

The Arc of Chester County
Chat n Chew Training Schedule Fall 2025

Individual Education Plan (IEP) Basics
Wednesday, September 17, 2025 – 11:30am – 1:00pm

The Education Advocates from The Arc of Chester County will take you through the basics of disability categories and eligibility, evaluations, terms, law and timelines, and the parts of an IEP. It is important that you understand the evaluation and IEP process as well as crucial timelines. This is valuable training for anyone assisting a child with an IEP.

Bullying
Wednesday, September 24, 2025 – 11:30am – 1:00pm

Violence Prevention Educator Deni Tobin from The Crime Victims Center of Chester County will be here to talk about bullying. Bullying is a systemic problem in all schools that affects most students at some time in their life. Deni will discuss how to detect the signs of bullying, the impact it has, and how to handle it.

Life Sharing
Wednesday, October 1, 2025 – 11:30am – 1:00pm

Join Carmen Saur, Program Specialist with the Department of Mental Health/Intellectual and developmental Disabilities, to learn about Life Sharing, what is it, what does it look like, who is a good candidate, how it is funded, and more.

Connecting Services and Natural Supports
Wednesday, October 8, 2025 – 11:30am – 1:00pm

The County's MH/IDD department started a new training course around services and life as an adult. Please join Julie Moyer as she talks about eligibility, what the services are, the waiting list process, and more. We will also have a parent talk about what life is like for their adult child. This session is perfect for transition age parents to learn about the process and hear from parents of adults what their child's life is like.

**Empowering Families: Navigating Autism, Trauma and
Kinship Family Supports in Chester County**
Wednesday, October 15, 2025 – 11:30am – 1:00pm

This panel features three dedicated professionals committed to enhancing the lives of families through specialized support and resources: Tara Trievel, M.Ed., Certified Autism Specialist, and founder of 2besocial brings her expertise in Autism support, focusing on social skills, development, and parenting support. Leslie Holt, Director of A Child's Light and Certified Recovery and Trauma Specialist will share her extensive knowledge of trauma recovery and offer guidance and healing strategies for children and families. Deborah Willett, Program Coordinator of GRAND Family and Kinship Connections of Chester County will discuss how to support kinship families, providing essential resources and advocacy for those raising children who are not their own.

Comprehensive Employment Services

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 – 11:30am – 1:00pm

Learn about comprehensive employment services, what it is, and how does it work. Shelby Hallman, Director of Comprehensive Employment at The Arc of Chester County, will be here to explain the process and what it looks like for families and participants.

Wednesday, October 29, 2025 – SESSION CANCELLED

Self-Directing Waiver Services with Agency with Choice

Wednesday, November 5, 2025 – 11:30am – 1:00pm

Kathy Klein, Director of Agency with Choice at The Arc of Chester County will be here to talk about the benefits of self-directing waiver services. You have control over who works with your loved ones and the schedule. Kathy will talk about self-direction and how it works with Agency with Choice (AWC).

Housing Options for Individuals with Waiver Funding

Wednesday, November 12, 2025 – 11:30 – 1:00pm

Are you curious about how to set your child up in a home of your choice and the staffing options? Experienced experts, Jeanne Meikrantz, CEO of The Arc of Chester County, Stephanie Kilcoyne, Deputy Administrator of MH/IDD and Julie Moyer, Program Specialist, Chester County MH/IDD will explain how to do this, so come listen! Mary Anne Cenci, a parent who has accomplished this, will also join to share her story.

Social Security Disability Benefits – Part I

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 – 11:30am – 1:00pm

You can never learn too much about Social Security Benefits. Please join Richard Gaudiosi, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration for a presentation about benefits and educate yourself on the details. Topics will include Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Income, how to apply, how to appeal and how to answer questions.

Assistive Technology

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 – 11:30am – 1:00pm

Join Judy Glass, OTR/L, and Diane Speroff, M.A., CCC-SLP from The Arc of Chester County for an informative session on Assistive Technology (AT). These highly trained therapists will guide you through how AT can empower individuals by providing tools matched to their unique needs.

Social Security Disability Benefits – Part II

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 – 11:30am – 1:00pm

Join Richard Gaudiosi, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration for more detailed information on disability benefits. The presentation will focus on how working and income affects your benefits. He will review the Ticket to Work program and answer questions.