



Voting Matters - June 5 Primary Vote

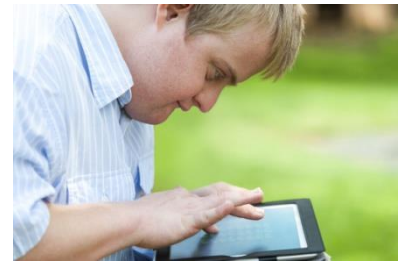
In just a few short days, citizens in Iowa will be able to participate in choosing candidates for state offices including Governor, Secretary of State and more. This is a great time to review positions of many individuals who want to be elected in November.

If you plan to vote, you must be registered. Find out where your voting place is, learn about the candidates and then exercise your right as an American citizen - VOTE!

Learn about the issues that affect those with disabilities. The Governors DD Council has an excellent guide to learn about Iowans with Disabilities in Action.

Go to www.idaction.org and learn about issues that will affect you!

The polls are open from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. According to the US Census Bureau, there are more than 350,000 Iowans with disabilities. If even a fraction of those individuals go out and vote for candidates that support individuals with disabilities, they can significantly impact how decisions are made for them.



Under Construction - Website

Over the next quarter The Arc of Iowa will be rolling out a new website, replacing the currently difficult to update one which has limited abilities.

The new site, promises to be more interactive, will provide local chapters with opportunities for having their own pages, improve membership campaigns, be used to engage members & self advocates and utilize mobile apps. The site will host a member portal making it easier to get memberships recorded and stay in contact with members. Watch for it www.thearcofiowa.org



The Challenging Times Under Managed Care

Cheryl Plank, Executive Director
Tenco Industries

Tenco Industries is a 53 year old provider of service across a 10-county region in South Central Iowa. With offices in 7 counties and headquartered in Ottumwa, they employ 230 people across this region and currently serve over 300 individuals with varying abilities.

When the state decided to bring managed care into Iowa, it was with the understanding there was a need to reduce costs. It was surprising that Iowa would decide to move all Medicaid Services in to the same bucket; including long term services for individuals with disabilities. It is my understanding that of the 39 states that have Managed Care, only 2 include the population with disabilities - Iowa and Kansas. It is reported that thirty-seven states chose not to include this population due to the individuals' non-medical needs. The services I am referring to are different; they are not based on a medical need. I am referring to the services we provide at Tenco, some are 24/7 care and may be from birth to death. It includes residential care, in home skill building, employment services, respite and day habilitation, all services that are outside the traditional healthcare.

Since Managed Care began in April of 2016, we have seen a decline in services to those in need, as well as a decline in reimbursement for services provided - with no reduction in expenses. In fact, we have increased expenses so that we can keep on top of our billing claims.

In reviewing an article I had written in early January, I reported the difficulties with getting paid. In writing this article today I can say almost the exact same thing, as we continue with the challenge of consistently getting paid for services provided.

I will continue to say that in my more than 30 years in the field I have often experienced the volatility of the funding; however I have never seen it this bad. I ask: how does a business survive such a system? How long can providers like us continue to do the work with insufficient and untimely payments? No money, no mission!

I can also report, that for the first time there appeared to be bipartisan support from our legislators that something needed to be done with the Iowa Managed Care System. Several bills were set forth in both the House and then Senate; unfortunately, not a single bill made it through the funnel. The Governor reports that she is determined to see this through so that the system will work; however, the struggles continue.

The media has kept on top of this by sharing stories from the individuals who rely on various services to compensate for their varying abilities to the agencies; such as Tenco who at times have been challenged with meeting their financial obligations.

Please consider reaching out to you legislators and especially Governor Kim Reynolds and let them know that our most vulnerable individuals deserve to have a safe and happy home like everyone else. They need us to advocate for them now, even more than before.



