

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

It's advocacy time here in Iowa with the legislative session in full swing. There are several bills that made it past the first funnel last week that are noteworthy. House File 570 eliminates the monthly budget maximum, or cap, for individuals eligible for the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) brain injury waiver.



There are currently four bills related to guardianships: SF 424 and HSB 22 relate to adult guardianships, both seeking to strength protections. SF 425 and HSB118 relate to juvenile guardianships, stipulating when the courts may appoint a guardianship and juvenile court jurisdiction over minor guardianship proceedings.

There are several bills looking to remove Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) from the managed care system. All of these were filed by democrats so the current belief is that none will survive.

Another bill of interest is SF 41, which exempts wages of persons working for nonprofits who provide services to disabled individuals. Hence a direct support professional (DSP) who works for a nonprofit would no longer have to pay taxes on wages earned.

If you are interested in sharing your opinion with your elected officials on the various bills still active it is easy to do so. It is important that you not only let your voice be heard on things in which you disagree with, but also on the things you support!

You can find your local legislators by going to www.legis.iowa.gov. Then click on 'Find Your Legislator'. Type in the town you live in and hit 'Search'. A list will pop up with a picture of your senator or representative. If you click on each of their names it will give you a great deal of information, including their email. As a helpful hint, their emails all end with @legis.iowa.gov. So Liz Mathis, for example, can be reached at liz.mathis@legis.iowa.gov. If you want to mail them your opinions they can be reached at State Capitol Des Moines, IA 50319. To send a message directly to Governor Reynolds, go to www.governor.iowa.gov/contact. From here it is very easy to register your opinion right from this site. If you wish to mail your stories or concerns the governor may be reached at Governor Reynolds 1007 E. Grand Ave. Des Moines, IA 50319. Her phone number is (515) 281-5211.

Please let The Arc staff know if we can be of any assistance with your advocacy efforts!

Sincerely,
Anne Armknecht, MBA HC
Executive Director

THE ARC MARCH IS ALMOST HERE

Saturday, March 23rd
8:00 am - Activities Begin
9:30 am - Walk Starts

Lindale Mall Food Court
Cedar Rapids



Come celebrate with us at the 22nd Annual Arc March! There will be music, activities, a light breakfast, fun and friends to fill your morning. Show your support by walking with us or you can make a donation online to the event.

If you missed the March 1st deadline for ordering t-shirts we did order some extras. Please contact Lexi at lcoberly@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext.1024 to put your name on the list for one. Extra shirts will be sold on a first come - first served basis. \$15.00 for an adult size and \$10.00 for a youth size.

DONATE NOW

2019 CARE EXPO

Saturday, March 30th
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Grant Wood AEA
4401 6th St. SW | Cedar Rapids



Come visit with lots of vendors and agencies, including The Arc of East Central Iowa. There will be workshops on a variety of topics including Legal Planning for Your Special Needs Child. This event is FREE and open to the public to attend. For more information go to <https://www.facebook.com/corridorautismresourceexpo/>

ADAPTED SPORTS CLINIC

Saturday, March 30th
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Kirkwood Community College

The 12th Annual Eastern Iowa Adapted Sports Clinic is March 30th. Enjoy hands-on learning in cycling, wheelchair racing, soccer, tennis, boxing, archery, yoga, wheelchair basketball and more! Interact with various adapted sports & recreational equipment displays and speak with equipment experts.



Attendees of all ages, including individuals with physical disabilities and their friends and family are invited to enjoy a free pizza lunch between 12-1, as well as the chance to win door prizes!

Pre-registration is recommended in order to meet your needs. However, you may register the day of the event. For additional information, please see the [Registration Brochure](#).

SPECIAL NEEDS EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 30th
10:00 am - Activities
11:00 am - Egg Hunt

Regis Middle School
735 Prairie Dr. NE | Cedar Rapids



For those with special needs ages 21 and under and their siblings up to age 10.

Activities include: Arts & Crafts, Games, Prizes, and a visit from the Easter Bunny!

Please bring along your Easter basket to collect your eggs!

Please RSVP by March 25th to Lexi at lcoberly@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext. 1024.

