

Full Board Current Agenda

The Arc of Iowa

Board Meeting

Doug Cunningham
1111 11th Street
Suite 290
Des Moines, IA
515-664-2252
doug@thearcofiowa.org

Present:

Virtual:

18 MARCH 2026
MEETING AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85795233903?pwd=bbcUsUiD0h5OHsSsYamwar0xfbWHXmT.1>

Meeting ID: 857 9523 3903

Passcode: 393788

Date: March 18, 2026

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: 1111 Ninth Street, Suite 290, Des Moines IA 50314

Mission: Advocate for Iowans with disabilities and their caregivers to reach their full potential.

Vision Statement: An interconnected state with rich opportunities for all.

Agenda

Call to Order

Welcome and Attendance: Kristen Aller, Garret Frey, Paula Connolly, Nancy Baker Curtis, Doug Cunningham, Donna Bachman, Delaine Petersen, Laura Gibson, Theresa Lewis, Chelsey Markle,

Confirm quorum

Vote: Adopted

Date: 03/18/26

Mover/Second: Delaine/Kristen

Approval of Previous Minutes

Review and approve committee minutes from last meeting:

[January 14, 2026](#)

Vote: Adopted

Date: 3-18-2026

Mover/Second: Kristen Aller/Donna Bachman

Discussion : Discussion regarding the severance of contract

Information Acknowledgement

SEEKING MOTION, group acknowledges that members have read the updates and are aware of the following updates

I Am Able IOWA

- a. March 28- Brain Injury Alliance- June Keith Bacon
- b. **Watch [previous show](#)**- Carlyn Crowe, Wendy Andersen & Doug Cunningham

AARP

- a. Currently we have - 1 employee- Scott - Vending Support
- b. Will be adding two new people when they are available
 - i. Membership Support
 - ii. Event Support

Letter to Terminate Liz Matney Agreement - mailed

National Disability Policy Seminar

- A. Doug will be in DC March 22 - 25.

Iowa Family Leadership Training Institute

- A. Doug and Nancy will host a booth to encourage families to become members of the Arc of Iowa. - March 27, 2026
- B. Invite them to Hear Us Roar & Disability Advocacy Day
- C. Engage them in working with us to improve services in their communities.

Iowa City Transition Program

- A. Doug and Chelsi are planning to participate in the Iowa City Transition Program - April 2, 2026

Transition Fair at Urbandale Schools

- A. Doug and Nancy to attend event and host a booth - April 13, 2026

Vote: Acknowledged

Date: 03/18/26

Mover/Second: Donna Bachman/Garrett Frey

Discussion: none

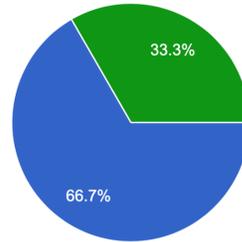
Strategic Plan

Review and Discussion

[2024 - 2027 Strategic Plan:](#)

What area has been our strength these past two years?

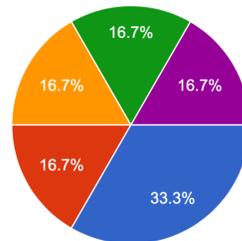
6 responses



- Strengthen Advocacy & Policy Influence- presence at capitol, partner...
- Expand & Support the Workforce- advocate for DSPs and train caregivers
- Empower Families & Self-Advocates- transition planning, education session...
- Build Sustainable Organizational Capacity- fundraising, membership, b...
- Address Emerging & Unmet Needs- housing solutions, planning resources,...

What area should we focus more on?

6 responses



- Strengthen Advocacy & Policy Influence- presence at capitol, partner...
- Expand & Support the Workforce- advocate for DSPs and train caregivers
- Empower Families & Self-Advocates- transition planning, education session...
- Build Sustainable Organizational Capacity- fundraising, membership, b...
- Address Emerging & Unmet Needs- housing solutions, planning resources,...

Confirm quorum

Vote: Adopted Not Adopted

Date: 3-18-2026

Mover/Second:

Discussion: Chelsey shared her responses and the need for more advocacy and policy. Paula shared that there appears to be a move to question the role of caregiving as a fraud and a reason to cut services. Referenced the need for families to document like an agency and that failure to comply can result in services being cut. Garret shared about grassroots organizational efforts from 2015-2022. The past few years the advocacy has been exhausting. Paula spoke for the need for a lower level advocacy that supports family. Delaine spoke to the need to train and empower families to utilize their services in compliance

with HHS protocols.

Committee Updates

Bylaws Article 6 section 6.1

FINANCIALS - [TREASURER REPORTS](#)

Review and accept into record: [Statement of Financial Position](#)

SEEKING MOTION, to approve 2025 financial reports and complete tax documents.