Special Thanks to Guest Columnist,
Cheryl Plank - Tenco Industries

In the Months Ahead - Darlene Vorhies
& Julie Beckett

Strategic Goals Sustainability and EmployAbility

The Arc of Iowa developed a goal for sustainability in 2016. The Arc wanted a solution that did not depend on government money. The Arc also recognized that the unemployment rate of people with disabilities is about 60%. To address both of these issues Arc Iowa introduced a business plan in partnership with Goodwill of the Heartland and other businesses creating a vending service. 28 vending machines are now installed around Iowa. This effort is a training ground for employment. Today there are volunteers in training and 2 individuals, Jennifer and Matt, have graduated to employment and are getting paid to maintain the machines. The Arc is also seeing a modest income each month that will grow as machines are paid off and new sites are added. Several grants have been written to expand the **EmployAbility** project.

Expand and Strengthen Awareness and Advocacy

Whether it is special education, Medicaid or general concerns, people need information, training and support -The Arc partnered with ASK Resource Center and co-hosted a well-attended conference early May - Together We Can. It provided sessions to teach individuals and families how to speak up for their needs. ASK will provide future training to communities that want it.

Iowans with Disabilities in Action

Iowans with Disabilities in Action (ID Action) is a nonpartisan project that was launched because Iowans with disabilities have been too long overlooked and underrepresented as a group. ID Action is designed to increase the active participation of Iowans with disabilities in political and civic opportunities that promote positive change.

ID Action is a vibrant statewide collaboration that includes nearly 8,000 registrants who are making a positive impact across Iowa. From joining the local neighborhood association to registering to vote or even running for office, people with disabilities are taking notice and taking action. According to the U.S. Census, there are more than 350,000 Iowans with disabilities. If even a fraction of that number begins to flex their political muscle, they can significantly influence the environment in which we all live.

For voter and policy information Go to <http://www.infonetiowa.org/>

SOAR Coming Soon

The “Together We Can Conference was a great event co-sponsored by the Ask Resource Center, the University of Iowa Center for Developmental Disabilities and The Arc of Iowa. Self advocates from across Iowa were identified by local chapters and attended a track designed for them. They sat along side parents, siblings, providers and other interested people to participate in an event for learning about rights and responsibilities and got a chance to learn how to “tell their stories”.

The intent of The Arc of Iowa’s role in this conference partnership is to help self advocates develop their voice and to build skills that will afford them the ability to share their needs with others, get elected to boards, find employment and expand their independence.

A second planning committee of self advocates was formed on a regional level to host a Regional Conference for Self Advocates, planned by self-advocates. The Heartland Self Advocacy Resource Network, made up by self advocates of Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri plan to host this event May 31st - June 2, 2019 at the Stoney Creek Inn, in Independence, MO. The Heartland Regional Summit is in the planning phases but will be known as SOAR Seeking Opportunities for an Advocacy Revolution

Next year, The Arc of Iowa hopes that local chapters will identify members that would like to attend both of these events, raise funds to sponsor their attendance and provide assistance to them in attending these much needed events. Keep informed by reading future issues and watch your email.

Want to get Involved?

The Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities is seeking interested individuals to serve. To learn more go to - <http://iddcouncil.idaction.org/>



- Heartland Self Advocacy Resources Network



Special Thanks Our Donors

This is a critical time for The Arc of Iowa and the support of our members and donors has been integral to our success. We have much to do and many opportunities that we would like to see accomplished. Consider making a contribution to The Arc of Iowa to help expand our reach.

Corporate Contributions

Clean It, Inc.
 Goodwill of the Heartland
 Fidelity Charitable
 Melwood Horticultural Training Center - Car Donation
 WellsFargo Community Support Program

Affiliations

The Arc of Appanoose
 The Arc of Jefferson and Nearby Counties
 The Arc of Marshall County
 The Arc of Scott County
 The Arc of South East Iowa
 The Arc of Story County
 The Arc of Wayne County

Private Contributions

Darlene Vorhies
 Douglas L Cunningham
 Duane & Delaine Petersen
 Emmett J Scherrman
 Julianne Beckett
 Patrick and Shirley Cloos
 Rick & Judy Handlos
 Robert Rush
 Roy and Susan Teas

The Arc of Iowa Board Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 16 at 10 am. The location is the Ames Public Library - Ames Iowa. Anyone interested in the mission of The Arc, advocacy and awareness is invited.

