

THE ARC OF IOWA BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, November 24, 2020 11:00 am to 12 pm

11:05 Welcome and Call to Order

Present: Delaine Peterson, Donna Bachman, Doug Cunningham, Kyle Schramp, Theresa Lewis, Lonnie Polok, Michael Wood, Julie Beckett, Amanda Milham, Kristen Aller, Alice Phillips, Nancy Baker Curtis, Joy Barlean, Tricia Crain, Paula Connolly, Jim Franz. Possibly Michael Glanz, Chelsea Markle.

Delaine called the meeting to order, and introduced the guests to our meeting, asking each one to tell a bit about themselves.

- Theresa (pronounced Teresa) Lewis stated that she is new to Arc of East Central Iowa for the past 2 months. She has lived in Iowa for over 10 years and has worked in non-profit support work since that time.
- Amanda Milham is originally from Delaware; she has a daughter with special needs who is 8 yrs. old, and an Iowa born husband. Amanda has been advocating for adult changing tables for several years now, and began to reach out to Iowa legislature in the 2020 session.
- Nancy Baker Curtis, originally from Iowa, moved back here to help her mom, and to stay at home to help and to advocate for her son Charlie. She had begun to reach out to get changing tables in public places, first in her community, and nearby communities.

Other Board members then spoke briefly about themselves and/or their local Arc.

- Tricia Crain: Ames has completed their accessible park and Miracle Field. She is impressed with their adult changing tables in the restrooms.
- Mike Wood: He talked about following up with legislators regarding moving ahead with issues after the election.
- Kristen Aller: She is a self-advocate from Cedar Rapids. She has one sister. Schooling was not easy for her.
- Jim France: Arc of Woodbury County. Their group focuses on providing summer camp for residents with special needs. They are hoping to have camp this next year, but not sure yet and will have to decide by Feb 1.
- Alice Phillips: Mason City area. They have evolved into a self-advocacy organization.
- Al Fagerlund: Marshall County. He has been involved since 1975. Summer camp was canceled for their group also, and they worked to provide some other activities and to stay in touch. Working on re-structuring an old building to have a permanent home for their summer activities, working with the local park and rec group.
- Paula Connolly: She has a son with a rare syndrome, he is one of four children and two step children. She and another mom started ASK Resource Center when he son was very young.
- Donna Bachman: From Carroll, with no local Arc. Former OT, related to Delaine. Secretary for the Arc Board. Carroll has completed their accessible playground, and

started the installation of their Miracle Field. A local family who has a son with special needs has spearheaded the entire project, and funding is complete.

- Julie Beckett: She has been working with policy makers since the late 70s. She started the Medicaid waiver program to get funding for her daughter Katie after her health insurance ran out in the first 2 years of her life. She has helped establish the Family Navigator Program, through Iowa City Hospital and Clinic, which helps to teach families how to navigate the systems that they work with for their children. Julie has worked with Mike Wood to talk with legislators about getting things moving in the state. She has been working with Nancy and Amanda to make changes on a small scale, in communities, such as the adult changing tables. She likes the idea of working on a small scale with younger parents to organize and getting issues to move forward. The need for quality child care for families with a special needs child is an issue that is starting to come to the surface now.
- Joy Barlean: Mom of three kids, with a 10 yr. daughter with a serious heart condition. Her twin boys have Down syndrome and are 8 yrs. old. She has been an advocate for them since their birth. She has worked at ASK Resource Center, working with families who have a child with hearing loss.
- Lonnie Polok: From Waterloo, has been with Arc of Cedar Valley since 2006. They have a 16 yr. old daughter who has Down syndrome and autism. Cedar Falls opened an inclusive park this past year; she wants to see if it has any adult changing tables. The local Arc has struggled this year to stay connected. They have sent donation request letters and having some success there. Looking for a space for sewing group, who altered clothing to fit persons with disabilities.
- Michael Glanz: Things are at a standstill now with the Covid limitations this year. Grants have been limited. Delaine congratulated Michael for receiving the Rising Star Award from the Arc of the US this year.
- Kyle Schramp: from East Central Arc; she has helped search for their new leader, Theresa Lewis.

Delaine called on the group to discuss how to move ahead with making small changes, working with/through the adult changing tables as a way to connect with legislators on an issue important to adults with disabilities. Michael Wood suggested we get the info to legislators before the session. Amanda provided information about the progress that her group made in the past year: House file 2097, from Ann Meyer, regarding changing tables in rest areas, was developed. HF2596, from Art Staid, which included changing tables/ stations, but also talked about all of the other public places that would need a changing table (museums, hospitals, etc.). The bill was introduced but did not move further before the session ended. HF 2097 was passed in the House, but not in the Senate before the Covid recession. The focal point now is on new buildings instead of just putting the tables into existing places.

