Arc of Iowa Board Meeting Work Session Minutes June 24, 2020
11:00

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

Agenda:

A. Call to Order

B. Approval of May 20 Work Session Minutes

C. Chapter Updates

D. Discussion of Concept 2a. - moving to growth and sustainability for Arc of Iowa.

Meeting called to order by Delaine at 11:04 AM.

Donna Bachman made a motion to approve May 20 minutes as written, Julie Beckett seconded the motion, which carried on a verbal vote.

**CHAPTER UPDATES:**

**The Arc of South East Iowa** - Chelsey Markle: Providing individual services; starting to pick back up, but much reduced. Opened daycare earlier in June; staggered back-to-office return. But all closed at this time due to staff infection. Will start back at beginning of July. Will offer summer camp to a much smaller group. Fundraiser held as a drive-through spaghetti dinner for a free will donation; cleared just over $500.

**The Arc of East Central Iowa** - Kyle Schramp: Daycare opened on June 8th. Going well, with social distancing. All interested clients are able to have a spot, but not every day. Able to use a nearby church for their summer day camp.

Re-opened day-hab on June 18; but more bumps for the adults in this program for variety of reasons: client health, group home policies, etc. Have not re-started group get-aways; not doing filed trips or overnight trips. For in-home services, seeing a steady increase in interested people, so services are increasing.

**The Arc of Cedar Valley** - Lonnie Polok (Black Hawk County): most things are on hold, as Black Hawk County is/has been a hot spot.

**Central Iowa** - Donna Bachman: Carroll is beginning to lay the underlayment for the Miracle League Baseball field, and may have it use-able by late Fall.

**Des Moines Metro Area** - Paula Conolly: Getting calls about parents concerned about school starting in the Fall and what that will look like. Current grants seem to be on hold; Paula looking into other grants.

**Advocacy** - Julie Beckett: Working and planning with Delaine and Paula for future legislature meetings. We need to get young families together, not just as Arc members, but as partners. Have met with a parent in Ames; concerns that online learning for kids with special needs is not working well. Want to start reaching out to parents in Polk, Dallas, and Story counties to meet as parent groups to decide what they need and how to present that to the legislators in future sessions. Looking at a catchment area for families to gather, and to share ideas and make plans. Not just for Arc members, but for families all over Iowa.

So we, as seasoned workers with persons with disabilities, can offer ideas on how to provide services and still maintain a safe environment. We can also help families to develop ways to serve students with special needs as school’s make plans to reconvene in August.

**Board Perspectives**

Delaine responded with some reflections of her own: we need to also start to think and plan for the upcoming election; we need to start framing strategies for that.

Michael Wood: For politicians who will be coming to see us, we need to hand them a brochure from the Arc of Iowa, to educate them. We need to make sure that they know who Arc of Iowa is and what we are trying to do.

Julie Beckett: suggested a place on the Arc website to suggest and discuss policy related to our mission. We can reach out to families and offer suggestions for what they can do to advocate and educate, to help their child(ren).

Doug Cunningham: offered to change the “Blog” link on our website to better reflect discussions on policies and concerns. He also expressed concerns about the loss of the mailed out request for an absentee ballot coming in the mail automatically. He stated that our website has a link for requesting an absentee ballot: Paula suggested that we put a statement and a link on our main page so that people can request an absentee ballot easily.

Delaine suggested that Julie and Paula work to find a family to help represent families at the legislature sessions.

Paula reported that she has had small online meeting with legislators this spring and summer, and that overall, they are willing to do that. She is encouraging Arc members to go ahead and contact legislators to meet and talk about what the Arc does and how they (legislators) can help persons with disabilities.

Doug and Delaine asked for comments on the Policy and Advocacy Update and Report. Doug would like the local Arcs to use this update to share our work with members, legislators, and community members. Michael Wood reported that in Iowa, the legislators are mostly working together to plan and move policy. No matter who is elected in November, the Arc of Iowa will need to connect with those persons to educate them about our mission. The group discussed how to get people to be more aware of absentee voting, and what issues are important for persons with disabilities. Paula suggested that we plan ’15 minute sessions’ to introduce a topic and get people thinking about the issue. If the session goes longer for discussion, that is great.

Chelsey suggested that we partner with IDAction, as they have much information already prepared.

Delaine asked that people let her or Doug know if any information is missing. We hope to get this summary sent out to chapters by July 15.

**Affiliation Agreement - Discussion of Concept 2a.** - moving to growth and sustainability for Arc of Iowa

Delaine asked for input regarding the document Concept 2a for the plan. She summarized the current status of members within chapters throughout Iowa. The total “verifiable” number is around 500. This under the current partnerships with chapters would bring about $5000 to the state chapter. At the last work session, it was agreed that growth in membership could help reduce affiliation fees. Based on data so far, memberships are not “producing” resources to offset affiliation- at this time.

Discussion among attendees was thoughtful and productive. It is obvious the board (since there are literally no paid staff/support) will have to prioritize activities. Delaine is an advocate for increasing “the voice” of the Arc immediately by growing member/supporter/advocates. The work proposal suggests that 1) the board initiates pilot projects for membership and creation of a central Iowa group, 2) that #1 be tested and improved and continue to solicit with at least 5% of all lapsed members reinstated (either as members or donors) and finally create a work plan with committed volunteers to define, design and present an affiliation schedule to the board by December 31, 2020.

Michael reported that he especially likes the idea of working to get a chapter in the Des Moines area. Kyle also supports this idea, and added that we need more people to support our mission, but do not necessarily need to be members. Brief discussion about members vs supporters, and do we really need to distinguish them. Delaine offered to start working on first steps of getting scripts ready to use for engaging potential members/supporters for a chapter in Des Moines area. Alice Philips will move ahead with her chapter’s plan of personal contacts to increase memberships. The group suggested that Story County move ahead with their plan also.

Delaine suggested that we adjourn the meeting at this time, as people needed to leave for other commitments. She would send out the minutes, and also a summary of first/next steps for the next few weeks, along with a survey/request for next meeting date in July.

Work Assignments –

1. Paula and Delaine (with assistance from Doug) will work with The Arc of Story. Tricia will provide current members and they will be shielded from call list.
2. A script will be designed for phone calling
3. The Arc of US will be contacted to get the most recent chapter information (with lapsed members) for The Arc of Story, Delaware (closed), Jackson (closed) and the at large Arc of Iowa.
4. A post card alert will be sent to all those lapsed on the chapters listed above.
5. Delaine and Paula will do the calling and adjust scripts, information and pushback.
6. For the affiliation study team, Delaine will work with Sam Houston to form a study committee which will include many on this call and other interested chapter reps. Delaine hopes to have the committee formed by the next board meeting

Ultimately, The Arc of Iowa desires to rely less on affiliation and have a broader network of individual, corporate and provider supporters which ultimately provides a greater voice for advocacy. The group offered no objections to these steps.

Paula Conolly made a motion to adjourn, Julie Beckett seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 12:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bachman

Board Secretary