



ARRM Facts

What is ARRM?

ARRM is an association of approximately 150 providers supporting thousands of people with disabilities. Our members employ thousands of professional caregivers throughout the state of Minnesota.

ARRM is committed to assuring that Minnesota has a viable private provider sector to promote consumer choice, adequate funding, and appropriate regulation. The association leads the advancement of community-based services that support people with disabilities in their pursuit of meaningful lives. Our members provide services through the DD, TBI, CADI and CAC waivers, and ICFs/MR and SILS. (Download the document “What is a Waiver” for more information about waivers.)

How and when did ARRM Begin?

On June 13, 1970, a few operators of facilities for Minnesotans with developmental disabilities and interested persons met during the Minnesota Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) convention in Bemidji, Minnesota. They discussed common interests and problems, and decided that an association of service providers was needed in Minnesota.

A meeting was held on July 7, 1970, which resulted in the writing of ARRM’s first by-laws and further steps toward formal incorporation.

On July 23, 1970, all facilities whose primary role was serving people with developmental disabilities were invited to a meeting at the Greenbriar Home in St. Paul, Minnesota. At this meeting, a core board of directors was selected, and the Association of Residential Resources in Minnesota began to function.

On August 27, 1970, the board of directors and the association's membership met at the Warner Care Home in Cokato, MN and ratified the by-laws. Soon after this meeting, the association was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation in the State of Minnesota.

Who Were ARRM’s First Board of Directors?

Harold Tapper, President, Norhaven Home

Evelyn Carlson, Vice President, Hammer School

John L. Warner, Secretary, Warner Care Home

Dr. Milton A. Bartsch, Treasurer, Robert-Milton Home

Glenn Medicraft, Project New Hope

Ralph Olinger, Rolling Acres

Sheldon Schneider, Range Center

At that time, twelve organizations belonged to ARRM, and there were three volunteer committees that carried out ARRM 's activities. They were the legislative committee, the licensing committee and the public relations and information committee.

What does "ARRM" stand for?

ARRM currently stands for “Association of Residential Resources in Minnesota,” which has become obsolete in recent years, for a couple of reasons. First, we refer to mental retardation as “developmental disabilities” and Minnesotans are first and foremost people – many of whom happen to have a disability; hence, “people (or Minnesotans) with disabilities.”

Second, ARRM members no longer provide only residential supports to just people with developmental disabilities. They provide community-based supports for people with developmental and physical disabilities, brain injuries and mental illness.

Soon we will either change our name or just use “ARRM” with a brief explanation.

What is ARRM’s Mission?

ARRM’s mission is to lead the advancement of community-based services that support people with disabilities in their pursuit of meaningful lives.

Our Core Values

We believe that what is in the best interest of people with disabilities is in the best interest of the providers who support them. We believe in the ability of people to:

- Direct the planning and provision of their own services
- Pursue meaningful lives deeply imbedded in our communities, rich in relationships and individually crafted according to each individual's definition of success.
- Appropriately balance risk-taking with safety and security

We believe in the provision of services by providers:

- In the private sector
- In a marketplace open to the entrance of new providers
- Who work collaboratively within the industry
- Who are encouraged to be innovative

Our Vision

We see a future where:

- Our members work to see that people with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in and contribute to their communities so they can enjoy all the rights of full citizenship.
- Our success enriches our communities. When our members are successful, clients are successful and the entire community is enriched.
- Our members and their staff are fairly compensated for the services they provide to people with disabilities.
- Our industry employs highly skilled professional who make a difference.
- Our members are regulated only to the extent necessary to protect the health and safety of people with disabilities.
- A free and competitive marketplace drives high quality services.

How Do ARRM Members Contribute to Their Local Economies?

In 2010, ARRM members were surveyed about their annual payroll figures and the number of jobs they provide in Minnesota. Sixty-one percent of ARRM members responded. The survey revealed that ARRM members provide in excess of 25,000 jobs and over \$360 million in payroll statewide. Almost all of the dollars to fund services come from outside the community through federal and state sources, and they are spent locally on goods and services. ARRM members operate in almost every legislative district in Minnesota; the only exceptions are districts 25A, 26B and 52A¹.

What Are ARRM's Annual Noteworthy Events?

Early Winter (February or March)

ARRM's Day at the Capitol attracts hundreds of disability advocates to the capitol each year to meet with their elected officials, such as people with disabilities, their family members, professional caregivers and other disability providers. In 2011, our rally in the Capitol Rotunda attracted an estimated 1,000 attendees.

Spring (May)

ARRM hosts a statewide, two-day industry conference, which attracts over 1,200 attendees. A highlight of this conference is the ARRM Cares Awards Ceremony, which is a moving tribute to professional caregivers in Minnesota. Hundreds of caregivers from member agencies are nominated, but only six winners are selected. KARE-11's weekend anchor Rena Sarigianopoulos

¹ Nearly 40 percent of ARRM members did not respond to this survey; thus, there may be members that operate in those districts. Moreover, there are many non-members that provide similar services throughout the state.

has exceeded this event since 2009. Other noteworthy events that take place during the conference are a fundraising auction and an annual board of directors meeting.

Fall (September)

Each September, ARRM puts on an annual Leadership Conference for upper-level executives at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge in Deerwood, Minnesota. During this conference, representatives from member agencies create actionable plans to address association and industry initiatives and reforms.

Ongoing

ARRM provides a variety of workshops and webinars for members and non-members throughout the year. Topics include: wage and hour, communication and marketing, public relations, workforce recruitment and retention, financial and licensing.

What are ARRM's Ongoing Initiatives?

Legislative Advocacy

Today, ARRM remains a nonprofit organization incorporated under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As such, ARRM does not have a political action campaign (PAC), nor does it endorse political candidates. ARRM does provide education to its members about grassroots advocacy, voter rights and the election cycle. In addition, ARRM is engaged in direct lobbying at the Minnesota State Capitol during the legislative session. The association's work, however, is completely non-partisan. ARRM's legislative advocacy objectives center on making people with disabilities a core legislative priority by protecting their core services from budget cuts.

System reform/transformation

ARRM works with a variety of stakeholders, such as the Department of Human Services and advocacy groups, to improve and reform the way services for people with disabilities are delivered. In 2009, ARRM introduced its system reform initiative with legislation that consolidated 11 rules and statutes into a cost-effective single set of standards. Looking ahead, ARRM is focused on paving the way to deliver more efficient and innovative services in the face of increasing health and human services expenses and dwindling state financial resources. One example is the use of monitoring technology; go to ARRM's Media Kit page to read the monitoring technology backgrounder. Final legislation and implementation of ARRM's transformation plan is expected to occur in 2012.