



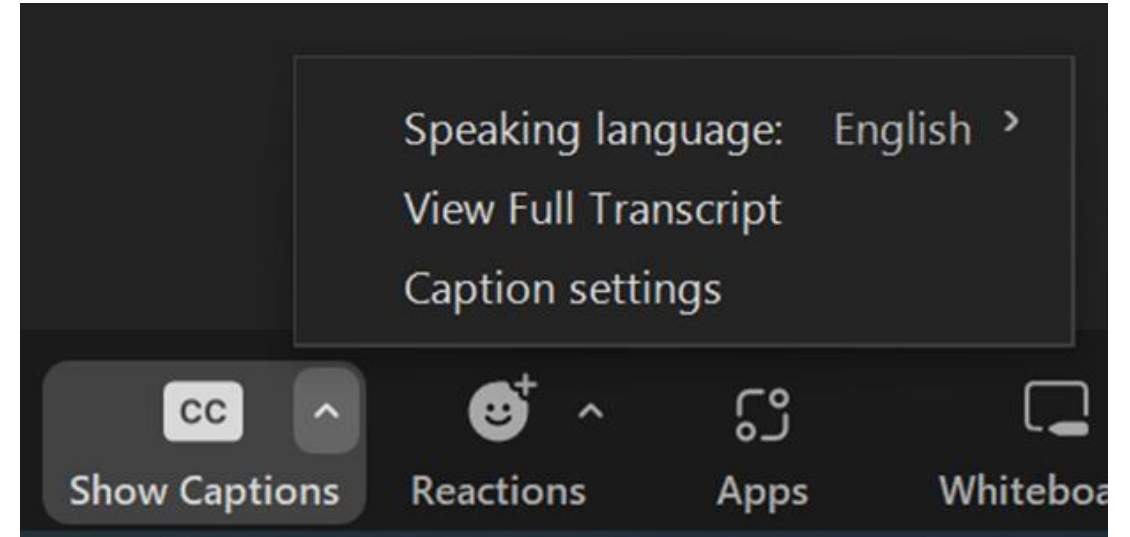
**The Arc**

*For people with intellectual  
and developmental disabilities*

# 2023 POLICY & ADVOCACY KICK OFF WEBINAR

# Housekeeping Items

- All attendees are muted
- This event will be captioned and interpreted in American Sign Language
- Closed captions are available
- Question and Answer
  - Hold questions till the end
- If you have technical problems during the webinar, please visit [support.zoom.us](https://support.zoom.us) or send a message to the host in the chat



# Agenda – A Big one!

## **Part I: Policy & Advocacy**

- 2022: What happened? – Robyn Linscott, Director of Education and Family Policy
- 2023: What is going on Capitol Hill? What can we expect from the new Congress? – Carlean Ponder, Director of Disability Rights & Housing Policy
- Current Advocacy Actions – Claire Manning, Senior Director of Advocacy & Mobilization

# Agenda – A Big one!

## **Part 2: Unwinding of Public Health Emergency & Medicaid Renewals**

- What does it mean for chapters and individuals? – David Goldfarb, Director of Long-Term Supports & Services
- New toolkit: Resources and materials – Jenny Alexander, Director of National Initiatives



# **Part 1: Policy & Advocacy Update**

# 2022: What happened?

- End-of-Year Wins:
  - **"Money Follows the Person"– MFP**
    - Extends the Medicaid Money Follows the Person program (MFP) through 2027. MFP enables state Medicaid programs to transition people out of institutions and into the community.
    - Extends the requirement that states apply Medicaid's spousal impoverishment protections to Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) through 2027.

# 2022: What happened?

- End-of-Year Wins:

- **ABLE Accounts:**

- Expands ABLE account eligibility. This bill increases the age of disability onset to access an ABLE account from prior to age 26 to age 46. The change becomes effective in 2026.

# 2022: What happened?

- End-of-Year Wins:
  - **JRC (Judge Rotenberg Center):**
    - Creates a pathway for the FDA to issue a new rule, banning the electrostimulation device, that can be upheld in court.
    - A new rule will still need to be issued by the FDA.