Vote: Adopted

Date: 03/18/26

Mover/Second: Delaine/Theresa

Discussion: Delaine shared that the year 2025 was a financially successful year for the Arc of Iowa. Grants, contributions, and vending machines have been the primary driver of revenue for 2025. Income for the first two months of 2026 has been down when compared to all of 2025; this issue will be discussed if that problem persists in the coming months.

Review and accept into record: [2025 Annual Financials](#) (unaudited)

SEEKING MOTION, to approve 2025 financial reports and complete tax documents.

Vote: Adopted

Date: 03/10/26

Mover/Second: Delaine/Theresa

Discussion

Review and accept into record: [January and February 2026 Financials](#)

SEEKING MOTION, to review the report regarding year end financials.

Vote: Adopted

Date: 03/10/26

Mover/Second: Delaine/Theresa

Discussion: None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Strategic Goal - SP 1 - Strengthen Advocacy & Policy Influence

Iowa Disability Policy Alliance:

INFORMATION: Disability Advocacy Day
LIVE. WORK. PLAY. FLOURISH.

April 1, 2026 - [Sign Up](#)

Volunteers Needed - 8 am to 2 pm to help set up chairs and displays

Vote: Adopted Not Adopted

Date: 03/18/26

Mover/Second: No motion needed informational in nature

Discussion

New Website & Logo for Iowa Disability Policy Alliance - [Click to review](#) Doug shared an overview of the new website. This website will be live in April.

Iowa Passes Work Without Worry Bill - [View Press Feedback](#)

Advocacy

- A. Imagine the Possibilities - [Fund Misappropriations](#)
- B. Woodward - [Neglect and Staff Training](#)
- C. DIAL [Reports on Woodward](#)

Strategic Goal - SP 2 - Expand and Support the Workforce

REIMAGINE Creative Abundance - Day Hab Training - May 19, 2026

- a. Training event on May 19, 2026 at Mainframe Studios
 - i. [Mainframe Agreement](#)

- b. The Iowa Arts Council
 - i. Contributed \$2,000 for 8 artists to attend the event
 - ii. Contributed \$40,000 in competitive grants for agencies that participate in the program and register to hire the consultants. This is (4) \$10,000 grants (50% of the consulting fee to establish the program)
- c. Agencies invited that offer Day Hab, Respite Care, Day Care or Sheltered Workshops in your community. 100 slots available.
- d. [EVENTBRITE INVITATION](#)

Strategic Goal - SP 3 - Empower Families and Self-Advocates

Shining Stars Theatre Company

- A. Partnership has been established and an [agreement signed](#) to build the Shining Stars Theatre Company in Knoxville, IA
- B. Christian Opportunity Center is donating practice space in their Day Hab
- C. The Knoxville Public School is donating the theatre space to host shows
- D. The Unnamed Theatre Company is helping with performances and costumes.

Partnership with CICIL & DART

- a. Waiting on DART to finish marketing materials for the wrap on the machine.
- b. Creating jobs for adults with I/DD.

Dragon Games - Metro PLC meeting for 4 plus programs

- a. Johnston Community School District & metro school
- b. Booth and ongoing partnerships - May 12th
- c. \$1,000 sponsorship and partnership

Arc Expeditions - (pending TAMA developments)

Hear Us Roar - Day at the Zoo

- A. [Rental Agreement](#) - \$8,200.00
- B. DD Council Youth Leadership Academy to host graduation and volunteer to assist with feeding stations
- C. Establish a committee to help organize
- D. SAVE the DATE 08/04/26

Changing Spaces Campaign

- A. Public comments needs: Nancy asked that each of us submit comments for the following discussions/committee meetings that are occurring soon. She included sample comments that we can use to write our input.
- a. Illinois HHS Committee-by 3/19/26 by 8AM
 - b. US ACCESS Board- by 4/20/26
 - c. [Sample comments](#)

Senate File 2422

IMPORTANT UPDATE ON SF 2422:

I just received an email from Representative Austin Harris, Chairman of the House Health and Human Services Committee. He informed me that SF 2422 will be brought to the committee tomorrow morning at their meeting in Room 103 at 9:00 a.m.. His email also stated:

"However, I wanted to let you know that I will be bringing an amendment to the committee for consideration that will remove the codification of managed care. Due to our rules, we cannot technically amend as Senate File in committee, so we will have to formally do that on the floor but the amendment will be proposed in committee."

