

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I hope this finds you and yours safe and healthy. Your well-being is important. Summer is now upon us and the days are longer and lighter. Here at The Arc we have started reopening programs and welcoming back clients. It feels good taking steps in that direction and we are all hopeful that we can continue to serve more clients in the weeks and months to come. Your patience and trust are greatly appreciated as we exercise care and caution for our staff and those we are trusted to serve.



We will begin a staggered return of staff to the office beginning on July 6th. The office will remain closed and we will continue with phone and Zoom meetings throughout the summer. Please call or email as you have been if you need assistance...we are here to serve you!

As restrictions regarding the pandemic have been lifted, it can become confusing to know what precautions should be taken. What we hear and what we see in public are often in conflict. One precaution being recommended by public health agencies like the CDC is wearing cloth face masks to help mitigate the spread of the virus. To do our part, we are requiring our staff to wear masks while providing services unless there are health factors that make this unsafe. This list of [COVID-19 resources](#) created by The Arc US provides some helpful information especially for those with disabilities.

The political advertising is ramping up and the November elections will soon be upon us. Now is the time to think about the issues that matter to you and your family. We can all be advocates for those in our community with intellectual and developmental disabilities, by understanding how the candidates stand on issues of importance to them. These [resources](#) can help guide and educate you in making an informed decision. Your vote is your voice, make it count.

I hope you are all enjoying the summer and spending time in the great outdoors!

Sincerely,
Kyle Schramp
Acting Executive Director

PROGRAMS AT THE ARC

The Arc programs are beginning to open up and we could not be more excited! Our process for reopening the programs included a survey out to the participants for their valued feedback, analyzing and revamping our space, procuring personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies, and adapting our policies and procedures to align with best practices for

mitigating the spread of COVID-19. We took a slow and phased in approach to reopening and continue to work towards operating at full capacity.



Our school age **Daycare** was the first program to reopen, on June 8th. There are many additional protocols and procedures in place now to account for social distancing and sanitation requirements. All of our staff, consumers, and families have been very patient, flexible, and understanding of our new processes. We continue to learn as we go and make changes as needed. The participants are kept busy doing arts and crafts, playing games, taking virtual tours,

and going outside for walks and fresh air every chance they get. **CHOICE** followed shortly after, with a reopening date of June 18th.

Our next program to open was **Summer Day** on June 16th, just one week past the original start date, due to having to secure a different location. Veritas Church has been so kind and welcoming to us, and we are very thankful for their partnership this summer. While Summer Day looks very different this year without a swimming pool or other field trips, the staff have put together some great in-house activities for each of the rooms.



The Arc's **Day Habilitation** program reopened on June 18th. We have had to make some changes to the schedule, activities, and number of participants served each day, and we look forward to expanding the program again, as soon as we can. DayHab groups are assigned to an area in the building where they spend their day doing arts and crafts, playing games, and building their interpersonal skills, while social distancing.

Also on June 18th, the **Project SEARCH** participants returned to UnityPoint - St. Luke's Hospital to wrap up their classroom work. In order to practice social distancing, the class has been split into a morning session and afternoon session. The hospital also provided a larger space to use for classroom time. The participants will finish the program on June 26th. A graduation ceremony will be planned for a later date. Upon completion of Project SEARCH the participants will transition to Supported Employment Services.



Supported Employment and **In-home Services** have remained available throughout the pandemic. Service delivery continues to grow in these areas.

Our **Service Center (groups and getaways)** has a target date of reopening July 8th. Emily is hard at work developing a phased-in schedule of activities.

All staff and consumers complete a COVID-19 health screening prior to every shift. Staff are required to wear face masks and consumers are highly encouraged to do so, as tolerated. We are very excited to be back with our consumers and providing the services they want and need. Please reach out to your Service & Support Coordinator if you have a service need or any questions.

UNIFIED SOFTBALL - CANCELED



Unfortunately, this year's Unified Softball has been canceled.

We will definitely miss seeing all of the players and their peer partners out on the ball diamond each week enjoying a friendly game of softball.

Anyone who signed up to play on The Arc's teams and paid your registration/t-shirt fee, it will be refunded. No shirts were made this year.

THE ARC NIGHT WITH THE KERNELS - CANCELED

Each July we look forward to our annual Arc Night with the Cedar Rapids Kernels. This year was no different. 200 of our staff, consumers & families join us for a night of baseball & fireworks at the ballpark. It is also the same night that we celebrate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with the Linn County ADA Celebration Committee and 400 of their fans.



Unfortunately, due to the Kernels not being able to play this year, both of those events have been canceled. We look forward to next summer when, hopefully, we are all able to get together again and enjoy summer time favorites of baseball, fireworks and friends.

