

The Arc Michigan

GA Minutes

5/19/11

Present: Maggie Kolk, Sharlyn Meyer, Tammy Finn, Paul Palmer, Patti Nowak, Ron Kimball, Tom Kendziorski, Lynn Grubb, Dohn Hoyle, Betsy Wiehl, Cheryl Polite, Chris Lerchen

1. Call to Order
2. Review of Agenda
3. Review of Minutes from April. Sharlyn moved to approve. Tammy seconded. All ayes. Motion Carried.
4. State Issues Report – Wiener Associates
 - a. Betsy discussed the budget issues. The revenue conference showed that we will have more money but there is a some short fall expected by the loss of the small business tax. Not sure how much this will be. A lot of the extra money will probably go to schools. The Senate would like to replace some of the cuts but not necessarily to the foundation grants. It is not too late to contact your senator if they are on the conference committee. Conference committee members are Senator Molinar, Senator Conn, Senator Gregory, Rep. Laurie, Rep. McGregor, and Rep. Tlaib. The budgets will be put into an omnibus bill.
 - b. After this then redistricting will be completed. Then all other issues will probably start up in the fall.
 - c. Bullying legislation is very watered down. There is no reporting and no addressing of specific target groups named in the legislation.
 - d. We may need to meet sometime this summer regarding issues. There will be a July meeting and at that time we will decide if we need another meeting. July 21, 2011.
 - e. Dohn and Betsy set down with the director of DCH. Introduced her to The Arc and then tried t get from her and get to her the historical issues. She knows nothing about the issues but she was receptive to the discussion. Judy Web and Tony Stamus was also present at this meeting. There will be a lot of work to be done regarding education in this area. They discussed 5 things: 1) Size of residential settings; 2) Employment; 3) Dual Eligibility (mental illness vs behavior); 4) (Dohn forgot what this was); and 5) Continued partnership working with DCH and The Arc. No champion on the inside means that we will have to be very vigilant of what is going on. There is a need to keep her aware of what we believe because she is hearing from those with opposite views.
 - f. Rumors:
 - i. Dohn has heard this the second time that there is some thinking to combine long term care and developmental disabilities. This is seems logical but there is a waiting list on one side and not the other. The State has never gone after

Medicare funding and this may be a way to do this. Combine people who need supports together.

- ii. Another conversation that is happening is that the state wants to get out of the business of providing funding for the PIHPs and giving money to existing providers in certain areas to provide the services, i.e., Hope Network on the west side, MORC on the east side and CLS in Wayne County. Maybe BCBS for the state. There are a lot things that would have to be changed if this is to happen. Changing things at the federal level would be more difficult than the state issues.
- iii. There seems to be a level of secrecy and transparency than we have not seen in a long time.
- iv. Statewide advocates on behalf of individuals with Developmental Disabilities were all invited to attend a meeting with the Board Association to discuss the future of services for people with DD services in Michigan. They have an agreement with the Michigan Health Plans that have things in there that we do not agree with.

- 5. Federal Issues Report
 - a. Included above.
- 6. Additional Issues
 - a.
- 7. Adjourn and **next meeting ***