



**The Arc of Pennsylvania Board of Directors Meeting
6:12 p.m. - 7:35 p.m. - ZOOM Meeting
March 16, 2021**

Board Members Present: S. Holland, J. Goryl, J. Capitani, J. Stranix, L. Piggott-Prawl, M. Marsh, D. Broderick, C. Dias, J. Downey, J. Gerhart-Rothholz, Z. Hicks, G. Horner, P. Leo, R. McDowell, K. Oakes, M. Owens,, P. Rosenbauer, K. Shoemaker, L. Wise, & S. Wolff

Board Members Absent: A. Couldridge, D. Brubaker, R. Gray, L. Long, L. Princiotta, & C. Schwenk

Staff Present: S. Landis, T. Gross-Fritz, K. Yost, J. Fields, & S. Keith Knox

1. **Call to Order** - President S. Holland called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.
2. **Roll Call** - J. Stranix conducted the Roll Call and reported a quorum was present.
3. **Agenda Approval** -
ACTION: G. Horner motioned to accept the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by J. Downey. The motion passed without objections or abstentions.
4. **Minutes Approval**
ACTION: J. Stranix motioned to approve the December 2, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. S. Wolff seconded the motion. The motion passed without objections or abstentions.
5. **Information Agenda**
 - a. **2020-21 PA State Budget:** S. Landis reported that the state is struggling financially, yet the new federal dollars will provide assistance during the next year. A portion of these additional federal dollars target services in the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) programs, but how they will impact HCBS is unknown at this time. There are additional opportunities proposed in the Governor's budget for individuals to receive waiver funded services. Staff and membership will be reaching out to legislators regarding the proposed budget. Advocacy will be needed to assure that Money Follows the Person dollars are spent. Z. Hicks reported that he got a letter from his legislator that the federal dollars were on the way. S. Holland clarified that this round of stimulus checks will include individuals considered dependents...meaning people with disabilities will receive a check as well.
 - b. **COVID-19 Vaccine Update:** S. Landis commented on the advocacy underway to assure that people with disabilities and their families have access to the vaccine NOW. The majority of people with disabilities living in congregate settings have already received the vaccine. The priority now is getting folks living in the community and their family caregivers access to a vaccine. Meetings have occurred with the Acting Secretary of Health, Alison Beam. The release of the Jefferson Study is being referenced and we are asking the department to use the scientific data to drive their decisions. In addition, the accessibility of the department's website and the inconsistent communications were noted as problematic as well. The recent Membership Action Alert is having an impact.
 - c. **Racial Equity Committee:** S. Landis reported that the strategic plan emphasizes the value that our organization has for diversity: a diverse board, a diverse workforce, which results in equitable access and quality services that meet the needs of the person and their family. Local chapters have

requested information about the level of diversity that exists in The Arc - a picture of where are right now. A survey has been drafted to learn about the diversity of local chapter boards and workforce. S. Holland asked for volunteers to serve on a Racial Equity Committee to guide us through the data collection, reviewing the data, and setting next steps. S. Holland asked for volunteers to contact her if interested. J. Gerhart-Rothholz, M. Owens, & L. Piggott-Prawl volunteered to serve.

- d. Self-Advocate Committee: S. Landis reported that the strategic plan emphasizes listening to the voices of self-advocates in all aspects of the organization. We want to make sure that self-advocates have an equal role in the work that we do. S. Wolff was asked to chair the Self-Advocacy Committee and she agreed. This committee will include the Self-Advocates who serve on the board, if interested, as well as other self-advocates. The first job of the committee is to determine the mission, purpose, and to outline it's work. Stay tuned for additional information.
- e. Strategic Plan Update: S. Landis talked enthusiastically about the new strategic plan. She shared a copy of the progress report with most goals in green, meaning "in progress". An additional initiative was identified. The Arc of PA is coalescing organizations and individuals to identify common ground solutions that ensure the safety of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) living in the community. The HCBS Shared Solutions Coalition (draft name) will form recommendations for the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) to make systemic changes.

ACTION: D. Broderick motioned that the board approve up to \$6,000 to hire a consultant to facilitate and coordinate the work of the Shared Solutions Coalition. K. Shoemaker seconded the motion. The motion carried with no opposition and no abstentions.

- f. Presentation by Katie Yost, Manager, Government & Chapter Relations: K. Yost highlighted the virtual advocacy that is making an incredible impact! Changes were needed because of COVID-19 restrictions, yet our advocacy could not stop. We are now using ZOOM in a whole new way and in many ways, these meetings are more impactful; providing a better way to connect with individual legislators, elevating the voices of self-advocates, and involving local chapters. This advocacy has included: 1) "Meet and Greet" with the new class of legislators: conversations between legislators and their local chapters and self-advocates to build and/or strengthen relationships. We completed 28 Meet and Greet out of 31 new legislators. 2) Z. Hicks testified before the House Human Services Committee. We have heard from legislators about the impact that he had on them by hearing and seeing him at the virtual hearing. THANK YOU ZACH! 3) A "Meet the Candidate Series" during which candidates for office were interviewed by a self-advocate. Out of the 6 candidates interviewed, 4 won their elections. NOTE: One of these new legislators is now a fierce and vocal advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. 4) "Making Connection Series" highlights an individual with IDD who is competitively employed. Stay Tuned: These employees will be providing a panel discussion at this year's A & P Day on Tuesday, June 8th, 2021. Our newest initiative focuses on the Governor's proposed budget. Staff, self-advocates, and local chapters are meeting (virtually) with all members of the House and Senate Appropriation committees and the caucus chairs. Over 40 ZOOM meetings are scheduled so far. During these meetings we will share our key budget issues: waiting list, state center closure, special education funding, and other issues.

6. Consent Calendar

- a. President's Report - S. Holland's report is available on the board portal.
- b. Executive Director's Report - S. Landis's report is on the board portal.
- c. Treasurer's Report - L. Piggott-Prawl reported that the Treasurer's Report is located on the board portal. T. Gross Fritz reported that the organization is operating with a surplus, with \$272,000 over in net income; this amount includes \$163,000 for PPP loan which was forgiven and became

income. We have gains in our investments and an increase in our fee for service work. All chapters are current through February in payment of dues.

d. PCE Report - Report is on the board portal.

e. Committee Reports -

- i. Board Development - M. Marsh reported that the committee is working on the slate of officers for the upcoming membership meeting. In addition, there are board seats that need to be filled. The slate of officers will be announced soon, as well as names of individuals to fill vacated seats. All nominations should be forwarded to M. March and S. Landis for follow up.

7. **New Business** - NONE

8. **Adjournment** - J. Stranix moved for adjournment and the motion was seconded by Z. Hicks. The board meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

June 7, 2021

September 11, 2021 - Crowne Plaza, Harrisburg PA

The Arc's Mission: The Arc of Pennsylvania promotes the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes