

Arc of Iowa Board Work Session Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2020

11:00

Present via Zoom: Delaine Petersen, Donna Bachman, Kristen Aller, Michael Wood, Paula Connelly, Doug Cunningham, Kyle Schramp, Chelsey Markle, Tricia Crain, Lonnie Polok, Alice Phillips, Al Fagerlund, Julie Beckett

Meeting called to order by Delaine at 11:10 with requests for area reports.

The Arc SEI - Chelsey Markle: reported that they are continuing to provide in-home and individual respite. Summer camp is postponed until after July 4; day care program has been closed until this week, with a soft opening for current families. Only one client attending at this time.

The Arc ECI - Kyle Schramp: Operating only in-home services at this time. They have been able to do some respite for working parents and teleservices. Also doing pre-voc part of Project Search. Want to reopen day-care by mid-June; working with families to determine needs.

The Arc Marshall County - Al Fagerlund: usually do large group services. But since pandemic. have connected with families and groups to ask what activities or needs they are looking for at this time, and working to meet those needs by delivering items and materials. But have not gotten anyone together. Al reported they had to cancel adult camp for June. Hoping to do their kids program later in the summer.

The Arc Story County -Tricia Crain: continue to do respite at family request and also care coordination. Project Search ended 3 weeks early, but doing a drive-by graduation. Special Olympics canceled at this time. Doing okay financially. Lisa Heddens will be joining local board.

The Arc Woodbury - Jim France: Summer camp is canceled; most staff are now working at other jobs this year. Families are asking for other opportunities. Have been awarded United Way funding, but will not get the \$ this year if they don't have camp. The Regional Mental Health Dept will provide funding for fiscal 20-21; they committed to 3 years of funding. Due to uncertainty with COVID, need to stay connected with funders and plan for the 2021 season.

The Arc Cedar Valley - Lonnie Polok: all services have stopped. Doing some check-in by calling or email. Working on applying for grants. Sewing ladies have been fidgets for clients. May do a sensory room in the local hospitals, who have expressed interest.

The Arc of North Central - Alice Phillips: have done phone conference meetings for official Arc meeting or just informal discussions. Some individuals are quite isolated. Alice has sent activity ideas. They are trying to support self-advocates by keeping in touch as much as possible.

At Large - Paula Connelly, Des Moines area: working with a group of moms and Cindy Axne about some possible funding sources for support for parents. Paula continues to provide resources and advocacy to a group in the area. Continues to see that families are not sure where to turn for assistance. Getting help with at home schooling is a nightmare for some.

The Arc of the Quad Cities - Michael Glanz: like most locations services are very impacted, some day hab programs have been providing some video services. Local summer camps canceled. No real guidance for either Iowa or Illinois for opening adult day care settings. Lots of fundraising events have been canceled. They have been able to retain their staff; not laying anyone off as most of their members live in QC residences.

The Arc of Iowa – Julie Beckett – Policy Advocate: she and Mike Woods are waiting for the legislature to reconvene and to learn how they can represent The Arc and its constituents. They are monitoring how the schedule will be formatted and if visitors will even be allowed at the capitol.

## Agenda:

### Absentee Voting:

Delaine encouraged groups to reach out to their people to request the absentee ballot by May 22, and to vote in the primary on June 2.

### Affiliation Fee Discussion:

Summary - thanks to the cooperation of the board and their efforts, we were able to connect with almost 20 state chapters (out of 35 state chapters). Delaine stated that she felt that the data reflected no central theme of the chapters; that they are all very different from each other and how they collect (or don't collect) affiliation fees.

For Arc of Iowa, we have realized that our affiliation fee schedule has been outdated for some time (1994), and so started the committee for revision. After board members submitted their collected information, it was entered. A small team of Arc reps discussed the data available from the state chapter information. In general, there was no majority of state chapters who had similar strategies. As many chapters as were interviewed, there seemed to be that many variations of affiliation.

To move forward today, Delaine recapped that the team discussion ended with the action of putting a concept out for board members to start discussing and thinking about affiliation and membership.

