

Arc Northland's Newsletter

FALL 2022 Issue

A Note from your Executive Director!



And just like that, summer is over and we are in a new season! It has been a pleasure to be able to work with the passionate and dedicated staff here at The Arc Northland and we have been busy. In fact, it was hard to decide what to highlight in the newsletter!

This summer Arc Northland hosted a picnic to celebrate the individuals we serve, staff, board of directors, supporters and friends. It was held at Fairmount Park and included a free Lake Superior Zoo ticket. Individuals also had the chance to ride the Zoo's accessible train at no cost. A special thank you to the team for helping me pull off this event, it was a success.

ACF and People First collaborated with Choice Unlimited to host a day of Advocacy, Art, Music and Movement entitled I AM ME! Brittanie Wilson from the Minnesota Council on Disability kicked us off with her personal journey and tips on how we can become the best self-advocates. The afternoon consisted of original art and dance. The group even wrote and performed a song together!

Other program highlights: The Housing Team has been busy with community collaborations such as the St. Louis County Continuum of Care (CoC), the city of Duluth's Affordable Housing Coalition and planning 2023's Housing Summit. The Arrowhead Regional Quality Council (ARQC) is working together on bringing Person-Centered Practices and Principles to everyone at anytime! Stay tuned for updates on "Person-Centered Concepts". Lastly, it is important to note CFSS (Community First Services and Supports) consultation services is still under development and has been pushed back to no sooner than April of 2023. The team continues to learn about our role as a CFSS Consultation Services Provider and will continue PCA Choice Services.

Arc Northland Staff Spotlight

~ Marcia Anick ~

Hello, my name is Marcia Anick, and I am a new addition to the Adult, Children and Family team here at Arc Northland. I have over 20 years of experience working at non-profit organizations in Duluth, MN, and surrounding counties. I have always been passionate about human services and enjoy working with people. I have spent much of my career working with children diagnosed with emotional, behavioral, and learning disabilities as a mental health practitioner and Children's Mental Health Case Manager.



I grew up in the "218" where I spent a great deal my childhood at local hockey arenas and rinks cheering for the Hermantown Hawks. While I still root for the Hawks, my favorite teams to watch are the Proctor Hermantown Mirage and Bemidji State Women's Hockey Team or any team that my nieces play on!

I look forward to continuing my work in the human services field and I am excited to meet new people and work at this agency.

Saying Goodbye!



The Arc Northland team wished Jenny Feehan a heartfelt farewell in early September. Jenny worked as our Qualified Professional in our PCA Choice program for the last five years. Jenny is a natural caregiver and treated us all like family. Jenny has agreed to stay on the Arc Northland team to help out as needed through our transition but we do miss seeing her smiling face day to day!



Arc Northland
Over 70 Years and
Counting!
Here for you!

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Sandy Moore, Chair

Gina Gensing, Secretary

Blaze Zenner, Treasurer

Becky Jakubek

Heather Stillwell

Thomas Witt

Heidi Zegan

I AM ME! A day of Advocacy, Art, Music and Movement



Update from PCA Choice!

The federal government will soon require PCA agencies to use electronic verification (EVV) systems to document that people are receiving the services that are billed to the state. In order to use this system, PCA workers will clock in and out of their shift either from a landline phone at their client's home or from a smartphone that has GPS using an EVV app. The Minnesota EVV system will verify: Type of service performed, who received the service, date of service, location of service delivery, who provided the service, when the service begins and ends

Arc Northland will receive training on this system this fall and starting mid-November we will work with a small group of PCA workers and people receiving services to test out the new system! The goal is everyone using PCA services will start using EVV by the end of the year.

We will be providing training so that workers and people receiving PCA services can learn and feel comfortable with the new system. There is sure to be a learning curve, and we will all learn and figure it out together! If you are interested in being a part of the pilot test group that starts using EVV in November, please contact Jenny at (218) 726-4724 or jkempfert@arcnorthland.org.

***PCA workers who are live-in caregivers and individuals enrolled in the MN Safe at Home program will be exempt from EVV.**

Jenny Kempfert, PCA Choice Program Director

VOTING IS...

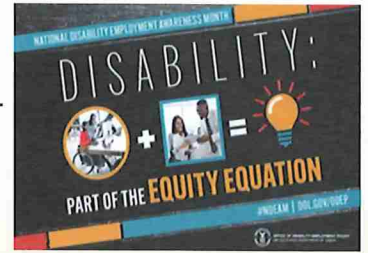
- ✓ Our Power
- ✓ Our Right
- ✓ Our Hope



It's election time again! The ARQC and ACF are partnering with REV UP! MN to educate individuals on voting rights and general voting information. Arc Northland is also partnering with Arc MN on public policy initiatives. We know it is important for individuals with disabilities to have a voice and a seat at the table! Arc Northland will be hosting a non-partisan District 8 Candidate Forum on October 18th from 5PM-6PM. This is a free accessible event for persons with disabilities, their families and supporters. Check out our Facebook event page, sign up at bit.ly/3BC8Zzo or call the office for further information.

U.S. Dept. of Labor Celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) in October!

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), when the U.S. Department of Labor celebrates the contributions of America's workers with disabilities past and present and showcases supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices.



The federal effort to recognize people with disabilities began in 1945, when Congress declared the first week in October to be "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." The word "physically" was dropped in 1962 to include individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week and declared the month of October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Each year, the event is given a theme, and this year's theme is "Disability: Part of the Equity Equation", recognizing the important role people with disabilities play in a diverse and inclusive American workforce.

Arc Northland joins in celebrating this important month-long recognition of workers with disabilities. For more information see: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20220622>

Alison Stucke, ACF Program Coordinator

Arc Northland Team:

PCA Choice

Jenny Kempfert

Naomi Gordon

Steven Rodriques

Adult, Children, Families

Karel Hedstrom

Summer Thomas

Alison Stucke

Marcia Anick

Housing Services

Karel Hedstrom

Seth Borovsky

Michaela Mullin

Arrowhead Regional Quality Council

Becky Lambert

Beth Johnson

Finance

Rick Sailstad

Executive Director

Amanda Crosby

Progress in Motion!

The Arc Northland Summer Picnic!



Beth and Amanda attend Step Up North Duluth



Alison and Karel promote our programs!



The Housing Team attended MN Coalition for the Homeless Conference



Thank you guests of Fond-du-Luth!

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Thank you for your Support!

Your contribution directly serves our mission across the Arrowhead region of Minnesota.

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Mission:

To promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities and their families while supporting inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetime.



Contact Us:

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