

## **The Arc of Minnesota's 2005 Legislative Agenda**

### ***The Arc of Minnesota's Mission:***

The Arc of Minnesota supports and advocates to secure and enhance opportunities for people with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities and their families to choose how they live, learn, work, and play in their communities. The Arc of Minnesota is the largest advocacy organization for persons with developmental disabilities in Minnesota, with 19 chapters and over 5,100 members throughout the state.

The 2003 and 2004 legislative sessions were extremely challenging. During the 2005 session, The Arc of Minnesota will work to inform legislators of the ongoing impact of legislation that passed in 2003. It will also work to modify some of the more egregious legislation, while laying the groundwork for proactive changes in the future.

### ***Lead Role Priorities:*** (Issues Where The Arc of Minnesota Will Take The Leading Role)

- Parental Fees – The Arc will propose legislation to modify the impact of substantially increased parental fees which threaten the ability of families to continue to receive vital supports through Medical Assistance-funded services.
- Consumer Directed Community Supports – As necessary The Arc will propose legislation that addresses inequities in the implementation of the CDCS waiver amendment.
- Self Determination – The Arc will propose legislation that will put in statute a requirement that legislation impacting persons with disabilities is consistent with the principles of self-determination.
- Commitment to Quality – The Arc will strive to improve the quality of our service system by promoting the principles of self-determination and ensuring a system exists that promotes person-to-person interviews for quality assurance measures.
- Waivers – The Arc will work to increase waiver resources and preserve current services. It will track waiting lists for the MR/RC, CADI, TBI and CAC waivers.

### ***Co-Leadership:*** (Issues Where The Arc of Minnesota Assumes a Co – Leadership Role)

- Disability Services Advisory Committee – The Arc will propose legislation to create an advisory committee for the Disability Services Division of the MN Dept. of Human Services.
- Disability Services Study – The Arc will propose working with the Citizens League on study similar to the Mental Health Action Group.
- Safe Schools - The Arc will support legislation that promotes Positive Behavioral Supports and eliminates the use of aversive and deprivation procedures in the schools.
- Maintain Commitment to Education for All. The Arc will work to reinstate the annual 4.6% growth factor for special education. The Arc will work to maintain due process rights and informed consent and will inform legislators of the consequences the No Child Left Behind legislation. The Arc will oppose special education vouchers and special education levy referendums.
- Medical Assistance Co-Pays. The Arc will work to eliminate co-pays.
- Limited Dental Coverage. The \$500 restriction is harmful and counter productive. The Arc will work to rescind the \$500 limit.
- Cost of Living Increases – The Arc will work to promote adequate pay for direct support staff.
- ICF/MR's 10% County Share – The Arc will work to overturn this legislation.
- Minnesota Family Investment Program and Supplementary Security Income recipients and MFIP work requirements – The Arc will work to modify or rescind past legislation

- DT& H Mandate – The Arc will work to maintain this mandate and monitor the completion of the individualized rate study.

**The Arc will support and/or track the strategies developed by others on the following issues:**

- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Workforce Issues
- Childcare
- Healthcare
- Transportation
- MCSHN Funding
- Housing
- Services for Persons with Autism
- Medical Assistance for Employed Persons with Disabilities (MA-EPD)
- Environmental Issues Such as Lead Abatement

**Administrative Monitoring and Action (The Arc will be prepared to take a leadership role on the following issues if necessary):**

- Semi Independent Living Services (SILS)
- Legislatively Authorized Health Care Study
- Universal Assessment Contract
- State to County Waiver Allocation Method Contract
- Choice of Case Management with Control over Financial Resources
- Alternatives to Day Programs
- Residential Size
- Public Guardianship
- CCSA Outcomes for Adults
- Extending DHS Licensure to 5 years
- ICF/MR Look Behind Audits
- ICF/MR Eligibility Issues

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