



# 2019 Annual Report



***The Arc***<sup>®</sup>  
*of Larimer County*

## A message from our Board President

I am continually inspired and energized by the work of The Arc of Larimer County. In 2019, staff set in motion several key drivers supporting our mission of inclusion: community-wide policy initiatives, strong educational support, the creation of new programs, and grants and donations supporting our individuals and families. I am grateful that staff continue to remove barriers so that people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities will live, work, and play alongside everyone else. I am also grateful for the individuals and families that continue to push us to even greater success.

Thank you all for your continued support. We look forward to continuing to support you in the years ahead.

- Beth Higgins

## A message from our Executive Director

2019 turned out to be the year of change. At the time, who knew what 2020 would bring? The Arc of Larimer County experienced a change in leadership, added new staff members, and re-organized staff some responsibilities. Through all of this change, we continued to advocate for the people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in Larimer County. Both the staff and Board of Directors believe these changes will aid in our growth and service. The phrase "the more things change, the more they stay the same" comes to mind when looking forward. While our efforts positively impact the people we serve, advocacy needs in areas such as special education, employment, and access to community services remain. The work continues. We look forward to advocating for the people we serve in these areas and expanding our advocacy in new realms to further improve the lives of people with disabilities.

- J. Patrick Hackney, JD

## Board Members

### Executive Committee:

**President:** Beth Higgins

**Vice President:** Lori Snider

**Secretary:** Brad Smith

**Treasurer:** Ryann Hodge

### Directors:

Dani Taylor

Joyce Saffel

Tena Green

Jeffrey McCubbin

Kendal Nolan

## Staff

**Executive Director:** Patrick Hackney

**Director of Advocacy:** Jessica Shouse

**Communications Coordinator & Systems Advocacy Specialist:** Cari Brown

**Development Director:** Alexandra Stanke

**Youth Advocate:** Melissa Welch

**Adult Advocate:** Atlanta Cozad

**Office Coordinator:** Rita Hinds

# Systems Advocacy

## City Plan

Lack of access to transportation is a frequently reported barrier to full community participation. We received a grant from The City of Fort Collins to gather feedback from people with intellectual and developmental disabilities during City Plan - a comprehensive update to the City's land use, transportation, and transit plan.



**Six outreach events held between 2018 - 2019 for people with I/DD and their guardians.**

## Breakfast Town Hall

We were proud to again partner with Foothills Gateway and Spirit Crossing Clubhouse to host a Breakfast Town Hall. This annual event is a great opportunity for people living with disabilities or mental illness to ask questions to candidates or elected officials.



## Reducing Unemployment

People with disabilities have been historically unemployed/ underemployed at significantly higher rates than adults without disabilities. In 2018, the Larimer County Board of County Commissioners committed to reducing the unemployment rate of people with disabilities by 5%. A committee was founded to bring together advocates, employers, and county employees to magnify efforts. The Arc of Larimer County was an active participant and helped implement:



**A workshop for people with I/DD and their guardians covering employment supports available.**



**A workshop for CSU students majoring in business about hiring people with I/DD.**



**A workshop for employers about hiring people with I/DD**



**A public awareness campaign**

## Financial Resource Development

Colorado Gives Day 2019 - \$2,221.02

End of Year Giving – \$1,505.00

Grants Awarded – \$19,310.00

Fundraiser Community Breakfast – \$7,420.00

Annual Meeting – \$1,780.00

Total Membership in 2019: 109

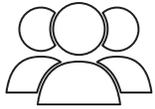
Total Grants, Gifts and Donations in 2019 Outside of arc Thrift Allocation: \$63,492.83

# Individual Advocacy

## In 2019, we



Provided 2,500 hours of individual advocacy at no cost



Served approximately 500 individuals



Valued at \$187,500\*

\*based on market rates for non-attorney advocates

Some advocacy requests result in a one-time referral while others become years-long efforts - all depending on what is needed.

## Frequent Areas of Assistance



Education / IEPs



Employment



Criminal Justice



DHS & Child Protection



Resource Connection/  
Referral



General guidance with  
SSI/Medicaid/HCBS-Waivers

## People First

People First is a self-directed group of self-advocates that is sponsored and facilitated by The Arc of Larimer County. They meet monthly to develop advocacy skills, provide input on various projects, and learn.

Highlights from 2019 include:

- 5 members of People First were able to attend The Arc's National Conference held in Washington D.C.
- The group finished their By-Laws
- Started formal conversations on how we can introduce transition-aged students to the group and the important work they are doing.
- In 2019, staff of The Arc of Larimer County spent 300 hours supporting People First - a critical investment to ensure that the voices of people with I/DD are heard and respected.



# Magnifying Efforts

## Healthy Bodies, Healthy Boundaries

The ability to form a variety of relationships with healthy boundaries is a critical skill - including for people living with I/DD. Our Director of Advocacy, Jessica Shouse, recognizing the need, formed partnerships with SAVA and the Responsible Sex Ed Institute back in 2018. Together, they were able to host workshops for adults and young adults with I/DD. The workshop course included defining common relationships, what is consent, and how to establish appropriate boundaries. In 2019, a group of self-advocates also came together to film a series of short videos as a supplement to the workshop series. The video topics include consent, boundaries, types of communication and exploring dating.



## Wrightslaw Conference

As requests for help with IEPs or navigating Special Education is a recurring advocacy theme, we partnered with The Arc of Weld County to host a Wrightslaw Conference in April 2019.

Over 300 attendees came from around Colorado and the United States, including parents, educators, and advocates.



## Film Festival Estimated attendance: 221

Intended to dispel stereotypes about people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the Annual Film Festival features short films that spread awareness.



## Other Workshops Offered:



**Financial Planning Options**



**Wills and Trusts**



**Disability Awareness for Law Enforcement**



**Guardianship and Less Restrictive Options**

# In the Community

Recognized as the Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce "Business of the Month"



Selected as one of the first organizations to receive Bags for Change at the new Fort Collins Lucky's Market

In the Loveland Corn Roast Parade



Open house to welcome our new Executive Director, Patrick Hackney

As a food link partner with the Larimer County Food Bank, we provided turkeys to 73 families before Thanksgiving.



I/DD Awareness Day at the Colorado Capitol