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Arc Michigan conference held in Sterling Heights, Michigan

Looking for experience as a Board member?

Do you have some time to spend advocating for those with disabilities?

Call the Arc office at 773-8765, for opportunities to become a member of the Arc of Central Michigan! love to have you!

Next Board meeting: October 20th 2009, at 5:30pm at the MMI building



The Arc Michigan's Annual conference was held in Sterling Heights this year, June 19th and 20th. This year, the conference was held on Friday and Saturday morning only.

The first keynote speaker was Blaise Winter. Blaise is a former pro football player, playing for the Green Bay Packers and the San Diego Chargers. Blaise also happens to be an individual born with a cleft palate. His dynamic and strongly energetic manner in speaking held everyone's attention for the 1 ½ hour presentation. He discussed when he was a child and how he was treated at school, his relationship with his mother, and learning to not take "no" for an answer.

The luncheon session included a timely discussion by Mike Head, the Director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Administration for the Michigan Department of Community Health. Topics discussed included the current financial state of our community, recent eliminations of spending by Medicaid, and the ongoing struggle to provide person centered services across the state.

During the afternoon, Dr. Tom Pomeranz, former Director of a local Arc in Nebraska, and a current national speaker for the rights of the disabled. His many experiences, which included working in a group home, provided a unique and sometimes humorous look at the history and current state of the ongoing fight for the rights of those with disabilities.

Saturday's sessions included sessions for Arc Board members by Diana Kern, Director of the Nonprofit NEW corporation based in Lansing. Diana was a key

note presenter at last year's conference in Bay City. There were also presentations about Hospice, People First, and many others. Additionally, this conference was held at the Best Western Sterling, which housed an indoor water park. The staff was very accommodating, the meals was delicious, and the information invaluable. Thank you to all who attended!

Arc Picnic held July 9, 2009

A beautiful day, good food, and great company- what could be better? The Arc of Central Michigan's annual picnic was held on Thursday, July 9, 2009 at Coldwater Lake in Weidman. Everyone brought their appetites, (and some brought bathing suits), more than 140 people enjoyed the setting, food and atmosphere. The legendary water balloon toss was back, as well as sno cones and pop, graciously provided by the Access Recreation staff from the City of Mt. Pleasant. ICTC generously provided transportation for individuals traveling from Clare as well as Mt. Pleasant. The Isabella County Parks and Rec program graciously waived the entrance fee for those attending, as well as waived the pavilion fee. Thank you to Chris Tait, who provided the watermelons, Margaret, who provided baked beans and cake, and Board members Chris Mikulin and Sue Poindexter, who were the hot dog grillers. Additional Board members who attended included Ellen Fuller, Sarah Geisert, Dennis Rhodes, and Anne Ramirez. Thanks to all!



Fundraising Update

We will be having a car wash event on Saturday, August 15, 2009 from 10am – 1pm at the AutoZone in Mt. Pleasant. Come out to support your local Arc! Donations accepted.

Our hot dog stand event will be held on Friday, September 4th, 2009 from 10am- 4pm at the Witbeck's in Clare. Donations welcome!

Other Arc News

(This information was obtained from the Arc Michigan “Friday Mail”)

MT. PLEASANT CLOSURE AND OTHER FY 2010 BUDGET IMPACTS

Details of the Governor's FY 2010 budget proposal are still emerging, but they include:

- Closure of the Mt. Pleasant Center
- Accelerated transition of seniors and persons with disabilities from nursing home to community care settings
- Spending cuts of \$106 million in the Department of Community Health, including reductions in the Office of Services to the Aging, changes in prescription drug purchasing and placement of mental health prescription drugs on a Preferred Drug List, elimination or reduction of numerous health promotion programs and services, and elimination of the Office of Drug Control Policy
- \$100 million in cuts in the Department of Human Services, including eliminating funds for before and after school programs, and the state supplemental payment for SSI recipients

The Governor's budget message is available online at

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/budget/budget20small_267048_7.pdf (budget message)

2009 Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Tool Kit

The DBTAC - Network of ADA Centers has announced the release of the 2009 Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Anniversary Tool Kit. Together with its Affiliate Networks and Partners, the network has accomplished significant results toward voluntary ADA compliance. The Tool Kit captures the collective achievements and offers informative materials designed to help you plan and publicize your ADA activities during the ADA Anniversary and throughout the year. The Tool Kit includes:

Overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008

ADA - Findings, Purpose, and History

The Americans with Disabilities Act from a Civil Rights Perspective

Americans with Disabilities Act Resources and Publications

Americans with Disabilities Act and Olmstead Resources

ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) Summary and Resources

Statistics You Can Use

The White House Agenda on Disabilities

Tips on Writing a News Release

Sample Proclamation: ADA Anniversary

National DBTAC Initiatives

The 2009 ADA Anniversary Tool Kit can be downloaded at <http://adaanniversary.org>

We would like to say thank you to those members who have renewed their membership with the Arc of Central Michigan, in addition to welcoming new members!

Ellen Fuller	Nancy and Tim Hartshorne	Sue Poindexter
Dennis Fox and Susie Brown	Kim Brown	Sarah Giesert
Rich Young	Michele Chapman	Dennis Rhoads
George Rouman	Yulanda Bellingar	
Bob Gustin	Jane Zientek	
Marilyn Zerbe	David Stow	
Chris Mikulin	Lacey Coulson	Sheryle Dixon
Lis Cogbill	Elaine Leis	carol Moody
Scott Roberson	Anne Ramirez	Mary Lou Schilling

**Arc of Central Michigan
Board of Directors 2009-2010**

Executive Committee

President: Sue Poindexter	Secretary: Michele Chapman
Vice President: Rich Young	Treasurer: Kim Brown

Directors

Kim Brown	Susie Brown
Michele Chapman	Lis Cogbill
Dennis Fox	Elaine Leis
Ellen Fuller	Sarah Geisert
Dennis Rhoads	Susan Poindexter
Anne Ramirez	Rich Young

Executive Director: Anne Marie Koelbel, M.S.

Corporate Memberships: Isabella County Transportation Corp.

The Arc Of Central Michigan

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The Arc of Central Michigan exists to assure that citizens with disabilities are valued and that they and their families can participate fully in and contribute to the life of their community.