

The Arc Michigan

Board of Directors' Meeting

January 22, 2011

Present: Ben Hammerstrom, Don Teegarden, Chris Lerchen, Midge Appel, Jim Vicenzi, Margaret Martin, Deanna Cowden, Lou Maniaci, Laurel Robb, Sarah Townsend

Excused: Paul White, Beth Mech, Jon Barckholtz

Absent: Shari Fitzpatrick, James White, Loren Parker

Staff: Dohn Hoyle

The meeting was called to order at 9:45.

1. All members introduced themselves.
2. **J. Vicenzi/S. Townsend** to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. **C. Lerchen/D. Cowden** to approve the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- a. **MCE**-given by Chris Lerchen. They combined the MCE and GA meetings on Thursday to get an overview of the changes in the legislature. They gave an overview of the new members.

Chris said a point was made that we need to connect with local legislators. Betsy gave very good information about the new legislators and committees.

At MCE, they made a point of asking the chapters to send updated information about their list of officers.

- b. **Governmental Affairs:** It was combined with MCE and a report had already been given.
- c. **Education:** Last month the board was given a report on a Special Education transition document.

D. Cowden/C. Lerchen to approve the document as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

- d. **Chapter Support:** The report was given by Midge Appel.

Midge has written a letter to chapters talking about the conference in June, and inviting them to share concerns, questions and comments. The letter was reviewed.

- e. **Finance:** The report was given by Don Teegarden.

The last meeting was December 16, and the next meeting will be January 27. The audit will be this week, and we should have a good report. Carl's audited numbers should be available at the next board meeting.

- f. **Conference Committee:** The report was given by Dohn Hoyle. The MCE members are going to be the committee for the conference. There is time reserved on Thursday for Chapter Support Meeting.

The conference will be at the Soaring Eagle in Mt. Pleasant. We will try not to incur the costs we did last year for the AV equipment as we did last year. Chris is looking for an IT person to come to the conference in case something goes wrong.

President's Report: The report was given by Bev Hammerstrom. Bev mentioned a thank-you letter she received from Sybil thanking the board for the Christmas bonus. Bev missed the state conference call because of a prior commitment.

The lobbyists are trying to arrange a meeting with the House Chair for Policy about the autism bills. Bev is also sending congratulation letters to Laura Corrigan for the DHS appointment, and Olga Dazzo for the DCH appointment.

She asked that all board members should write a letter to their representatives and senators saying they are available for any questions or help with issues.

Investment Report: This report was given by Griff McDonald. He reviewed the concept of taking money out in the summer and reinvesting it again in the fall. Over the last 60 years, it has been shown that if you invest from May-October, you would have lost money. Around April 15, they take out half of the money and put them into safe investments (Bond funds). In the fall, they put them back into the market.

They only charge ½ of 1% for their fees (half of the normal amount).

Executive Director's Report: The report was given by Dohn Hoyle.

He gave us an update on Tony Wong's physical condition.

Ellen Surgue Hyman just had a baby.

Dohn has had to make staffing changes because of that.

Dohn is making an appointment to talk to the Executive Branch.

Governmental Affairs: Betsy Weihl gave the report.

She gave us many handouts with the listing of all of the legislators and their committee assignments.

There is going to be a \$1.8 B shortfall. They are going to eliminate the Earned Income Tax Credit. State employees will be looking at a cut in salaries and paying more in health care.

DCH will have a \$1B shortfall since they are losing match money from the feds.

The new administration seems to understand health care and the importance of support in the home.

There was a discussion on the changes in DCH. Some counties will not have the same programs as the next county. There is not equal of choice from county to county because they are not providing the same services.

Arc US: The report was given by Dohn Hoyle.

Our licensing agreement is complete for the new logo. The Committee for the Future is still collecting comments.

Strategic Plan: The plan was reviewed and determined that we had dealt with every item during the meeting.

Public Comment:

There was a discussion about membership on the board and absences.

C. Lerchen/ M. Appel to ask the secretary to write a letter to James White, thanking him for his service, but addressing the rules in the by-laws about attendance. All ayes. Motion carried.

Dohn gave an overview of the difference in the various Autism organizations. The Autism Society of America wanted more control over the local Autism societies including resources. All of the Michigan chapters said no (except 2). Autism Speaks is only national, and they are the organization that is pushing the autism bills. They talk about a “cure” for autism, and want insurance to pay only for autism. The Autism Society does not support that, and they believe in the partnership with all the advocacy groups. Autism Speaks wanted a “victory” with these bills so they could raise more money for their organization.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25.

The next meeting will be March 12, 2011.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Robb, Secretary