The Arc Maryland is pleased to announce Susan Somerville-Hawes as the director of Public Policy and Advocacy - Children and Families. Susan is an attorney licensed to practice in the State of Maryland with 30 years of experience, including 11 years as an assistant attorney general in the Educational Affairs Division advising her clients on a variety of policy and legal issues including civil rights, student affairs, ADA and employment discrimination.

As Delegate Sandy Rosenberg's chief of staff for the past eight years, she spearheaded his legislative agenda, drafted testimony and prepared witnesses for bill hearings, recruited and supervised law school interns and managed his legislative office. Susan worked closely with advocates on pre-K legislation and with the Maryland Civil Rights Commission. While an attorney with the Department of Legislative Services in Annapolis, Susan drafted legislation and worked with the Administrative, Executive and Regulatory Review Legislative Committee (AELR) on regulatory review and analysis.

Her experience with children and families includes four years as chair of the Enterprise Women’s Network Mentor Program serving first through eighth grade girls at two schools in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood in West Baltimore.

Susan officially began her work with The Arc Maryland last week. Her email is ssomervillehawes@thearcmd. Her focus areas include special education, childcare, early intervention and education, and families. This position was created to expand the scope and reach of The Arc Maryland's advocacy work to include children and their families.

Welcome aboard Susan!