

The Arc Michigan

MCE minutes

9/16/10

Present: Patti Nowak, Sherry Fernandez, Chris Lerchen, Dohn Hoyle, Cheryl Polite, Kevin McGluckin, Jim Fortushniak, Tammy Finn, Ron Kimball, Laura Chesser, Maggie Kolk, Marge Burnett (Slick)

Guest Elmer Cerano, Michigan Protection and Advocacy

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Guest Speaker: Michigan Protection and Advocacy Elmer Cerano, Executive Director
 - a. Elmer discussed the role of The Arc Michigan in closing Mt. Pleasant Center. This is one institution that was closed without litigation. The Arc was the moving force in getting organizations to help in the closure.
 - b. MP&A are a nonprofit organization established in federal law. PADD and PAMI are two of their programs but they started with DD issues. They are funded by federal government. They now have access to sheltered workshops if they are payee for individuals. They have been around since 1976. They do get some funding from the state. State funding was cut but the federal dollars went up. The Livonia office is closing in December so that they can maintain their staffing. The Upper Peninsula office will remain. The issues that they are addressing are: restraint and seclusion in schools. Another issue that they are addressing is changing the office of recipient rights. The legislation is suggesting that the local ORR office is responsible to the State and the State office of ORR is separate from CMH. HB 6456 and has been introduced. Other issues are: segregated work sites – advocacy is done for better choices for people. This is not done to advocate for services that are already there. P & A is working with DHS to change the Child Care Institutions in Michigan. Mike Head is working with them to develop real options for changing this. They are also working on work sites. The federal government is looking into changing the deviated wage in different ways. One way is to have the federal government pay people the difference between their deviated wage and minimum wage. There may be other ways to help with this but there is no real answer at this time. P & A has been working on this for 5 years. SSI & SSDI will cost 1 trillion dollars in 2016. ABL Act which is stalled right now. This will allow you to retain up to \$400,000 for supports, etc. and when the individual dies the remainder will go to Medicaid.

4. Approval of Agenda Tammy moved and Marge seconded to approve the agenda as presented.
5. Approval of Minutes – Sherry moved and Tammy seconded to approve minutes adding Kevin McGluckin as present.
6. Committee Report
 - a. President’s Report – Chris talked about having speakers at each meeting on topics that we might be interested in. If there are suggestions we should get them to Chris. Grant applications are now requesting collaborations to get money. May be another area that a speaker might be a good idea. MCE link has been updated. The Arc US sent out their strategic plan was sent out and seems to be very good.
 - b. Treasurer’s Report – we have \$1045.58 in the account right now. Ron moved and Patti seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
 - c. Education Committee Report – No meeting this month. Next meeting is October 6, 2010.
 - d. 2011 Arc MI Conference Committee Report – Conference will be in Mt. Pleasant at Soaring Eagle. It will be on June 16, 17, & 18. There was a lot of money lost on this year’s conference. The cost of AV equipment at the hotel was very expensive and the food was also expensive. Other than that it was a great conference. The reviews of the conference were great. MCE members should give Dohn suggestions if they know of issues and speakers that we should have at the conference.
7. State Arc Report
 - a. The Arc Michigan receives a=bout \$48,000 a year from affiliation fees and sends out about \$600,000 back to chapters from grants that they have secured on a statewide basis to help local chapters provide those services. If there are grants that the State can help with we should let them know.
 - b. The major life issues are work, life, and where you leave over arched with community participation. We are being affected by general fund cuts which are no prevention activities which would be respite for those who don’t have Medicaid. We are affected by the lack of personnel and those who don’t have the knowledge base. There will have to be some money going to make sure all CMHs are actuary sound.
 - c. What is going to happen with a new governor and other new personal is unknown. The real problem comes in 10/1/2011 and 9/30/2012. There is no push to increase Medicaid match and there is no talk about new money coming to Michigan. No proposals have been stated that will address the structural deficit that exists.

- d. The Arc Michigan will lose the money from The United Way of Southwest Michigan. The WIPA grant ends on June 30, 2011. WIPA is \$198,000 and United Way is \$300,000+.

8. Arc Michigan Strategic Plan Goals Addressed.

- a. It is felt that MCE has met all the areas that we should in the strategic plan. We have identified key issues and coalition and partnerships for action. We influence policy makers through working with our lobbyist and representatives and senators on issues that accept the individuals that we serve. MCE takes a leadership role for local chapters providing learning opportunities for local chapters and MCE members. MCE continues to support and empower local Arcs through communication, i.e. website, and helping to develop and/or review mission statements, vision statements, and strategic plans of local arcs.

9. Discussion Issues

- a. National Arc – The new branding issue. If you name is The Arc and nothing else you should not order stationary or other items until after the big push is done. Branding will be rolled out at the National Conference.
- b. Jim Fortushniak talked about his Arc and the changes that they are going through.

10. **Next meeting date is October 21, 2010.**