

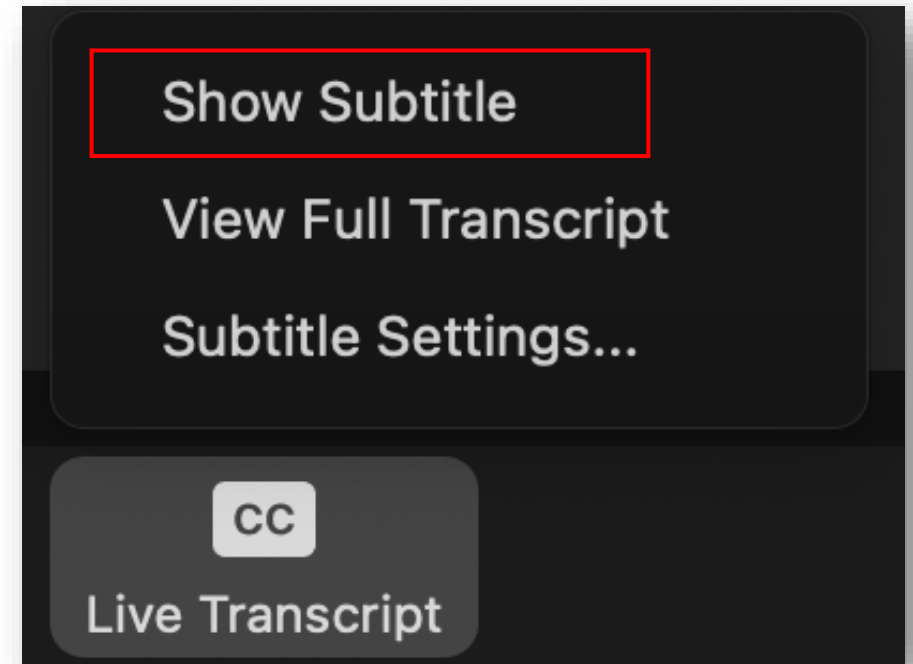


Becoming a Technology State

Leo Sarkissian, Executive Director, The Arc of Massachusetts
Ellen Taverna, Director of Public Policy, The Arc of
Massachusetts

Housekeeping Notes

- All attendees are muted
- You can turn on closed captions
 - Click on the live transcript button and select show subtitles
- If you need technical assistance during the session, please visit support.zoom.us or send a message to all panelist in the chat box



Supportive Technology in MA

- What is supportive technology?
 - Assistive technology
 - Remote supports & monitoring
- Why is supportive technology so important to people with IDD?



Older woman leaning over and showing young woman in wheelchair use of iPad.

Workforce Crisis and Technology Solutions

- Published “Resolving the Workforce Crisis” report in November 2018
- Strategy Solution – Implement technology for individuals’ advancement and service system improvements
- How can we transition those in institutions to home and community settings?
- Review regulations



A wooden board with letters on it spelling REPORT.

Nevertheless, we persisted...

- Started dialogue with MA DDS and trade association – how can we leverage technology for disability community and workforce?
- Research and initial outreach to other state chapters of The Arc (Colorado, New York, Michigan)
- Sought Guidance from our Board, COE and Steering Committee
- Approached Cabinet level staff with initial research and green light came quickly on collaboration

Assembling the Task Force



An image of people sitting around table with colorful thought bubbles.

- Established ADDP and DDS Task Force members
- Invited broad range of experts, professionals (SLPs), service providers, family members, and self-advocates w/ diverse roles and perspectives.
- 24 Task Force members

Modeling Other States & Forging Our Own Path



- Modeled Technology First States (Ohio & Tennessee)
- Assigned Homework to Task Force Members
- Developed Mission Statement

Modeling Other States & Forging Our Own Path (cont'd)