# What's going on in Congress?

- Split Congress
- House: 222 Republicans; 212 Democrats
- Senate: 51 Democrats/Independents; 49 Republicans

# Notable Changes

- From House Rules text: Requirement that Committees establish “authorization and oversight plans” – specifically focusing on programs with expired authorizations. Plans must be submitted to the Committees on Oversight and Accountability and House Administration no later than March 1 of the first session of a Congress. The plan must include a list of unauthorized programs and agencies within the committee’s jurisdiction that have received funding in the prior fiscal year, or in the case of a permanent authorization, have not received a comprehensive review by the committee in the prior three Congresses.

# Programs Up for Reauthorization

- SNAP—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- **Community Mental Health Services Demonstration Program (Medicaid expansion)**
- The Independence at Home Demonstration **tests a service delivery and payment incentive model** that uses home-based primary care teams designed to improve health outcomes and reduce expenditures for Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions

# Early Chatter

- Certain agencies/legislation are at risk for significant funding cuts.
- CDC has been pointed out as an agency that has mission creep "environmental justice and health equity"
- Affordable Care Act
- Insurers received additional subsidies under the American Rescue Plan Act And the Inflation Reduction Act. Congress may seek and IRS regulation to undo expansions.
- Social Security
- *\*Early talks on reducing expense of retirement benefits.*
- The Republican Study Committee proposed a budget for fiscal 2023 that would gradually increase the eligibility ages for Social Security and Medicare, and change the Social Security benefit formula for people 54 and younger, while not changing it for people closer to receiving benefits.



# Advocacy Actions



- Petition drop off 2/28
- #WeActWednesday
- [Thearc.org/action](http://Thearc.org/action)

**Part 2:**  
**Public Health Emergency**  
**Unwinding**

# End of the Public Health Emergency

- Why it matters:
  - Every Medicaid beneficiary will need to go through a redetermination.
  - Medicaid program benefits and services may change in your state.

# Background

- **January 2020:** "Public Health Emergency" (PHE) declared in response to COVID-19.
  - States got access to additional flexibilities, such as 1915(c) Appendix K waivers.
- **March 2020:** COVID-19 response legislation offered states extra matching funds for Medicaid if they:
  - Provided continuous coverage during the PHE;
  - Maintained eligibility standards;
  - No premium increases; and
  - No cost sharing for COVID-19 treatments.



# 2022 End of Year Package

- Congress ended the continuous coverage requirement starting April 1st, 2023.
  - States can start redetermining eligibility for Medicaid this month and end coverage starting April 1st.
  - 12 months to initiate the process; 14 months to complete.
- Provides a "glidepath" in funding through 2023 if states meet certain requirements as part of their renewals process.
- All states must provide reports to CMS on renewals monthly or face penalties/corrective action.

# Glidepath Option for States

- To get additional funding through Dec. 31, 2023:
  - Maintain Maintenance of Effort/Premium/COVID cost share requirements.
  - Conduct redeterminations in accordance with federal requirements (42 CFR 435.916).
  - Attempt to ensure beneficiary contact information is up to date.
  - Make a good-faith effort to contact the individual using more than one "modality" prior to terminating of the basis of returned mail.

# End of the PHE

- President Biden has declared that he will end the COVID-19 PHE on May 11, 2023.
- Why this matters: states made use of emergency waiver authorities that will end. This included:
  - Expanded telehealth
  - Increased provider payments and retainer payments
  - Paying family caregivers for services

# Resources....

- Fact Sheets
- Graphics and GIFs
- Alt Text Descriptions
- Sample Email
- CMS Toolkit Links
- Video Links



The Arc.

**It's time for Medicaid & CHIP renewals!**

Contact your state Medicaid office today to confirm they have your correct contact information.



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**¡Prepárese para renovar su cobertura de Medicaid!**

Comuníquese con la oficina de Medicaid de su estado para obtener más información.



[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bstwz3tz5q4o7gz/AADw-7x\\_FOCILtTAq0SezIfla?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bstwz3tz5q4o7gz/AADw-7x_FOCILtTAq0SezIfla?dl=0)



**Questions?**



**THANK YOU!**