



News & Notes
The Arc of Pennsylvania
November 1, 2010

- 1. DPW & MH/MR COALITION:** Maureen represented The Arc of PA at a meeting between the Coalition and Acting DPW Sec. Nardone Oct 15 to discuss ODP unbudgeted costs for increased service authorizations and changing needs of existing waiver participants. DPW officials say ODP had as much as a \$100 million deficit during FY09-10. That FY hole was apparently filled with other DPW funding without service cuts to people or cuts in provider revenue targets, but the same structural deficit remains a problem for the current fiscal year. It's also possible that the things which led to the deficit are still occurring and thus ODP's deficit could exceed \$100m (approx. \$35m in state funding and \$65m in federal Medicaid matching funds). All services are approved through the ISP process. DPW historically has sought a "supplemental" from the legislature when the costs of serving people in other Medicaid funded services like nursing homes and hospitals exceed budgeted amounts. However, there is no indication yet that DPW officials will seek a similar supplemental for community I.D. services. The timing of this issue is particularly bad given that the change in Administrations in coming months. Steve and Maureen attended the ensuing MH/MR Coalition meeting Oct 19 to discuss what was learned at the meeting with Sec. Nardone and what actions should be considered for the FY10/11 budget. The data and the assumptions on which DPW's conclusions were based are still being debated and clarified. Steve also joined a MH/MR Coalition rate workgroup conf. call Oct.12 during which current issues dealing with ODP's proposed rate regulations were discussed.
- 2. CHAPTER 14 TRAINING CALENDAR:** Pam presented the Chapter 14- What's New in Special Education?-including a section on Standards Aligned System- in the following locations - Oct14Local Task Force 4 Grove City, Oct15 The Arc of Butler County Butler County Community College, Oct 27The Arc of Washington County Trinity School District, and Oct29 The Arc of Westmoreland County; Parents from the Include Me From the Start were invited to participate in this training.
- 3. SAGA – EARLY CHILDHOOD & EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE:** Ken Oakes chaired and Pam staffed subcommittee meeting Nov.1, with agenda items that focused on developing priority issues to be recommended to the full SAGA Committee for 2011-2011.
- 4. SAGA – ADULT ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE:** Betsy Messina chaired and Maureen staffed a meeting of the subcommittee Oct 21. The group compiled a list of suggested public policy priorities for 2011 as input for the SAGA meeting in Nov.
- 5. PCAR:** Pam is member of the advisory council that is administering a DD Council grant, secured by PA Coalition Against Rape, to develop a personal safety training guide for self advocates with modules on financial, verbal, physical and sexual abuse, neglect, as well as a module for caregivers. The advisory council met Oct 26th to review the Train-the-Trainer program scheduled to begin in spring 2011.
- 6. EMPLOYMENT:** Maureen submitted a MIG grant application for The Arc of PA for a pilot event with The Arc of Luzerne County. Maureen attended the Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Employment Coalition

meeting Oct 21 to explain the grant to the organizations attending who will help The Arc of Luzerne County put the grant into action. A component of the grant is to create a procedure manual of the event so that it can be readily duplicated by other chapters and organizations. The Arc of PA has not yet heard whether it will be awarded the grant. Maureen attended the QI Statewide Employment Committee meeting Oct 29. PA has joined the Alliance for Full Participation and a workgroup is being formed to develop a state team which will review state policies, practices and strategies that impact opportunities for integrated employment.

7. EDUCATION LAW CENTER OF PA: Pam and Steve did conf. call with ELC leadership Oct. 13 to discuss ideas about ways to work more collaboratively together on systemic changes issues. One idea was to work with local chapters of The Arc on systemic issues for their particular local area. At Steve's suggestion, Janet Stotland will attend the PCE meeting in January to ask chapters about local systemic issues on which collaborative assistance between The Arc of PA and ELC may be helpful.

8. PAC: MJ Bartelmay represented The Arc of PA during ODP's Planning Advisory Committee meeting Oct 14; Steve and Maureen attended. A copy of what ODP is calling its Olmstead Plan for state centers was distributed. This was said to be a final plan but is open to changes. The PAC expressed serious concerns that the so called plan was developed without any input from the PAC. It was on the PAC agenda for discussion but Kevin Casey agreed to table it since PAC members hadn't had the opportunity to review the plan yet and shouldn't have been expected to offer comments. Also, an update on the SIS was given and numerous problems and challenges were discussed with how it's being implemented and the questionable/unproductive timing of sessions with families relative to ISP planning. Finally, the PAC decided to write a transition plan for the next Administration – about 10 key topics were identified and workgroups developed to craft short papers on each topic.

9. ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES: Maureen is working with coalition members to plan a celebration for the passage of Act 70, Adult Protective Services. Different locations around the state will be hosting the event. Also, Steve attended a meeting of the coalition Oct. 26 with DPW's Jamie Buchenauer to discuss whether or how DPW would exercise its discretion outlined in the law to carry out the protective service functions during the period of time that will be needed to write regulations and get local agencies in place. As of right now, DPW has no budget and no staff to investigate even a single case once the law takes effect April 7, 2011 (6 months after being signed into law).

10. PREDETERMINATION FOR DEATH PENALTY: Maureen, along with Mark Murphy of DRN, met with Rep. Tom Murt Oct.28, who is the co-chair of the House Intellectual Disability Caucus, to solicit his help getting Majority Leader Todd Eachus to schedule a vote on the House floor before the current legislative session ends; it remains unclear whether the House will go into session after the elections, and even if it does there has been no commitment from Majority Leader Eachus to allow a vote on the bill before the session ends. If consideration is allowed, it will be important that the bill not be amended since there will be no time for the Senate to consider/adopt the amendment. Opponents of the pre-trial procedure have filed over 20 amendments, of which they expect one or more to pass and thus kill the bill.

11. LOCAL CHAPTER VISIT: Steve attended and was one of several speakers at a legislative breakfast held by The Arc of Delaware County. A number of legislators who hold positions of power in the legislature were in attendance. This was the first legislative breakfast of the chapter's new Exec. Dir. Frank Bartoli. Good job Frank.

- 12. GOVERNOR'S DISABILITY CABINET ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Pam co-chaired a committee event in celebration of National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) on Oct 18th. The South Central Subcommittee, which covers 13 counties, hosted an Employment Expo at Harrisburg Area Community College with 23 vendors and support systems from the community to provide people with disabilities the opportunity to interact with prospective employers. Over 250 participants attended the event, including many students from area high schools, with transition coordinators.
- 13. PERSON-DRIVEN SUPPORTS/SERVICES:** Maureen attended a PDSS workgroup meeting Oct 20 to work on the grassroots webinar to be held Dec 1 for attendees of the "power to the people" summit held last year. The PDSS workgroup is an outgrowth of the summit.
- 14. WAITING LIST CAMPAIGN:** Steve joined PAWL Campaign conf. call Oct. 29; discussed were upcoming meetings between PAWL and DPW and with Governor's Budget Secretary. Also discussed was the ODP budget deficit and how it might impact services and/or the people languishing on the W.L.
- 15. DISABILITY VOTING COALITION:** Maureen joined DVC conf. call Oct 20 to discuss a performance audit request that DVC will be making to Auditor General Jack Wagner on how PA has been implementing the National Voter Registration Act.
- 16. DAY OF SHARING:** On Oct. 19, Steve attended phase II of the "day of sharing" conducted by White Haven Center's director, Fred Lokuta. The sessions have brought together members who have traditionally been adversaries, such as Arc advocates, state center staff, and the state center's family group leadership. The sessions have been positive, helping shed light on the common interests such as making sure people with intellectual disabilities placed at the WH center are supported and receive the care they need. The Arc of NEPA's Pat Quinn and The Arc of Luzerne County's Pam Zotynia were also present. During the first session, Don Broderick and Sara Wolff also participated.
- 17. PERSONAL CARE HOME REFORM COALITION:** Maureen took part in a meeting with DPW and the Office of Adult Residential Licensing Oct 24 to discuss issues surrounding the implementation of the new statement of policy on certificates of occupancy for personal care homes. On Nov. 1, Maureen attended a meeting with the coalition to discuss next steps.
- 18. INCLUDE ME:** Linda Leavy and Regina Sciuolo joined the Include Me project as consultants for districts in the western region. Include Me consultants participated in a training/work session 10/7/10 at PaTTAN, Harrisburg. Sessions focused on supplementary aids and services toolkit debriefing with PaTTAN staff, meeting with Bureau of Special Education Single Points of Contacts (SPOCs), a presentation and overview of Pitt's Early Childhood Partnerships by Dr. Steve Bagnato, and school-level needs assessment planning with PaTTAN staff. Pat Hozella, Assistant Director of the Bureau of Special Education, presented a power point with a brief overview and background of the Include Me project, common issues on scaling up any statewide initiative, conducted a question and answer session for consultants and discussed next steps. Rita, and Include Me consultants Susan Landes and Ned Whitehead, met with IU 18 Executive Director Greg Koons and his Technical Assistance Consultant staff 10/14/10 to discuss IU 18 support to Include Me districts in their coverage area. Mr. Koons forwarded a list of services and supports available to Rita. He also contacted districts participating in the Include Me project to review IU access procedures. Steve did a meet and greet with Dr. Bagnato from Pitt's Early Childhood Partnerships Oct. 20. A core group of Include Me consultants and The Arc of PA staff met with Dr. Bagnato and Eileen McKeating Oct. 20 to begin the participatory action group process which helps

