Example #1:

DM is a 9 year old with a diagnosis of Autism, Developmental Disability and Mood Disorder. The family recently moved to the Adams County area from another state and needed a variety of support and assistance. They reached out to the Arc of Adams County for general information and was connected with the area Community Center Board. DM began attending 3rd grade at his home school and within the first month, the IEP team met to discuss educational needs and goals. Within 5 weeks of starting at the new school, the parents began to receive calls to pick him up during the school day. It was reported that he was very anxious at school and would continuously cry or become self-injurious. After 30 minutes, the staff was not able to redirect him. The frequency of the calls continued. The parents became concerned and reconnected with the Arc. The advocate suggested the parents request an IEP meeting to review his accommodations. It was discovered that the student did not have a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP). The parents and the Arc advocate recommended a BIP and for a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) to be performed prior to creating the BIP.A FBA identifies factors involved with concerning behaviors. It provides an understanding, function or purpose behind behaviors and can be instrumental in creating a behavior plan. During this time, the Arc advocate assisted the parents with references for a private Behavior Therapist to address issues at home. The advocate suggested that the IEP team meet every 6 weeks to review the BIP to determine what was working or not working. Eventually, the private Behaviorist was able to attend the meeting and provide ideas and information to the school team. Having all key players working and collaborating together supported DM to be successful in his new school.

Example #2:

JM is a 40 year old man who has lived in the same host home for over 15 years. His host home provider decided to move from Colorado, however, due to family issues and was unable to take JM with her. His host home provider called the Arc for assistance in making sure his needs could be met with another provider as he has significant support needs. JM’s day program had also served Notice due to his support needs and their lack of staff support available. This was a very difficult time for JM due to the level of change occurring. The advocate appealed the decision to terminate his current day program on JM’s behalf, and worked with the team to find options for both host home and day programs that could meet his needs. The advocate visited potential homes and day programs until a good option was found for both day program and host home. JM is now thriving in both home and day programs and doing well.

Example #3:

TH is a 40 year old woman who is using the Developmental Disability services Medicaid waiver. She resides in a group home through a residential agency who provides those services. She has a developmental disability and cerebral palsy that significantly limits her ability to do personal care. She also had some significant behavioral issues. TH contacted the Arc of Adams County when she heard about the Self Advocacy training the Arc was offering. She took a 4 week class to learn appropriate ways to advocate for herself. After lots of practice using those skills, she has substantially improved her communication and her behavioral needs quickly diminished. The Arc of Adams County also attended her planning meeting to discuss the need for her right restrictions due to her behaviors. The Arc worked with her team to make a plan to terminate her rights restrictions and with that plan, she no longer has any rights restrictions. She is now pursuing a career as a motivational speaker telling her story.