Again I urge everyone to contact Representative Harris to thank him for his amendment. Also contact the members of the House HHS Committee telling them why you support Representative Harris's proposed amendment to SF 2422 that will remove the codification of managed care.

Finally, if possible attend the Committee meeting tomorrow to show support for Representative Harris and his amendment.

REIMAGINE Pathways Training Series - Member Engagement - Summer

A. [The Dani Plan](#) - [THE ARC OF IOWA DANI PLAN](#)

Doug explained a new plan for Arc members to use to compile all of the personal information and records for their family member who has disabilities. It can also include information about resources and upcoming events. Doug is seeking board approval to roll this plan out to members in the next month. There would be a cost of \$15/month or \$120/year to each member who participated.

- B. Quarterly Partnership Training
- C. Building Your Tribe
- D. Arc Community Events

Laura Gibson made a motion that the Arc move forward with The Dani Plan packaged as part of Arc membership.

Vote: Adopted
Date: 03/18/26
Mover/Second: Laura/ Chelsey

Discussion: Kristen, Garret and Delaine all expressed interest in the program. We would pay for one year and families would need to pay the monthly subscription fee.

Doug would like to provide this with membership. The idea would be to provide local support through our chapters around the state. Chelsey likes the idea of tying itself to membership. Donna suggested a donor option for members that don't have children.

Strategic Goal - SP 4 - Build Sustainable Organizational Capacity

Telligen Grant - Met with the foundation director of Telligen and he is assisting us with writing an organizational capacity grant for \$25,000. Which will be used to expand memberships.

[Grant Narrative](#)

Grow Snacks With Impact

The Arc of Maryland is reviewing our program and is evaluating whether or not to adopt it.

Organizational Capacity - Marketing Support

Review and approve:

SEEKING MOTION TO: Agree to contractual marketing support professional to manage The Arc of Iowa and Iowa Disability Policy Alliance Websites. Create marketing materials to support training programs, membership expansion, associate member development and ongoing marketing efforts for booths, handouts and social media.

PROPOSED AGREEMENT

As a Freelancer using my previous role managing digital communications and website infrastructure for a statewide nonprofit, the type of work I'm providing (website management, SEO, and communications support) *would typically be billed at \$65-\$75 per hour for a for-profit organization.*

Because I care about the mission of The Arc and understand that nonprofit budgets can be limited, I'm happy to offer a reduced rate structure.

Basic Website Management & SEO Improvements

\$365 per month

This would include:

- Monitoring the website for broken links and errors
- Ongoing website updates and small content edits
- Posting program updates or events as needed
- **SEO improvements to strengthen the website's search visibility and overall site health**
- General monitoring to keep the site functioning properly

My goal with this work would be to help bring the website "up to snuff" technically so it performs well and doesn't fall behind.

Additional Communications & Project Support

\$25/hour

If additional help is needed beyond the website maintenance and SEO improvements, I would be happy to support The Arc with other communications and program needs such as:

- Designing flyers or training materials
- Program communications support
- Event or training promotion
- Resource or program material development
- Research and coordination for projects

At our meeting last week you asked me to give you my "dream proposal".

Ideally, my "dream" structure would allow me to contribute **16–20 hours per week** across website management, communications, and program support.

At \$25/hour this would equal approximately:

- **16 hours/week – about \$1,600/month**
- **20 hours/week – about \$2,000/month**

I know nonprofit budgets fluctuate, so I'm completely open to scaling this up or down depending on what makes sense for the organization.

I care about the work The Arc is doing and would love to help strengthen the organization's digital presence in a way that is sustainable for both of us.

Erin

Doug proposes hiring Erin Farquhar to help us with our webpage. Delaine made a motion to move forward with recruiting and hiring Erin. She did not indicate number of hours in her motion.

Vote: Vote tabled until next meeting, due to lack of quorum.

Date: 3/18/26

Mover/Second: Delaine/ Chelsey

Discussion: subcontracting with Erin will allow

Strategic Goal - SP 5 - Address Emerging and Unmet Needs

SEEKING Motion: to establish a Safety and Accountability Review Committee

I move that the Board of Directors of The Arc of Iowa establish a *Safety and Accountability Review Committee* charged with reviewing publicly available investigation findings and reports issued by the Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL) and other relevant oversight entities concerning the safety, care, and treatment of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Iowa.

The purpose of this committee shall be to:

1. Review DIAL reports and other publicly available documentation related to substantiated abuse, neglect, exploitation, or unsafe conditions affecting individuals with disabilities in Iowa.
2. Identify patterns, systemic concerns, or gaps in oversight that may place individuals with disabilities at risk.
3. Provide the Board of The Arc of Iowa with periodic summaries and recommendations for advocacy, public awareness, and policy improvement.
4. Develop recommended board procedures and protocols for responding when credible concerns arise regarding the safety and dignity of individuals with disabilities in Iowa.
5. Engage qualified community members, including individuals with disabilities, family members, advocates, legal professionals, and subject matter experts, to serve alongside board members on this committee.
6. Ensure the work of the committee remains focused on systemic oversight and advocacy, not individual case management or interference with active investigations.

The committee shall report regularly to the board and provide recommendations for advocacy actions, policy statements, or systemic reforms that align with The Arc of Iowa's mission to protect and promote the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Board authorizes the Executive Director to assist in identifying and inviting community members with relevant expertise to participate in the committee.

Vote: Adopted Not Adopted

Date:

Mover/Second:

Discussion

Other Business

Julie and Katie Beckett Fund

Information and Discussion:

INFORMATION: Requested the Des Moines Community Foundation to issue the Spendable Interest from the Beckett Foundation

- a. Total Fund Balance (3/12/26) - \$235,296.82
- b. Total Spendable Balance - (3/12/26) - \$11,363.18
- c. Allocated - \$3,333.12 to the Iowa Family Leadership Training Institute.
- d. Balance remaining \$8,030.06
- e. [The Non-Profit Tool Kit](#)

Vote: Adopted Not Adopted

Date:

Mover/Second:

The Arc of Tama

Information and discussion:

INFORMATION: Two organizational accounts have been established. Delaine and John need to sign so that we can transfer and manage the stocks for the Tama community.

Vote: Adopted Not Adopted

Date:

Mover/Second:

Future Meeting Date: May 13th??? at 2pm. Definite date to be announced by Nancy via email to all board members.

Discussion- Voting on other agenda items was postponed until a future meeting due to lack of numbers for a quorum, as some people had to leave the meeting early.

The meeting adjourned at: 3:55 PM. Motion made by Garrett and seconded by Donna to adjourn the meeting.

Executive Committee Agenda

The Arc of Iowa

1111 Ninth Street
Suite 290
Des Moines, IA 50312

F | 515-664-2252

[BOARD PAGE](#)

Candid | [Profile](#)

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Present

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

15 APRIL 2026

MEETING AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85607163404?pwd=nqLHdFBKATURYhvGVsA0GlpZOeX5Nk.1>

Meeting ID: 856 0716 3404

Passcode: 329875

Date: April 15, 2026

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: 1111 Ninth Street, Suite 290, Des Moines IA 50314

Mission: Advocate for Iowans with disabilities and their caregivers to reach their full potential.

Vision Statement: An interconnected state with rich opportunities for all.

Agenda

Call to Order:

Present online:

Approval of Previous Minutes:

Review and approve committee minutes from last meeting:

SEEKING MOTION, to approve the board minutes from the meeting held on [2.16.26 Agenda & Minutes](#)

Vote:

Date:

Mover:

Second:

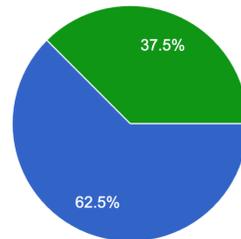
Strategic Plan

Review and Discussion

2024 - 2027 Strategic Plan:

What area has been our strength these past two years?

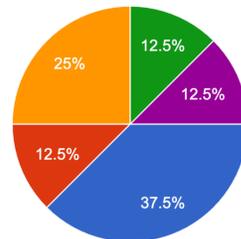
8 responses



- Strengthen Advocacy & Policy Influence- presence at capitol, partner with coaliti...
- Expand & Support the Workforce- advocate for DSPs and train caregivers
- Empower Families & Self-Advocates- transition planning, education session...
- Build Sustainable Organizational Capacity- fundraising, membership, b...
- Address Emerging & Unmet Needs- housing solutions, planning resources,...

What area should we focus more on?

8 responses



- Strengthen Advocacy & Policy Influence- presence at capitol, partner with coaliti...
- Expand & Support the Workforce- advocate for DSPs and train caregivers
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- Address Emerging & Unmet Needs- housing solutions, planning resources,...

Comments:

Although we were limited to one selection, I see sustainable organizational capacity as a continued priority. The organization has invested in this area, but further intentional focus is needed to create a stable structure and a clearer, more concentrated set of goals. With many initiatives underway, strengthening organizational foundation feels key to executing them successfully.

None

Build Sustainable Organizational Capacity- fundraising, membership, board members

Address Emerging & Unmet Needs- housing solutions, planning resources, inclusive employment last

None at this time

none right now

We are close to having some resources (money, people partnerships) to start building on our objectives. We have some money now is time for mission. Proceeding with intentional work to protect our resources yet expand scope will lead us to success

I am excited for all of the opportunities coming before us.

