

The Arc of Chester County
Chat n Chew Training Schedule Spring 2026

All About Medicare
Wednesday, February 18, 2026
11:30 – 1:00pm

Pennsylvania Medicare Education and Decision Insight (PA MEDI) provides free, unbiased Medicare counseling to help you navigate your options with confidence. PA MEDI counselors are specially trained to answer your questions and offer clear, easy-to-understand information about Medicare, Medicare Supplement Insurance, Medicaid, and Long-Term Care Insurance. During this session, you will learn about Medicare benefits and the services covered under Medicare Parts A and B, gain a better understanding of Medicare Prescription Drug coverage (Part D), and explore how to make informed choices about Medicare coverage options. We will also discuss Medigap policies, Medicare Advantage Plans, and other important considerations—empowering you to choose the coverage that best fits your needs.

Guardianship and Power of Attorney
Wednesday, February 25, 2026
11:30am – 1:00pm

One of the most important decisions a parent, family member, or caregiver may face is whether to pursue guardianship or power of attorney for a loved one. What's the difference? When is each appropriate? And is it truly necessary? Join expert Randy Hope Steen, Esquire, for an informative and practical discussion that breaks down these options in clear, understandable terms. Gain the knowledge you need to make confident, informed decisions and get your questions answered about this important topic.

ABLE Accounts: Planning for a More Secure Future
Wednesday, March 4, 2026
11:30 – 1:00pm

Want to know what is the best way to save for a loved one with a disability without jeopardizing vital benefits? The Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014 provides a powerful solution that allows individuals with disabilities to save money without affecting Supplemental Security benefits or Medicaid eligibility. Plus, earnings grow tax-free at the federal level. Join Diana Fishlock, Outreach Specialist with the Pennsylvania Treasury Bureau of Savings Programs, for an informative and practical session on ABLE accounts. Learn what ABLE accounts are, how to open one, who is eligible, and the many advantages they offer for long-term financial planning. Bring your questions and leave with clear, actionable information to help you plan with confidence.

Estate Planning & Special Needs Trusts

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

11:30am – 1:00pm

Join us for an empowering and informative session designed for families who have a loved one with a disability. Estate planning can feel overwhelming—but you don't have to navigate it alone. Stephen D. Potts, Esquire, of Herr, Potts and Potts, will break down the essentials of Special Needs Planning, explain the different types of Special Needs Trusts, and help you understand which option best protects your loved one's future. Discover why these trusts are so important, gain clarity on your choices, and leave with your questions confidently answered.

From School to Adulthood: Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities – Part I

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

11:30am – 1:00pm

The transition from school to adulthood can feel overwhelming for families of students with disabilities—but thoughtful planning can make all the difference. It's never too early to start preparing for what comes next. Join Beth Heinz, Phantom Foundations Vocational Specialist and PASD Transition Coordinator, and Meaghan Stolnis, Training and Consultation Specialist from the Chester County Intermediate Unit, for an informative and practical session on transition planning. Learn how to begin planning for life after school, how to develop a meaningful transition plan within an IEP, and what supports, services, and resources are available to help guide you through the process.

From School to Adulthood: Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities – Part II

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

11:30am – 1:00pm

You can never have too much information when planning for your child's transition into adulthood. Thoughtful, strategic planning helps create a clear path toward a smoother progression into adult systems, community programs, and meaningful employment opportunities. Join Kim Ring, CCIU Community-Based Instruction & Adult Services Supervisor, and Stacey Barton, CCIU Special Education/Community-Based Instruction Supervisor, for an informative session on CCIU transition programs. Learn what programs are available, how to determine whether they are the right fit for your family, and the steps to access these valuable supports.

Social Security Disability Benefits – Part I

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

11:30am – 1:00pm

You can never have too much information about Social Security benefits. Join Richard Gaudiosi, Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration, for an informative session that will help you understand and navigate these essential programs. Learn about SSI and SSDI, how to apply, the appeals process, and how to handle common questions, arming you with the knowledge to make informed decisions and access the benefits you or your loved ones deserve.

Social Security Disability Benefits – Part II**Wednesday, April 8, 2026****11:30am – 1:00pm**

We welcome back Richard Gaudiosi, Public Affairs Specialist with the Social Security Administration, for an in-depth session on disability benefits. This presentation will focus on how working and income can impact your benefits, explain the Ticket to Work program, and provide practical guidance to help you make informed decisions. Bring your questions and get clear, expert answers on navigating work and benefits.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)**Wednesday, April 15, 2026****11:30am – 1:00pm**

Join Angelica Webster, Early Reach Coordinator with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), for an informative session on how OVR supports individuals with disabilities in achieving meaningful employment. Learn what OVR is, the services and supports it offers, and how OVR can assist your loved one in preparing for, finding, and maintaining a job. Gain valuable insight into employment pathways and discover how OVR can help turn career goals into reality.

How to use Chesco Connect**Wednesday, April 22, 2026****11:30am – 1:00pm**

Join Gene Suski from the Chester County Department of Transportation as he provides an overview of transportation services available for Chester County residents through Chesco Connect. With multiple public transportation providers serving the county, understanding which service to use, when to use it, and why it is essential in successfully navigating the local transit system. This session will explain how each provider differs based on service areas and funding streams and provide you with the knowledge to confidently access and utilize Chesco Connect services to meet your transportation needs.

TBD**Wednesday, April 29, 2026****11:30am – 1:00pm**