

Board Retreat/Meeting Minutes  
November 3, 2007

Present: Meghan Burke, Kate DeKornfeld, Debbie Frazier, Glenn Funk, Mary Hildebrand, Kristi Lane, Maggie Masimore, Dan McGeachy, Elise McMillan, Doria, Panvini, Elizabeth Ralph, Erin Richardson, Jennie Scott, Norman Tenenbaum, Wendy Tucker, Allison Young

Wendy welcomed everyone and thanked Elizabeth for the use of her home. Everyone participated in an ice breaker activity.

1. The minutes from the previous meeting were distributed. Elizabeth moved that the minutes be approved. Maggie seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
2. Doria discussed the activities of The ArcTN. Legislation is one of the main activities, but the agency also works in the areas of advocacy, conservatorship, the criminal justice system, education, hiring and training of support staff, and satisfaction levels of people being served by the Medicaid Waiver.
3. Elise discussed The ArcUS. She is a member of the national board of directors. Mary Jordan, the president of the organization, is also from Tennessee, so our state is well represented. The national board meets 4 times per year...twice in Washington, and twice in other locations. There are 40 state organizations and 800 local chapters. A Governmental Affairs conference is held every year in Washington D.C. The next conference will be March 2-4 2008. Paul Marchand, the lobbyist, does a tremendous job.
4. Norm distributed copies of articles from old scrapbooks which gave an idea of how far the disability movement has

come in the past 50 years. The books trace the history of this movement from the first classroom in Nashville to the current philosophy of the importance of independent life in the community. Norm also distributed annual reports and gave each board member 10 membership cards to share with friends and family members.

5. The direct service programs were discussed.

Mary spoke about the Family Support and Respite Programs. She distributed information and parents' comments about each program.

Kristi discussed Independent Support Coordination. The program currently supports 319 children and adults across 20 counties.

Erin discussed Educational Advocacy, which involves direct assistance to people having problems with the educational system. This led to a discussion of the Pro Bono Legal Project. This project will train lawyers to deal with special education issues. The first lawyer training will be held on January 25, 2008, and will be followed by a training for advocates on January 26.

The Nashville Scene was discussed. The cover story last week dealt with Special Education and the problems that parents have encountered with Metro Schools. Wendy mentioned that the new Mayor, Karl Dean, has agreed to develop a Special Education Task Force that she will chair. He also plans to visit the classrooms that have had the most complaints.

After discussing how to respond to the article, it was agreed that a draft letter to the editor of The Scene and to Metro

Schools will be sent to board members for approval, then sent.

6. Norm discussed the status of the strategic plan that was developed in 2004. Questions for the board to ponder are the status of the current direct services, fund raising, and public relations efforts.
7. The next Executive Committee will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2007 at 11:30 in The Arc conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hildebrand, scribe.