We have done a lot off our strategic plan but no one could predict how HR 1 would change our focus from what our original plan laid out.

Organizational Updates

Bylaws Article 6 section 6.1

Family Leadership Circle Initiative

The Arc of Iowa is launching **Family Leadership Circles**, a grassroots engagement model designed to connect families, self-advocates, and allies in small, community-driven groups focused on shared experiences and systems change.

These circles are built around a simple premise: *leadership often starts with a conversation*. By creating structured yet flexible spaces—both in-person and online—we are empowering individuals to share lived experiences, identify common challenges, and collectively shape advocacy priorities across Iowa.

The initiative is being supported through a digital platform (Circle), allowing participants to:

- Join topic- or region-based groups (e.g., Adult Changing Spaces, rural access, education)
- Engage in ongoing discussions and storytelling
- Connect with others who share similar challenges or goals
- Build leadership skills in a supportive, peer-driven environment

Each circle serves as both a **community-building tool** and an **advocacy engine**, helping The Arc:

- Surface real-time issues impacting families
- Identify emerging policy priorities
- Strengthen grassroots organizing capacity

- Expand membership and engagement statewide

Initial pilot efforts are underway, with early leaders already forming circles and inviting participants. The model is intentionally scalable, with the goal of establishing a statewide network of interconnected circles that inform and strengthen The Arc's advocacy and outreach efforts.

This work aligns directly with our strategic priorities around **family engagement, leadership development, and systems advocacy**, and positions The Arc of Iowa as a leader in building authentic, community-driven change.

Disability Policy Seminar

Informational update from trip to Disability Policy Seminar in Washington D.C.. Doug will discuss meetings with elected officials and the focus for future legislative work

Mover:

Second:

Vote:

Date:

Iowa Disability Advocacy Day

Informational update from [Disability Advocacy Day](#) in Des Moines. Enclosed review a summary of the event.

Mover:

Second:

Vote:

Date:

Johnston School District - Dragon Games, Transition Fair &

Update - Johnston Community School District's Dragon Games which provides a field day event for students with significant disabilities to K-12+ students in the northwest corner of the Des Moines metro.

Vote:

Date:

Mover:

Second:

Notes:

NVP Grant- -

State Historical Society of Iowa

Update on the concept proposal for development of the Julie and Katie Beckett Exhibit: acknowledgement of the most recent update on the concept proposal with the comments provided by Stefanie Wager. Stefani is the former president of the Council for Social Studies and is a Standards and Practices Administrative Consultant for the Iowa Department of Education.

Notes: we were asked to gather more artifacts before submitting our grant request.

General Discussion Notes:

General discussion about our Medicaid Rally- updates from those attending, challenges with getting notice of changes to our plans, and the MCO's being transparent about the changes happening.

Tama:

John Koshak and Doug met today. Doug picked up copies of some of their financial records.

We need to set up an organizational account under the Arc of Tama. John and Delaine, as a treasurer, will be on both Arc of Tama and Arc of Iowa accounts.

This will be a lengthy process: 2-3 years or more.

Carroll:

Rachel Charlot, the current coordinator for the IFLTI is interested in establishing an Arc chapter in Carroll, Iowa. Doug will meet with IFLTI families on March 27th to share with families.

Knoxville:

Marty Atkins is interested in inclusive theater experiences called Big Tent Theater. This could be another replicable program we could implement in other communities around the state.

Creative Abundance:

Passion Works training will take place on May 19, 2026. Social enterprise opportunity for people with disabilities.

Hear Us Roar:

August 4, 2026 is the date at Blank Park Zoo. We will partner with DD Council Youth Leadership Program as volunteers. They will hand out ice cream.

Vending:

All credit card readers have been updated. Scott has input all the data. This allows for universal prices and more in depth analysis of the products that are selling.

Advocacy - MCO Update

Paula Connolly - Update on what is happening with the MCO's

Advocacy - Senate Letter

National asking Senators to send a letter to the president.

Future Meeting Dates

Full Board and Executive Committee Meeting Dates to be held from 2-3:30 PM at the United Way Des Moines Building

Full Board:

May 20, 2026, July 15, 2026,

Executive Committee:

June 17, 2026, August 19, 2026, November or December depending on availability

Proposed Annual Meeting- September 19, 2026

Discussion regarding the suggested Board meetings for 2026. Nancy

indicated that the dates can be changed/ discussed

Motion to adjourn: 3:54

Second:

Meeting adjourned at