

Arizona Respite Network Meeting Notes

10.18.22

Goals of the Arizona Respite Network:

- To review and strengthen the respite system in Arizona through collaborative partnerships, advocacy, and education on current resources available.

The Network was asked if they had 1-2 things they would like to see changed about the current respite system, what would those changes be:

- John Cottor stated that changes in how facilities are licensed and the reimbursement for family caregivers being more appropriate.
- Broader definition of respite to include short-term, long-term, overnight, etc.
- Monika: Bridging the referral network and process.
- Dominic: FMLA extended
- Cat: Title 3E - expansion on hours of respite available
 - Currently caregivers receive 40 hours of respite a month through Title 3E funding, which equates to roughly 8 hours of in-home respite a week.
 - Institutions offer 4-5 days of Respite and Cat would like to see AAA do the same
- Common definition of emergency respite, respite, caregiving, etc. that all agencies within the network can use

If you are interested in helping with creating broad definitions that can be used by all agencies, please email Kathrine at kathrine@azcaregiver.org.

ACC Updates:

- We have extended our Respite voucher program to include a \$1200 option that helps cover part-time respite for one year
 - Information and screening is still available on our website. Same process, we just require one additional document for the \$1200 program from family caregivers which is a W9 since anything over \$600 is considered taxable income
 - We still have plenty availability for the voucher program if you have any family caregivers you would like to refer to us!
- Mini Grants:
 - We have plenty of funds available for mini grants through the Lifespan Respite Grant. If you or any other organization you know wants to begin or expand on emergency respite services, overnight services, or other programs, please direct them to our site: <https://azcaregiver.org/service/arizona-respite-network/>

2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers: RAISE Act

- In September, the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers was released and is now open for public comment. Please visit: <https://acl.gov/CaregiverStrategy> to learn more
- The strategy has a broad definition of family caregiver as well that can be used when looking into common language

Lita: Division of Aging and Adult Services is working to align this strategy with the State Plan on Aging

- Help with identification of gaps in services and eligibility requirements
- If other organizations have data on the family caregivers in Arizona, please share so we can create a report on family caregivers in Arizona

Presentations:

- Care 4 the Caregivers: <https://care4thecaregivers.org/>
 - Presenter: Michele Thorn
 - Care 4 the Caregiver helps family caregivers who are caring for children with developmental disabilities
 - Resources Page: <https://care4thecaregivers.org/resources/>
 - Education, Financial and Legal, Fitness, Guided Meditations, Standout Organizations, Tools and Webinars are all available for family caregivers on this page.
 - Tools available include DDD Tools, Behavior Communication Chart, Tube Feeding Form, Self Care Checklist, and DDD Team Tool.
 - Workshops and webinars are available for free for family caregivers
 - Caregivers do receive a certificate after attending workshops offered through Care 4 the Caregivers
 - Partner with the Phoenix Symphony and Arizona Opera House on providing tickets and special events for family caregivers
- Raising Special Kids: <https://raisingspecialkids.org/>
 - Presenter: Paulina Serna
 - Focus: AZ Parent Training and Info
 - Parent-to-parent mentoring: IEP partners, 1:1 consultation,, parent training
 - Connections - accurate info - special education and coaching for parents
 - Offer consultations
 - Provides information on Community resources
 - Transition to High School Training available
 - Parent Leadership Development
 - All materials are in English and Spanish
 - Services are free to parents
- Ability360: <https://ability360.org/>
 - Presenter: Penny Fore
 - Ability360 focuses on assisting Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities
 - Sports programs available for youth
 - Caregivers get a break while their child participates in sports
 - Wheelchair basketball programs
 - Grants available for athletic equipment for families

- Breaking Barriers Outdoor Activities in the community - help caregivers get a break and connect with other families and children
- Recreation therapy is offered from certified trainers and is fully integrated
- Life transition programs available to help with the transition to adulthood
- Help parents get on SSI and ARPA Funds
- Work incentive program to help families keep their benefits
- Independent Living Centers
 - Information Referrals
 - Housing
 - Home Modifications
 - Advocacy for All
 - Peer Support
 - Partner Support
- Helps parents apply for ALTCS - Home modifications through ALTCS
 - Case manager agrees and approves home modification request
 - Case manager makes recommendations
 - Partner with organizations such as MercyCare to complete the home modifications
- ASA Now: <https://www.asanow.org/>
 - Presenter: Brandis Coon
 - Focuses on assisting families with foster children
 - 3 Separate Nonprofits: ASA Now, Jacob's Mission Community Center, and Shade Tree Academy
 - ASA Now helped with behavioral health services legislation - Jacobs Law
 - Previously, foster care children would be on waitlists for behavioral specialists 6 months - 1 year
 - Now illegal to put children on waitlist for services
 - Assists foster parents - unlicensed kinship caregivers
 - Offers 24/7 immediate needs such as food boxes and other supplies
 - ASA Now Hosts Parents Night Out, retreats, and family socials
 - Short-Term date night programs are available
 - Family camp programs are available
- AASK and Central Arizona Kinship Care Coalition: <http://azkincare.org/>
 - AASK Website: <https://www.aask-az.org/>
 - Respite services
 - Resource page available at <http://azkincare.org/>