FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

It is hard to look at all the beauty that spring brings and believe there is a pandemic sweeping across the world. I hope you all have had an opportunity to get outside and take in the beautiful flowers and trees and experience something normal.

We are hard at work discussing plans that will allow us to resume more services to our clients. We have listened to the experts, our families and our staff to help guide us in thoughtfully putting a plan in place. We are not to the finish line on this, but rest assured it is a top priority. We will communicate as plans are finalized.

To keep you up to date, here is a status of our programs:
- **In-home/Community Services** - services are currently available
- **Daycare/Groups** - currently closed
- **Summer Day Program** - pending confirmation of a program site
- **Day Habilitation** - currently closed
- **Supported Employment** - services are still available
- **Project SEARCH** - program is currently closed

The impact COVID-19 has had on clients and staff has brought about a significant decline in our revenues. To offset this as best we can, we have applied for government funding and grants. This alone will not overcome our losses. Our staff is working hard with our funders to find alternative ways to provide services to meet as many needs as possible. These new approaches will not only help us now, but will be helpful should normal programming be affected in the future. While we hope that is not the case, we will have a plan.

Additionally, all Arc sponsored events are currently cancelled through the month of June. We miss seeing all of you who attend these events and look forward to a time when we can safely be together again. I hope this finds you and yours safe and healthy.

Sincerely,
Kyle Schramp
Acting Executive Director

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Join The Arc in recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness month. Did you know approximately one in five adults in the United States experience a mental illness each year. In addition one in six children aged 2–8 years old (17.4%) have a diagnosed mental, behavioral, or developmental disorder.
If you are experiencing any signs of mental health or danger to yourself, please consider calling the Free Crisis Line at 319-362-2174 or 1-800-332-4224. You will be connected to a trained and compassionate crisis counselor.

Please know you are not alone in this journey. The Arc is available to help connect you with community resources. Your mental health is important today and every day!

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**WELCOME TO THE ARC!**

Hello! I am Candice Murphy and I am the new Client Services Director. I have a Master’s Degree in Social Work from St. Ambrose University and over 15 years of experience in the Human Services field. The majority of my career has been spent working with individuals with mental health and/or developmental disabilities through both case management and direct service.

I live in Marion with my husband, Ryan, and our two children, Kellen (age 6) and Keegan (age 3). We love to be outdoors, hiking, biking, kayaking, and camping when the weather allows! When we aren’t outside, you can find us inside doing science experiments, arts and crafts, playing board games, or imagining the floor is lava!

I am very excited to be a part of The Arc and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible once we are back in our office and more of our services have resumed.

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**WE WANT TO TAKE A MINUTE TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF OUR HARDWORKING DSPS WHO ARE OUT THERE DOING ESSENTIAL WORK. WE THANK YOU!!!**

**Ethan Coblentz**

Ethan is normally found working in our daycare but since daycare services are currently unavailable, Ethan has been providing DayHab services.

Jared, a DayHab consumer, enjoys having Ethan's assistance and looks forward to his visits.

Thank you Ethan for stepping up and helping provide services!

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**Jessica Wright**

Jessica Wright has gone above and beyond during these times.

She has always stepped forward without hesitation for any needs and her regular consumers are her first priority.

She is always finding a way to keep her clients engaged. Jessica and Katelyn recently went on a expedition to Pleasant Creek State Recreational Area near Palo for a picnic and a walk on the trails.
Thank you Jessica for all you do!

Lexxis Onken

Lexxis has been doing a great job helping Calvin, an Arc consumer, manage his weekly routine.

Calvin has been saving his money for special items on his 'Wish List'. Lexxis was able to help Calvin get some of those items like a new TV, a TV stand, and other items for his apartment.

Calvin is very happy with his new items! Thank you Lexxis for helping to make that happen!

Kaitlyn Miller

Kaitlyn Miller has not let COVID-19 stop her from going above and beyond to provide services to our clients!

A number of our clients continue to work through COVID-19 in essential jobs and without hesitation, Kaitlyn has been right there to continue job coaching for these individuals. She has assisted one client with learning the tasks of his new position at Hy-Vee, has helped numerous clients adapt to new procedures within their work place, and assisted others with dealing with the changes in their work schedules due to COVID-19.

In addition to providing Job Coaching, Kaitlyn has picked up shifts to provide in home DayHab and continues to provide Respite and SCL.

Thank you Kaitlyn for all that you do to support these programs and all of our Arc clients!

Pamela Schumann

Pamela & Keira, an Arc consumer, have been having some fun planting seeds.

They started off by planting the seeds inside and then a couple of weeks later they planted them in the outside garden.

Keira loves spending time with Pamela and helping out in the garden. Thank you Pamela for sharing your love of gardening with others!

Spencer Ohl

Each week the daycare classrooms participate a zoom meeting to stay connected. Spencer is a staff member in our daycare who has made time in his day to be on almost every zoom meeting!

He talks to every client and makes sure that they feel special and have a little bit of his time. Just the other day a client said the
thing she missed the most about Choice was going to the YMCA with Spencer on SCL!

Thank you Spencer for being so caring and such a great role model!

Danielle Wiese

Danielle always takes the time to go above and beyond for the consumers she works with.

Lately she has been truly concerned for her client's safety so she has offered to help keep them home safe. She has been collecting their grocery lists and then going out to do their shopping and other errands for them. She then delivers their groceries and helps them put everything away to ensure that they have everything that they need.

Thank you Danielle for always having your client's safety in mind!

Bea Felter

Bea has been doing a great job helping her clients manage their mental health.

Bea has had some difficult situations arise during this quarantine and she has done a great job with staying calm, asking for help, and insuring safety for clients.

Bea is a huge help to those she serves as a sounding board and voice of reason. Bea has been flexible with her schedule to meet as many needs as possible and continues to smile and be upbeat everyday!

Thank you Bea for always being a rock and always having a smile to share!

Jody McFarland

Jody and Jodi, an Arc consumer, make a great pair.

Without skipping a beat, Jody jumped into help support Jodi during these times when social distancing, masks, and governor ordered closed programs were turning Jodi’s world upside-down.

Jody stepped in to work on SCL Goals, respite care, as well as learning how to complete DayHab documentation to help support Jodi throughout the day!

Getting creative has been a bonus for Jody and Jodi – they have done lots of baking and cooking, ventured outside to walking trails while monitoring social distancing, and have been taking virtual tours of zoos and aquariums around the United States!

Thank you Jody for not skipping a beat!

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