define project assessment options. Rita conducted an informal advisory group conference call for stakeholders Oct.22. Rita and an Include Me consultant in the eastern region met with school district administrative staff and parents Oct.21 to address questions about the Include Me project. Include Me consultants participated in regional conference calls with Rita Oct.28-30. Rita attended meeting Nov.1 with Superintendent and Special Education Supervisor in a central region school district to address any continuing concerns about the Include Me project. Rita and Include Me consultants Amy Slody and Jim Ferry met with IU 13 Special Education Director Nov.1 to review training and T.A. available through IU 13.

19. FEDERAL HEALTH CARE REFORM: Maureen attended a state government sponsored "Implementing Health Care Reform in PA" meeting Oct 26. The purpose of the meeting was "a discussion with the consumer representatives to the Commonwealth Health Reform Advisory Committee."

20. FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE: Nancy Richey chaired and Steve and Gwen staffed conf. call meeting of the committee Oct.22. The Arc of PA's auditor joined the call to review the org.'s FY09-10 audit. It was a clean audit. The committee voted to accept the audit and it will be presented to the board during its Jan.'11 meeting. The Arc of PA's investments were reviewed with the committee.

21. PACE PROGRAM: On Oct.25, Steve toured Mercy Life adult day center in Philadelphia and then did a brief tour of and attended a meeting at Elwyn near Philadelphia. The purpose of the meeting was discuss the potential application of the federal PACE model of service (capitated all inclusive long-term supports and services for people who are older adults) to older people with intellectual disabilities. Representatives from the national PACE association were also in attendance. This was a follow up to a meeting first held in DC with similar partners including The Arc/DPC. The Arc of PA was a participant at the invitation of Elwyn and used the meeting to do fact finding only – it has no position right now on the application of the PACE model to the I.D. population, other than to say that any model of service should not restrict self-determination and community integration. There are questions about whether this model of care conceived for older citizens (folks who have never needed supports until later in life) and one governed by tight restrictions and parameters included in federal law, can even be applied to serve the I.D. population. A common sense barrier might be that people entering a PACE model would have to leave their current service provider to join another operating a PACE model. The meeting seemed helpful to those from the national PACE program to better understand the I.D. population, its traditional service needs, and its service and advocacy "culture" and how it differs from those of the older adult community.

22. UPCOMING: Steve does PAC transition plan conf. call Nov.2; Steve and Pam attend national Arc convention Nov.3-6 – Pam is a presenter at a break-out session on the Include Me program; Maureen attends DD Council Nov 3&4; Maureen meeting b/w DPW Sec. Nardone and I.D. stakeholders Nov 4; Maureen attends Person Directed Supports/Services meeting Nov 8; Pam does south central Gov's Disability Cabinet advisory committee meeting Nov. 8; Steve does MHMR Coalition rate workgroup conf. call Nov9; Pam attends STF Nov. 10; Steve does Achieva webinar on guardianship Nov.11; Pam staffs Advocacy Committee meeting Nov.12; Steve attends PAWL meeting with Sec. Nardone Nov.12; Maureen and Pam join DPW conf. call for state policy staff Nov 15; Maureen attends Joint Committee on Aging/MR meeting Nov 17; Pam presents at PAR conference Nov.17; Steve meets with Ed Piccorini Nov.17; Rita conducts a "Creating Agreement" training for central PA districts and parents Nov.17; Pam attends PDE's Special Education Communications Council Nov.18; Maureen attends SPT Nov 18; Pam attends Gov.'s Disability Cabinet advisory committee Nov.19.

**** 501C3 FEDERAL TAX-EXEMPT DESIGNATION:** In January, it will have been nearly two years since chapters were informed The Arc of PA intended to end the practice of holding a group 501c3 tax exemption for local chapters. Local chapters were informed they needed to secure their own designation from the IRS if they wanted to continue to be exempt from paying federal income tax. Many chapters have successfully gone through the IRS process. Other chapters have started. A few chapters have done nothing. The Arc of PA will start dropping chapters from its group exemption after the first of the new calendar year. On a case by case basis, The Arc of PA will consider keeping a chapter protected IF the chapter is acting in good faith to get their own 501c3 certification. Please let Gwen know as soon as your chapter's 501c3 exemption is approved by the IRS.