

The Arc Michigan

Board of Directors' Meeting

December 18, 2010

Present: Bev Hammerstrom, Midge Apple, Sarah Townsend, Jim Vicenzi, Don Teegarden, Lou Maniaci, Chris Lerchen, Shari Fitzpatrick, Loren Parker, Laurel Robb

Absent: Deanna Cowden, Beth Mech, James White

Excused: Paul White

Staff: Dohn Hoyle, Diane Williams

Guests: Kim Brown, Harry Gretsher

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 by Bev Hammerstrom.

1. **Introductions:** All members introduced themselves.
2. **J. Barkholtz/M. Appel** approves the agenda with the addition of Sarah reporting on the conference. All Ayes. Motion carried.
3. **S. Townsend/J. Barkholtz** to approve the minutes As presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Committee reports:**

- a. **MCE:** The report was given by Chris Lerchen. MCE had discussed the fact that there is a budget crunch for all of the Arc's, and how we could all stay alive and stay strong.

MCE has encouraged all of the Arc's to come to the governmental affairs meeting on January 20 and to bring board members as well. Weiner Associates will be doing training on how to talk to the new legislators. It will be at 10:00.

It was also noted that the legislative day will be moved up to February this year.

They discussed the facts that the United Ways are not looking good. GM gave money to Detroit, so it looks as if they are going to be giving money to special projects.

- b. **Governmental Affairs:** There was no additional information to report.
- c. **Education:** There is a statement on transition that is included in our packets. Dohn suggested we review it and discuss it at the January meeting.
- d. **Chapter Support:** The report was given by Midge Appel. She reported that three people came from other Arc's to the meeting in October that was cancelled. They had not RSVP to the invitation, so no one knew they were coming. We will try to get them at another meeting.

Midge also asked that we do a Chapter Support session earlier in the conference this year. We would have a better turnout.

In January, Midge will write a letter to the Executive Directors and board members representing Arc Michigan.

- e. **Finance:** Kim Brown gave the financial report.

Carl (the Accountant) will be at the Arc the end of January to begin the audit. We should end up with about \$4000 over budget

We are currently using our own monies to pay our bills on time, using monies from CD and SEI funds. We are about 90 days out from getting paid from the state and federal government.

We asked Dohn to talk to the lobbyists to see if there is anything that can be done. Kim stated that the board has not done a good job generating revenue. We are relying on staff to do the work.

*S. Fitzpatrick/J. Barkholtz* to approve the finance committee minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

- f. **Conference:** Sarah reported on the national conference. She said the speakers were excellent. The September 2011 conference will be in Denver.

The Arc conference for 2011 will be June 16, 17, 18. There will be two keynote speakers. Peter Berns will be one, and Colleen Wick will be the other. There will be no cost for either of them.

Dohn would like to have a special celebration to thank the people who helped close Mt. Pleasant and the 11 beds at Caro. We will possibly ask Alan Bergman to speak about this nationally.

*S. Fitzpatrick/J. Barkholtz* to use the money from the closing of Montcalm Arc to support a celebration of the closure. All ayes. Motion carried.

4. **President's Report:** The report was given by Bev Hammerstrom. The President's call as cancelled this month. There is a survey they want us to respond to see if there are any specific issues they want the national to address.

The autism bills would accomplish parity for everyone. The legislature did not take it up. It will be reminded at a later date.

5. **Executive Director's Report:** Dohn gave us information about the WIPPA project and the Michigan Alliance Regions 1 and 2.

Dohn again said he wanted to make sure we thanked those people who helped with the closures. The last person to leave (November 9<sup>th</sup>) left CARO with a smile on his face. He also thanked the Board of Directors. There were boards at one time that did not take that stance. He thanked the board for the stance that we took and supporting the closure.

On December 2, Dohn asked by the Feds to a visionary session-they first asked Dohn to be a listener, and the second day asked him to get involved. They mentioned Arc Michigan 4 times as being person centered by PWD and parents saying how much they liked self-determination.

National has asked us to sign a contract to use the logo. I will require \$150, a onetime payment. All state and local chapters have to pay the 150 to be able to use the new logo. It will begin on March 1.

*J. Vicenzi/J. Barkholtz* to approve spending the \$150. All ayes. Motion carried.

Kim moved from finance/s. Fitzpatrick to approve the annual budget as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

6. **Governmental Affairs:** Betsy Weihl gave us a handout listing all of the leadership positions. Snyder announced that Olga Dazo was at PHP and also an executive at Sparrow Hospital, will be the DCH director.

They are looking at restructuring the governor's office and have 5 or 6 members as a super cabinet.

The current advocacy strategy is to get to know your legislator and help legislators realize their vision of government needs to expand into a broader scope than the one elected on.

7. **Arc US report:** This report was given by Kim Brown. Kim's was termed out as treasurer. Kim feels the two years he spent as treasurer were good years, and the Arc US now is in good financial shape. He also said that at his send off, Peter Berns reports Kim was someone who never ran as the president, but was actually the President.

Marty Ford will be taking over for Paul Marchand.

Kim gave us a reflection of his beginnings, and how his commitment with the Arc began as a visit to an institution (Alpine Center) when he was in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. What he saw he did not like, and resolved to do something about it. He started the first Arc in Presque Isle, and has been involved ever since.

He also reminded us that as a volunteer, not a day goes by that there aren't – people who are threatening to take away all the things that have been accomplished. The challenge is to continue the fight—that fight must come from volunteers, not paid staff.

He also implored us to never stop—if you feel your time is done, find someone else to pick up the charge.

10. **Strategic Plan:** We reviewed all the items in the strategic plan we had covered during the meeting.

11. **Public Comment:** Harry thanked us for letting him sit in. He told us that 36 years ago, the State Education law did not apply to the state institutions. 35 Years ago Public schools had to provide education in an institution. Arc Michigan initiated a lawsuit that changed that.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Robb, Secretary.