



Alliance for the Betterment of
Citizens with Disabilities

Empowering People: Providers Shaping Policies

FY'24 Accomplishments

- A second, consecutive across the board increase for all DDD Community Services and Supports after a prolonged dry spell of 15 years. ¹
- Three introductory meetings between the ABCD Board and New Jersey Gubernatorial primary candidates. Additional meetings are being planned for FY'25.
- Formation of the PPMU Leadership Standing Committee by The Arc, NJACP, ABCD and DDD.
- Participation in ACNJ's Unlocking Potential Part II Standing Committee (UP), to prioritize voices of expectant parents, caregivers, and services providers as a driving force for prenatal to three services.
- Participation in DDD's special committees which include Direct Support Professional Competency and Capacity Building Committee, Support Coordination Competency and Capacity Building Committee, NJCAT Focus Group, Sample Behavioral Policy Work Group, and Internal Referrals Work Group.
- Securing administrative support from DHS for a high school internship/mentorship pilot program with one of ABCD's day program providers. ABCD hopes the final policy/procedure will be available for use by other interested day programs.
- Based on ABCD survey and advocacy efforts regarding the corrosive effects of underfunded transportation in DH rates, ² agreement by DDD to entertain a change of policy supported by the three trade associations. Trade associations are currently working on a policy to propose to DDD for consideration.
- Securing support of the New Jersey Psychological Association and National Association of Social Workers- New Jersey Chapter of ABCD's policy on the provision of behavioral supports in DDD Community programs.
- Successfully continuing to prevent the Camera Bill and SDE bill from passing into law.

¹ Cost of Providing Care secured a 1.0% increase in the FY'07 Budget and a 1.5% increase in the FY'08 Budget

² Though the increase is greatly appreciated it does not solve the problem, which is policy oriented. ABCD will continue to advocate for a change in policy to secure present and future health of DH and access to transportation by the individuals who need it.

In addition:

- Creation of ABCD Associate Member Lecture Series
- Creation of the Supports Program Forum
- Creation of the Supervisors Forum
- Working with ASAH to help providers plan for future needs and desires of students transitioning into the DDD system.
- 255 bills reviewed each of which we have taken a position on and continued to monitor with additional action taken as needed.
- 99 ABCD member meetings led by 44 members.
- 9 new/revised policy positions.
- 10 website education trainings

July 16, 2024