Michael agreed that we should work on small accomplishments/goals. He mentioned that we also should push for a raise in Medicaid reimbursement, as that has not been changed in four years, and because of the poor reimbursement, it is hard to hire staff to provide services. Julie

Beckett would like to get hard copies of the bill (HF 2097) that could be shared with board members; Michael Wood offered to get the copies and send them to Julie.

Amanda reported that the bill(s) did not get rejected; it appeared to be an issue that both sides agreed on. Covid shut it down instead, and hopefully, we can help move it forward this coming year. Amanda shared the flyer that she gave to all of the legislators last year; the flyer is on the Arc website as part of today's agenda.

Theresa Lewis made a motion that the policy committee headed by Julie Beckett be assigned the work to explore and refine Adalynn's law (changing tables issue) into a project that can be made into the legislative goal for 2020 session; and also, to explore how to address Medicaid rates particularly as to how it relates to hiring staff. Paula seconded; motion carried on a vote. Delaine asked if Joy Barlean would be willing to have us share her information about her work with families, in order to be able to get the information out to rural families. Joy agreed. Julie attested to the vital role of having an additional voice with families asking for services or increased funding.

New and Old Business:

Board Affiliation Dues Proposal: Delaine reviewed the work of the Affiliation Committee. She stated that in 2021, the Arc of Iowa would reduce affiliation dues by 10%. In 2022, affiliation dues would be reduced again by another 10% of the previous year's base. The Arc of Iowa would have a long-term goal of phasing out affiliation dues, as we become more financially independent. Each year, the due schedule would be re-examined to determine by how much dues could be reduced.

Group discussion on working to build membership as a state group, with partial amount of that fee staying with the state Arc, and the rest of the fee going back to the local chapter. For example, a \$50 membership might net \$25 for the Arc of Iowa and \$25 for the local chapter. The local Arc would continue to pay their affiliation fees to the Arc of the US. Julie asked about large organizations and how this proposal would affect their dues. The proposal does not address it in the coming year. Michael Glanz noted that the proposal will start to address large organizations/associate memberships in 2022.

Paula made a motion that the Board move ahead with the recommendations from the committee. Mike Wood seconded the motion. Discussion: Al Fagerlund stated that a piece is missing: he would prefer to have a constant affiliation fee, based on population of the county, rather than trying to get a certain number of members to provide the income, the local group could fundraise in order to pay the fee. Paula stated that this proposal will continue to be looked at as we move forward and would not necessarily stay the same as it is right now. Paula called the question and asked for a vote. On the vote, majority replied 'yay' with one 'nay' vote. Motion carried.

By-Law Amendments for East Central Arc: Theresa briefly reviewed the proposed changes for the Arc of East Central Iowa.

Delaine recommended that we accept their changes as written. Kristen Aller seconded and the motion/recommendation carried on a vote.

Memorandum of understanding with the Arc of Southeast Iowa to take over the merchandising and stocking tasks of the vending machines in their area and share profits 50/50. Doug explained the memorandum and the Board agreed, through a vote, with his proposal.

Minutes of August 25, 2020, Meeting: Donna Bachman made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Lonnie Polok seconded the motion and it carried on a vote.

Board Elections: Brief discussion on board elections. Delaine proposed that we move the terms of office to expire June 1, 2021, in order to give the Board time to work through the pandemic and to look into amending the by-laws regarding Board officers in the case of special events, including pandemics and death or incapacitation of a Board officer.

Alice Phillips made a motion to extend the terms of the current Board Officers until June 1, 2021. Al Fagerlund seconded and the motion carried on a vote.

Financials: Doug reviewed the budget. We had months of no income this year because of the pandemic, and it does not look to rebound soon. We currently are at 40% of our previous income. Some request for new vending machines in Jefferson county, but not addressed in the proposed budget at this time. Income from affiliation dues will be down in the coming year; to \$18,000. Revenue from vending machines is projected at a slow increase. Line item of \$500/month for health insurance for Doug has been added, as a benefit to Doug.

Delaine suggested that we take two weeks to review the budget. Al Fagerlund made a motion to certify the budget via email vote on Dec 10. Donna Bachman seconded and the motion carried on a vote.

Paula reported on a committee that is meeting to work on a proposal for increasing Medicaid reimbursement. Kelly Garcia will send a representative to this group meeting.

Doug has put some of the links to the National Conference on the agenda website, people can watch for free.

Kristen Aller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Delaine adjourned the meeting at 1:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Bachman, Board Secretary