Arc of Iowa Meeting, Ames Public Library

April 29, 2017

10:15 AM

Members present in person: Doug Cunningham, Donna Bachman, Alice Philips, Susan Teas, and Delaine Peterson. Via Zoom: Paula Connolly

**Updates of local Arcs:**

East Central Arc: The executive director of East Central Arc recently resigned; no replacement yet. Arc March was successful. The upcoming Project Search graduates presented to the Arc Board of Directors. MCOs: Arc continues to have difficulty with collections for payment of services.

Story County Arc: First Project Search graduation, with 4 graduates. The participants had a rotation through 4 departments at ISU; each department stated that they would like to continue and expand the program for next year. Some discussion on funding for Project Search; it appears that the funding varies from place to place

Viva la Arc fundraiser held; income from this fundraiser was less than last several years, so the Arc may look at other fundraisers.

The arc of Story County holds raising awareness meetings: recently on the Able Act and how to access it.

Special Olympics involvement is big for Story County Arc.

Miracle League playground approved by City of Ames. Kick-off for fundraising will start in August.

Arc of North Central Iowa: This local Arc is trying to hang on, may not have enough paid up members to continue. Working on self-advocacy with clients. Have decreased contact with schools; not enough members to continue that connection.

Getting many questions about MCOs, and services.

They are involved in the Heartland Project.

Northwest Area: Sioux City is working to build a ‘winter park’ for persons with disabilities; Carroll families working together to build an accessible playground at one of the city parks.

Jefferson county: working on bylaws. Talking about vending machines and wanting to get some in their area.

Fairfield: Looking at new ideas; stable for now.

Arc of Marshall County: large active group; they have weekly activities for persons with intellectual disabilities. They also have a sheltered workshop run by the Arc.

Paula Connolly - Together We Can conference coming up next weekend: They have several national speakers, with breakout sessions. Registration sits at just under 200 at this time.

Respite Coalition meetings: Two strategic planning meetings happened, Paula attended first one, Doug the second meeting. Needed someone to head the planning, but no one stepped forward. Talk about what to do if funding becomes available at second coalition meeting.

Doug and Paula talked about Principal and possibly Wells Fargo?, maybe looking into providing a medical leave benefit for employees who are caregivers for persons with disabilities and/or aging parents.

**Arc of Iowa meeting minutes approval:** Minutes were reviewed briefly. Delaine Petersen moved to accept August 20, 2016 minutes and also the unprinted minutes from January 14, 2017 minutes. Susan Teas seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

**Audited taxes for 2015:** Presented by Doug; Donna Bachman moved to approve the audit, Alice Philips seconded. Motion carried.

**Financial Position Statement**: Doug reported that Arc of Iowa is starting to turn around with vending machine profits, although he has not been paid recently nor has Arc paid rent for office space. Arc of Iowa has limited $ in the bank, but have assets in vending machines. Alice Philips moved to accept the Statement Financial Position, Donna Bachman seconded. Motion carried.

**Review of Amended Bylaws of Arc of Jefferson** & Nearby Counties: Board members reviewed the bylaws, and suggested the removal of a statement in Article XII on Area of Activity that appeared to be a negative approach to helping nearby counties.

**Executive Summary:**

Doug has spent much time on vending machines; he reviewed the progress and plan for the coming months.

He continues to sit on the Medicaid Advisory Council, has done this for about 1 year. Effects of EVV, which is an electronic location system for providers, which MCOs are not going to help pay for this device. Amera Health is now only accepting floor rates for services, after they obtained clients initially by accepting higher rates. Paula stated that more diversity is needed on the group; that the caregivers/family members are not a typical representative of the total caregiver population. Doug indicated that the caregivers are able to speak up and that they are listened to and have a vote, although policy changes have not been made in their favor. Paula indicated that she would be willing to attend the meetings as an Arc of Iowa representative.

Financial Report Statement and Letter to the Local Arcs: discussion about the annual board meeting. Also, discussion on what to charge local Arcs to belong to Arc of Iowa. Doug presented the national fee schedule. Delaine suggested Associate memberships for businesses.

Arc fee discussion continued, with the suggestion of giving the local Arcs something for their fee, such as a way to connect with each other for information, share political events, etc. Doug shared that he has a part time employee that may be able to compile member information and gather contact information. So Doug could possibly use her to send out information as it happens and is pertinent to Arc members. The group discussed various ideas for connecting Arc members in Iowa. It was decided to hold steady for this year regarding collecting fees from local Arcs but to possibly offer some return on Arc fees if Arc of Iowa surpasses a certain profit level in the next year.

Annual meeting set for August 26 in Ames. Board meeting set for June 10 in Ames.

**New Business:** Doug put together a spreadsheet on the vending machines to share with board members. The Arc lost money in the first year because we were spending $ to invest in machines. We had around 18 machines by the end of 2016. Profits began in 2017, but some loss due to 5 machines purchased in February. Four more machines were purchased in April. An additional four more machines will be available from Snapple in June that will not have to be purchased. We will need to buy the products from Snapple, but at a competitive price. Doug predicts that by August we should be at $3000/month in profit from all of the machines. Profit will vary depending on additional machine purchases. Goodwill is interested in placing machines in their other facilities in the state.

The Arc will soon need storage facilities in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. The need for a van to transport the products to the vending machines is more pressing. The board discussed how to address that issue.

Donna Bachman moved to adjourn the meeting, Alice Philips seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 2 PM.

Next meeting: June 10 at 10:00 AM at the Ames Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bachman