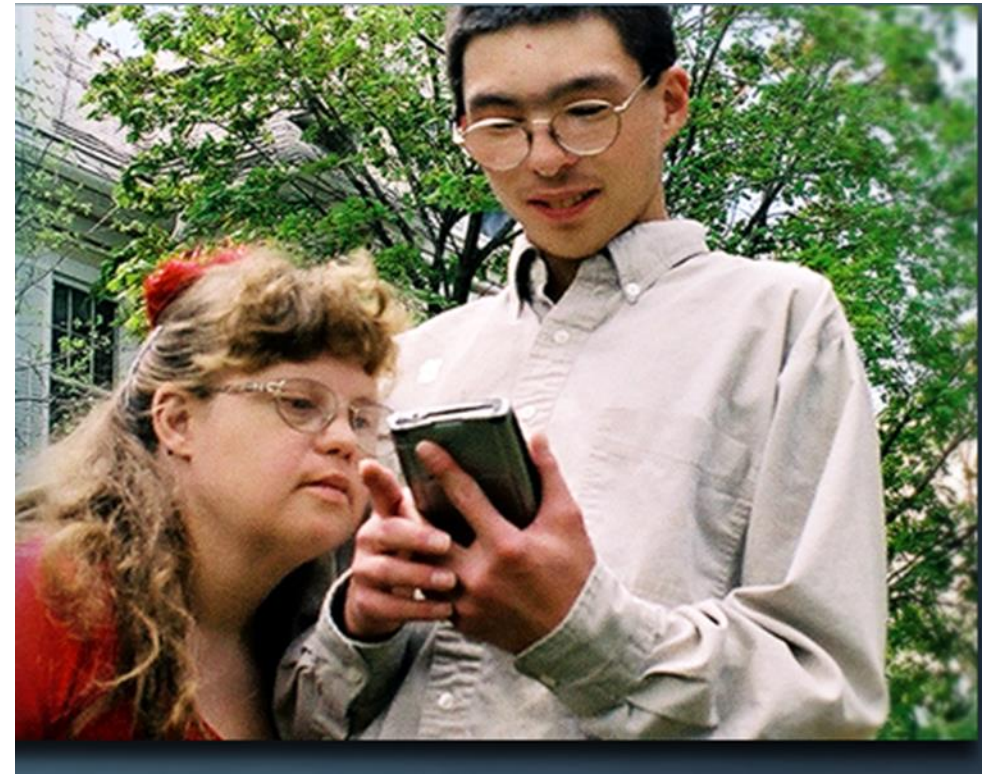
- Established Committees (Employment & Day, Residential and Family Supports) w/ Arc, Provider and DDS as Co-Chairs.
- Set goals for Committees (Surveys/Research)
- Created Draft Recommendations



A woman sitting in front of a laptop with hands up signing.

Issues Bubbled Up

- Segregation – technological segregation
- Human Rights – communication
- Positive impact on strained workforce



Young man showing young woman use of smart phone.

COVID-19 Impact

- Demonstrated supportive technology's potential
- Inequities in access to technology
- Task Force disruption & delay of public report and recommendations
- Need for long-term state plan



N95 masks and blue paper masks on a table.

Short-Term Goals

- FY'21 and proposed FY'22 DDS budget technology \$500,000 “line item”
- DDS proposed amending all three Adult Waivers to include new Technology Amendments
- 11 DDS grants to assist individuals with IDD to use supportive technology
- The Arc received a grant to initiate Tech Center resource and tools website - <https://thearcofmass.org/tech>
- Finalize Technology Report and Recommendations (mid-July 2021)



Photo of man in chair stretching watching computer with remote supports.

Long-Term Goals

- Tech champion at each agency
- Required piece of Individual Support Plan
- Assist in advancing skills in workforce
- Address socio-economic barriers via family support and individual outreach



Photo of Smart Phone

Contact Information



Ellen Taverna
Public Policy Director
The Arc of Massachusetts
Email: taverna@arcmass.org
Phone: 703-850-1438

Leo Sarkissian
Executive Director
The Arc of Massachusetts
Email: sarkissian@arcmass.org
Phone: 781-891-6270, 106

Up Next..

- **General Session – 11:30 am – 1:00 pm ET**
 - Policy Update from Washington DC
- **General/Networking Event – 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm ET**
 - Meet the Experts
- **General Session – 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm ET**
 - Workforce Initiatives that Work