Becoming a part of The Arc's movement takes on many forms, and your commitment to helping create opportunity for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities is critical. By becoming an Arc member you join more than 140,000 members and 730 affiliated chapters across the country.

You will be connected to the largest grassroots movement to protect the rights of people disabilities. Members work together to ensure that sufficient resources are available to meet the needs of people with intellectual and related disabilities in every community in our nation.



MEMBER APPLICATION

Member Information

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
 Street Address: _____ City: _____ State __ Zip _____
 Telephone; Home (_____) _____ Cell: (_____) _____
 E-mail Address: _____ (help us communicate with you)

Membership Information

- Self-Advocate - \$30.00
- Individual - \$35.00
- Professional in field - \$45.00
- Family \$60.00
- Business- \$250.00

Additional Donation For Statewide Advocacy
 \$10 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1000 Other: \$ _____

Method of Payment

Check enclosed, **Please make checks payable to The Arc of Iowa, 114 S 11th St. West Des Moines Iowa 50265**
 Please bill my credit card: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover
 Account number: _____
 Expiration Date: _____
 Signature _____

“Make a
Choice, Be a
Voice”



Stories from the Capital Insider Blog

Social Security - House Committee to Hold Hearing on Securing Americans' Identities: The Future of the Social Security Number

On May 17, the House Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee held a hearing on Securing Americans' identities: The Future of the Social Security Number. As stated in the Committee's announcement, the hearing will examine "the dangers of the use of the Social Security number (SSN) as both an identifier and authenticator and examine policy considerations and possible solutions to mitigate the consequences of SSN loss or theft. Visit the Committee website for more information or to access live video.

To learn more go to: <https://bit.ly/2IXfZc>

Rights - U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Holds Public Briefing on Hate Crimes; The Arc's Director of Rights Policy Testifies

May 11th, the US Commission on Civil Rights held a public

briefing titled "In the Name of Hate Crimes". Nicole Jorwic, Director of Rights Policy at the Arc of the United States, testified about hate crimes against people with disabilities. She discussed the many barriers to the reporting and prosecution of hate crimes, including untrained officers believing that victims with disabilities are not credible, lack of standardized protocols for handling complaints from victims with disabilities, lack of training for prosecutors and other court officials, hate crimes being minimized and viewed as pranks or bullying, and people with disabilities being afraid to report someone they know.

Watch Nicole's Testimony go to: <https://bit.ly/2H2IBBg>

Together We Achieve More

For more information about these articles and more, go to the www.thearc.org and sign up for the Action Center. You will receive instant alerts and updates on bills and policy movements that affect your life.



Board Profile - Alice Phillips

Alice has been an advocate for people with disabilities her entire teaching career. She worked as a physical education teacher and was very involved in Special Olympics. She was active at her local Arc and then joined The Arc of Iowa Board of Directors and served the office of president. Alice is VERY involved in People First and is committed to getting individuals with disabilities to trainings and conferences.

She believes that people with disabilities can be great self-advocates and promotes that belief. Alice's local Arc assists self-advocacy through voter registration, getting individuals to polling places, to candidate forums and sessions on policy issues.

The Arc also trains individuals before they go to the state capitol in preparation to speak with legislators. When asked how The Arc of Iowa could be more effective, Alice stated that it would be helpful if The Arc of Iowa could fulfill one of its goals; to hire a policy liaison that could be at the Capital the entire session and assist visitors coming in regarding disability issues.

Please watch the next issue for another board profile.

Join The Arc of Iowa Board of Directors

Alice Phillips

Delaine Petersen

Donna Bachman

Codie Amason

Karen Degroot

Paula Connolly

Tricia Crain

Susan Teas

Executive Director

Doug Cunningham



- Signing the proclamation; March as Disability Awareness Month



Achieve with us.®

The Arc believes that all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have strengths, abilities and inherent value; are equal before the law; and must be treated with dignity and respect.



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West Des Moines, IA 50265



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