Arc of Iowa Board Meeting

July 9, 2018

Call In Meeting

11:00 am - Meeting called to order by Delaine Petersen (President of the Board) with listing of persons present via phone:

* Tricia Crain, The Arc of Story County (ICE representative);
* Doug Cunningham, Executive Director of Arc of Iowa;
* Paula Connelly, Arc of Iowa Board member and ASK Resource Director;
* Donna Bachman, Arc of Iowa Board Secretary;
* Alice Philips, Arc of Iowa Board member;
* Anne Armknecht, Executive Director of The Arc of East Central Iowa;
* Mike Wood, Arc of Iowa Board Treasurer
* Karen DeGroot is not present (her last day is July 13) but has indicated Chelsea Markle as interim director at this time.

Tactical Plan – The meeting was called to order to discuss the Tactical Plan of the Arc and to begin to strategize the future of the Arc in Iowa.

Delaine shared that she was pleased that our new treasurer has reflected on the need for a policy support person. He has offered to reach out to 2 contacts he is comfortable in requesting a meeting. Both have been very active in the state legislature and could be valuable resource people as The Arc develops its plan under goal 2. Paula requested to be included as she has a strong background in policy.

Delaine reviewed the overall agenda, reason for the meeting and need for strategic plan. When asked, all said they had a chance to review the June 30 version that captured previous conversations/suggestions. Donna immediately loaded that version on Google docs – allowing board members to continue to refine.

Persons indicated that the Plan is ambitious and may need to be prioritized for accomplishments. The group agreed to this and talked about how to work on that online. Potential clarifications of objectives was discussed. The general consensus was that the plan is leading Arc of Iowa in direction it must go. It is ambitious and will require expanding and strengthening the board.

All agreed that goal 1 – sustainability was the most immediate goal. Delaine targeted objective 2 with specific emphasis on the second activity (Convene a task force to study current affiliation structure using assets and resources from Arc/US, Non Profit Resource Center and other available expertise. Research what Arc’s are doing across country – mergers, partnerships and collaboration). This suggestion is a result of the June 12 meeting with The Arc of ECI and its concern with affiliation fee costs. Delaine shared that in research the fees to each chapter were established in 1993 and have not changed since that time. Anne Armknecht, executive director for ECI indicated that chapter is starting FY19 with a $150,000 deficit and is seeking ways to reduce costs. Tricia Crain, executive director for Story indicated that board did not have concerns with their assessment even though they operate on a “shoe string” budget. Anne went on to say they are not getting paid reimbursement rates that cover their expenses. When asked if Arc ECI would participate in the activities mention in Objective 2, Anne was affirmative.

Paula Connolly was very interested in having ECI and other providers come to a meeting to help uplift the primary concerns. She has been hearing in the legislative network that things are starting to get better; that it might be great to hear discussion by providers. Paula also indicated that families are starting to bear the consequences of services being reduced. Delaine stated that it would be great to get to individuals across the state to help give personal perspectives.

Delaine suggested inviting Brooke Lovelace – new ED for DD Council. Paula suggested holding off for a while.

There was broad discussion about the state of services and payment but the group returned its attention to the plan. Doug shared that the state office has begun support to Arc of North Central Iowa and The Arc of Cedar Valley. They have membership brochures, sample letters and the list from Arc of US of expired members. Alice Phillips reports that the letters are going out as they are prepared. She was grateful for the support. Doug then indicated that The Arc of Cedar Valley has invited the state office to attend the July 19 membership meeting and the annual meeting that is immediately after. They are interested in the new website project and how it might help with membership and communication/relationship building.

Discussion began on how to further build membership among chapters and in the Board itself. It developed on to how to communicate with chapters and pull the people together. As a new member on the board and Mike Wood is very personally committed to visiting chapters – to meet the board, staff (if any) and membership – to learn what they feel they need and what they offer. The idea of going to the chapters to ask for their plan and how can we help with that was presented. Paula suggested that in order to create a systemic approach to information gathering that a template be developed. This would be used as a guide to pull consistent information from each visit (their priorities, needs and strengths) and be used as a foundation to develop assets across the state for chapters and the people they advocate for. Doug also suggested we consider a pre-visit survey. Paula offered to do some preliminary work on this and share for addition and refining. Although, the smallest chapters may not be at the point of providing that information; we may only get basics like officers, meeting times, etc.

To restate our outcome for today, Doug requested consensus on the three goals in the plan. The group agreed that these goals were a good place to start, with further meetings with time spent to review and revise the goals and objectives as we move forward. We will need to set times.

Delaine suggested that we dedicate at least one hour of our August Board meeting to working on the Strategic Plan, to which the group agreed. Delaine will explore finding a good facilitator.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Next Meeting: August 18, 2018 at Ames Public Library. The meeting starts at 10 AM

Ways to help RIGHT NOW - July newsletter will be going out this week. We need to continue to broaden our readership of the newsletter. Paula suggested that we put in information on how to sign up for the newsletter, and also for people who receive the newsletter to pass it on.