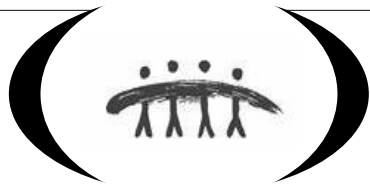


# Executive Memorandum

Vol. 2 Issue 10 July 2008

The Arc of Greater Tarrant County



When it's too important to wait, the news that's hot!



July 2008  
Volume 2, Issue 10

THE ARC OF GREATER  
TARRANT COUNTY

1300 W. Lancaster  
Suite 104  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Phone: 817/877-1474  
Fax: 817/877-1477  
Email: [info@arcgctc.org](mailto:info@arcgctc.org)

From the desk of Richard Garnett, Executive Director  
of The Arc of Greater Tarrant County

**MISSION:** The Arc of Greater Tarrant County advocates on behalf of and in collaboration with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families to improve their quality of life and to expand opportunities to participate actively in the community. We do this by supporting and educating individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, service providers and the community, and by providing or helping community efforts to provide needed supports and services.

## Don't be left behind!

The Executive Memorandum is included monthly in your newsletter with information and news. If you are on our Arc Alert E-mail list, you also receive additional issues of the Memorandum with news alerts and reports that might not wait for the next newsletter or which call for a strategic or advocate response to a situation. We assume you are interested in this information. If you are not interested, just let us know and we will take you off of the e-mail distribution list. If on the other hand you are not on our email list and want to receive either the Executive Memorandum or Newsletter electronically, simply email us and we will add you to the list. I intend for this to be a useful and informative service for self-advocates, parents & family members as well as for professionals, legislators & policy makers. Let me

### MENTAL HEALTH CONNECTION'S LEARNING COMMUNITY RECOMMENDS AUTISM RESOURCE CENTER BE STARTED

The Autism Spectrum Disorders Learning Community conducted a six month in-depth review of research focused upon evidenced-based programs and practices of identification, assessment, and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Two prominent issues had to do with the importance of age when diagnosed and the importance of early screening and assessment. Discussions focused on children between the ages of 18 months and 8 years, and the Learning Community chose to consider research-based recommendations in (a) assessment and screening, (b) diagnosis, (c) interventions based on the core concepts of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), and (d) comprehensive family wrap-around services. As a result, the ASD Learning Community chose to recommend a pilot program, **The Autism Resource Center**, offering early identification, assessment and diagnosis for children between the ages of 18 months and 8 years. Research clearly shows that the earlier a child is identified with an ASD, the earlier supports and services can be offered. Research further finds that interventions in this period of time offer the opportunity to cause positive change in children so dramatic that in virtually every study, it was found that as many as 50% of the children involved in the studies never needed services again. It is recommended that the Autism Resource Center would also be involved in outreach, education and training, and the provision of information for families and professionals, in addition to working in collaboration with service providers in the community to facilitate the coordination of services for children with ASD. An implementation committee has been formed to pursue the establishment of an Autism Resource Center in Tarrant County.

IF YOU WANT YOUR NAME REMOVED FROM THE DISTRIBUTION LIST,  
SIMPLY REPLY BY EMAIL WITH THAT DESIRE OR GIVE US A CALL.

# Executive Memorandum



## WHAT IS A MICROBOARD?

A microboard is formed when a small group of committed family and friends join together with a person with a disability to create a non-profit organization. It is a concept that is sweeping the country. Together, this small group of people addresses the person's planning and support needs. Soon after filing its charter and receiving notice of their nonprofit status, a person-centered-plan called a PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) is conducted with the individual with the disability and the microboard. This PATH becomes the mission of the microboard nonprofit organization. The corporate structure provides a system for ongoing endurance and can give families and individuals the assurance that a support system is in place for the long haul. A microboard:

- Consists of 5-7 family, friends, acquaintances who are committed to knowing the person and having a reciprocal relationship with him/her
- Builds bridges between the individual, family, and community
- Introduces the individual to social opportunities and finds a way for the individual to make a contribution back to the community
- Affords individuals flexibility & self-determination, and carries out the dreams of the individual
- Manages services such as home supervision, medical care, transportation, job search, etc.
- May be financed by Medicaid Waiver Program Funds and serve as providers for one individual

For Information, contact Lisa Rivers, The Arc of Texas, 800/252-9729 or LRivers@thearcoftexas.org

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## Arc Board Governance Committee Calls for Nominations to the Board

The Arc Board Governance Committee continues to solicit nominees to run for the Board of Directors. They are currently accepting nominations of people who feel they can make a contribution to the Board and to The Arc, and who are willing to make the commitment to that responsibility. The slate will be presented at the November Business meeting for election. Send your recommendations to Denise Gasmire, Chair, Governance Committee, at The Arc office or deniseatcsi@sbcglobal.net.

## ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL AND CERTIFICATION DEVELOPED

As The Arc prepares to begin its 3-year leadership and advocacy training project in September, the Advocacy Leadership Council and Advocacy Leadership Certification is taking shape. Every participant who begins in the training project will automatically become Provisional Members in the Advocacy Leadership Council, a group made up only of people involved in this project. Once members complete a set of achievements and participant criteria, they will receive both Full Membership in the Advocacy Leadership Council and an Advocacy Leadership Certification. Each member can use their elite certification status in their public presentations and activities and, if desired, have their name listed on a registry of trained advocates and leaders that will be made available to the public and local volunteer data banks who often are in need of such trained people to fill committee and board positions in the community. Those interested in participating in the project should call The Arc office at 817/877-1474 and get your name on the list..

## A BIG TEXAS SIZED THANK YOU!

The Arc sends a gigantic thank you to all of our friends at Lockheed Martin Aero Club for their contributions to The Arc of Greater Tarrant County. We don't know who you are individually but we sure appreciate you!

## ARC SOLICITING APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR NEW GRANT

The Arc's new leadership training project, funded by the Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities, is anticipated to start in September. One part of that project will be to have a Public Advisory Committee (PAC) which will offer input and guidance as the project develops. "The PAC will include individuals who are able to engage in policy planning and implementation on behalf of The Arc at local, regional or state levels." Membership will include representation from self-advocates & family members, experts, key agency representation, faith-based communities, potential funding sources, business leaders and appropriate licensing/standards entities. Membership will be limited to 8-12 individuals. There will be monthly meetings during year one of the project. If you are interested and feel you can commit to this responsibility, please call Richard Garnett 817/877-1474.