To reiterate, in 1994, \$10 of every membership fee collected by a local chapter went to the state with each chapter retaining the balance. Also in 1994 Affiliation fees were set. The methodology was that affiliation fees were based on the population of a county. At this time, Arc of Iowa has several strong local chapters, but many chapters that are struggling and have to work hard to recruit and retain members. Over time, several of the more successful chapters merged (SEI, North Central, ECI, Cedar Valley) and their affiliation was adjusted to capture the expanded population of the counties absorbed. Today, some of those chapters have not been able to draw revenue from outlier counties which have put pressure on the chapter.

Strategy of this proposal - The group wants to suggest that we start stepping back on affiliation fees for the chapters who don't have the time to go after members, and let the state work on membership to register and collect those member fees, then send their local chapter money - along with contact information so the local can engage them in activities and fund raising. . Arc of Iowa would use part of that membership money to hire staff to work on building larger membership, assist chapters with building a strong advocacy base, provide resource development and maintain a social media platform for smaller chapters.

Doug reported that the goal is to engage and connect members across the state and with more members we can have a better voice. We also have agreed that a critical need for a presence at the State Capital is necessary. Currently Julie Beckett (with Mike Wood assisting) is meeting that need, but has not accepted pay but is working on a volunteer basis.

Doug and Delaine outlined the various ideas proposed in the concept document. Hopefully everyone had secured it but if not, that is available on the Arc of Iowa Board agenda on the website.

Doug canvassed the group for their opinion of the ideas presented in the State Summary of the Affiliation Committee. There was discussion clarifying the plan/idea. Alice stated that getting only \$10 of the

membership fee would be difficult for their small group. Delaine suggested that maybe for the original members that are renewing, the local Arc could keep the entire membership fee, with new member fees being collected in the manner suggested by the concept paper: the state Arc sending the local Arc the \$10 of the collected membership fee. Doug and Al talked about letting current local Arcs continue to collect the membership fees as they have in place currently. Michael Glanz asked about the current affiliation fees; is it the same as 1994? For most chapters, it is the same amount - there has not been an increase for 26 years. There are a few chapters that have negotiated a lower fee than 1994, because of difficult financial situations in their chapters.

Alice suggested that another proposal study a different amount of what the state would retain vs what gets sent back to the local chapter; something more in the middle. She would like to have a more indepth conversation with her people and then share their thoughts.

There was a discussion that we should determine an approximate cost for a membership person, to clarify what kind of money is needed. When asked, Doug is not aware of any grant opportunities for building membership.

Further discussions indicated that people have questions. Are people members or donors? Many of the Arc's benefits not tangible; you don't get a physical object/gift for being a member. Memberships are everywhere - such as reward cards (Casey, CVS, HyVee). Kyle indicated that membership is not as important to the younger population as in the past. They don't want membership. Michael Glanz said that they have more people who are donors, rather than members. His local Arc has low number of members. Delaine talked about Special Olympics - use term supporters vs members. Other nonprofits are using "partners". Arc has in some cases used advocate but this is not a common word to many.

It was suggested that we might make a 'hold harmless' statement for those chapters that rely heavily on the membership dues to help with their finances. Delaine suggested that Arc of Iowa look at the membership fees for each local chapter to determine which chapters may need that support.

After a very good conversation, Delaine brought the discussion to a close by stating that she and Doug would compile the feedback given during the discussion by this group. They will be making some connections. She would like people to give feedback on the current summary document by typing right on the document in Google. The group agreed that change is needed and that The Arc has to start somewhere. And that we are getting closer to what that 'somewhere' will be.

Everyone was encouraged to offer up ideas that might go into the next draft proposal. Based on feedback, the board will see at least one strategy for discussion.

Doug reported that income from vending machines is down significantly with the closure of facilities due to COVID-19. At the same time, there are no expenses as the machines are paid off and no supplies being purchased. The accounting firm has materials for audit but they report they are very behind.

Next meeting June 10, 2020 at 11:00 AM via Zoom. **Moved to June 24** to allow for feedback  
Delaine adjourned the meeting at 1:00 PM.