, families and other caregivers to help clinicians better serve adults with IDD. ([www.IDDToolkit.org](http://www.IDDToolkit.org)) The tools, based on consensus guidelines from Canada and adapted for use in the U.S. provide comprehensive information on the physical and mental health needs of adults with I/DD, including Health Watch Tables for several disorders and genetic syndromes. For more details on the IDD Toolkit, see the first article in this edition of the Healthy Times newsletter. To see the slides from Ms. Shouse's presentation: Improving Access to Health Care for People with Disabilities with the IDD Toolkit, please go to the IDD Toolkit article located in the Summer 2017 Health Times.

The keynote presentation on the IDD Toolkit was followed by informative updates from **Meghan Davey**, Director of the NJ Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, and **Darlene Yannetta**, Director of Provider and Constituent Relations for the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities.

The afternoon keynote speaker, **Deborah Klaszky**, MSN, APN-C, is a Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurse and Clinical Instructor for Rowan University, School of Medicine, NJ Institute for Successful Aging, and she also has a private practice in Medford, NJ. Ms. Klaszky discussed behavioral and psychiatric symptoms in individuals with I/DD, and explained strategies for selecting evidence-based treatments. The Antecedent-Behavior-Consequence (ABC) Model was discussed as an approach for managing challenging behaviors and psychiatric symptoms such as agitation, aggression and anxiety.

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference also featured five morning and five afternoon workshops that focused on a variety of timely, highly-informative medical, dental, and behavioral health care issues that are important to the developmental disability community. We would like to thank all conference attendees and exhibitors, as well as the generous support from the sponsors.



Speakers at the Morning Plenary Session, left to right: **Joanne Bergin**, President Elect, The Arc of New Jersey; **Meghan Davey**, Director, NJ Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services; Morning Keynote Speaker **Janet Shouse**, Program Coordinator, The IDD Toolkit, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, Nashville, TN; **Leone Murphy**, APN, Chair, Mainstreaming Medical Care Advisory Board; **Beverly Roberts**, Director, The Arc of New Jersey's Mainstreaming Medical Care Program; **Darlene Yannetta**, Director, Provider and Constituent Relations, DDD; **Thomas Baffuto**, Executive Director, The Arc of New Jersey.



Left to right: **Thomas Baffuto**, Executive Director, The Arc of New Jersey; **Leone Murphy**, APN, Chair, Mainstreaming Medical Care Advisory Board; Afternoon Keynote Speaker **Deborah Klaszky**, Psychiatric APN, Clinical Instructor, Rowan University, School of Medicine; **Beverly Roberts**, Director, The Arc of New Jersey's Mainstreaming Medical Care Program.