RSVP NOW

NEW MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION BEGINS TO ACCEPT MEMBERS

Iowa Total Care is the name of the new managed care organization (MCO) in Iowa. Beginning March 4th all members who are funded by one of the MCO's will be in an Open Choice Period. This will last through June 18th. During this time anyone can choose which of the three MCO's they wish to enroll with for coverage starting July 1st, 2019. Until then, you will remain with your current MCO funder.



Throughout March, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) will be mailing MCO assignment letters to all Iowa Healthlink members. If your services are managed/funded by Amerigroup or United Healthcare, please look for a letter in the mail. Some individuals may be reassigned to a different MCO, but can choose a different plan. If you receive a letter telling you that you have been reassigned to a new/different MCO, and you are ok with this, you do not have to do anything. If you are NOT ok with the change, and want to stay with your current MCO, or try another, then you MUST contact IME Member Services by June 18th! We will send out additional information in the April Challenger. When you get your letter please feel free to share it with your Arc direct service worker or your Arc Coordinator. We will be happy to go over it with you and help.

SPECIAL EDUCATION RULE CHANGES

The Iowa State Board of Education has recently made changes to Iowa's special education rules related to graduation and the definition of a regular high school diploma. The changes made were to be consistent with the required language in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The change means it will no longer be permissible to award a high school diploma based solely on IEP goal attainment.



In Iowa, the minimum graduation requirements are four years of English, three years each of math, social studies and science, and completion of your districts expectations for physical education. It will be very important that your child's IEP Team develop a pathway that meet these requirements in order to achieve a regular high school diploma. Further information may be obtained by contacting your local AEA, the Iowa Department of Education, or the ASK Resource Center.

SUMMER DAY PROGRAMS

The Arc has various summer programs for your child and teen to participate in. Sign up for summer programming has begun for all sites.

Check out this year's [Summer Programming Opportunities Flyer](#) for details.



SUMMER JOB OPENINGS

We are looking for employees for our Daycare Enrichment Program and Summer Day Program. Shifts are Monday - Friday ending at 6:30 pm at the latest (depending on setting). No weekends, holidays, or nights! Beginning pay rate of \$10.15/hour plus opportunities for advancement. We offer paid training and flexible scheduling. Great opportunity for college students looking to gain experience in the Human Services field or educators seeking summer employment. Please contact Human Resources at 319-365-0487 ext. 1054 or HumanResources@arceci.org for more information. Applications are available [here](#) or at The Arc offices: 680 2nd Street SE, Suite 200 Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401.



SPRING FLING DANCE

Sunday, April 14th
2:00 - 4:00 pm

Elk's Lodge
801 33rd Ave. SW | Cedar Rapids
\$5.00 per person



Let's think spring! Please join us at the Elk's Lodge for the Annual Spring Fling Dance. There will be a DJ playing all your requests, so make sure to dust off your dancin' shoes cause it's time to boogie down!

SIGN UP TO PLAY UNIFIED SOFTBALL

Games:
Tuesday Evenings
June 4th - July 23rd at Ellis Park

Sign up to play for The Arc Angels, The Arc Aces, or The Arc Astros! No experience is necessary, just team spirit and a willingness to have fun. Each player is required to have a "peer partner" who can assist them on the field, as a coach, or in other areas as needed. Players and partners must be at least 15 years of age.



Registration is \$10.00 which includes a team t-shirt. Additional t-shirts are available for only \$10.00 each. **Forms are due no later than May 6th. This year's color is Yellow!**

REGISTRATION FORM

THE ARC'S ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thursday, June 13th
12:30 pm - Shotgun Start

Hunter's Ridge Golf Course in Marion

Please join us for a wonderful day of golfing as we golf for a cause in helping those with disabilities in our community realize their dreams. For details or to register - please download this year's [registration brochure](#).



WELCOME MADALYN

Hello, I'm Madalyn Klobassa, the new Quality Assurance Specialist. I graduated from the University of Iowa in 2017 and later began working at The Arc's Day Hab program. In my free time you can find me shopping at TJ Maxx and Target, hanging out with friends and family, and cheering on the Hawkeyes. I am looking forward to continuing my career at The Arc and getting to know everyone!



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with disabilities in
our community.



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