



ARRM

2017 Legislative Agenda

Addressing the workforce shortage through reform

ARRM works to ensure Minnesota’s public policy and regulatory environment promotes the independence, health and safety of people with disabilities and strengthens our members’ ability to support them. In 2017, ARRM and its members are focused on passing reforms that help address the significant workforce shortages in our industry.

Support professional wages for a professional workforce (SF669/HF873)



92,500 people with disabilities in Minnesota receiving Home and Community-Based Services

90,880 workers in Minnesota providing services for people with disabilities

\$11.97 average wage of a Direct Support Professional providing services to people with disabilities

The Best Life Alliance is advocating for a wage increase that will benefit staff providing care in group homes, a person’s own home, daytime/job programs, PCAs

“Predictability and stability is extremely important for my son, but wages far below what is deserved creates a revolving door of staff. Something needs to be done.” -- Chris, Mom of son with Autism

Pass ARRM’s 2017 Policy Reform Bill (SF359/HF696)

ARRM’s 2017 Policy Bill, while costing the state no new dollars, will help give solutions to providers as they work to provide innovative, person-centered services to individuals living in the community. This bill seeks to create efficiencies and streamline regulatory practices while supporting family, friendships and independent living, including:

Streamline background checks * Improve training and quality and efficiency * Support family and friendships * Enhance technology use * Promote Independent Living

Stabilize Disability Waiver Rate System Impacts (SF727/HF814)

Unfunded mandates and dramatic swings in reimbursement rates are crushing organizations that have little to no ability to adjust revenue to meet increasing costs imposed by the government and economic conditions. This has created an environment of extreme business uncertainty, putting critical services in numerous communities at risk. ARRM seeks to stabilize conditions for providers by implementing previously established long-term inflation adjustments and eliminating unfunded mandates now and in the future, including:

Distribute BLS rate adjustments * Reform unit based service reimbursement * Eliminate unfunded mandates * Minimize drastic rate changes * Adjust RN and LPN wages with BLS

Support Full Spectrum of Care (SF996/HF921)

Outdated laws written to address problems that no longer exist are creating new problems for Intermediate Care Facilities for people with intellectual disabilities (ICF/ID), an important part of Minnesota’s support spectrum for people with more significant care needs. Policy from the 1980s to disincentive over-development of ICF/ID programs now penalizes programs with unfilled resident openings who want to help residents go on therapeutic leave, particularly in Greater Minnesota. ARRM seeks to ensure ICF/ID viability and promote therapeutic leave for residents by:

Eliminate restrictions on therapeutic leave billing for programs with long-term openings

ABOUT ARRM

ARRM is an association of providers, businesses and advocates dedicated to leading the advancement of community-based services that support people with disabilities in their pursuit of meaningful lives. We represent 160 providers who employ roughly 30,000 people. They provide supports for thousands of Minnesotans with developmental and physical disabilities, brain injury, mental illness and autism.

Contact ARRM for more information about Home and Community–Based Services that support Minnesotans with disabilities.

For specific questions on ARRM’s public policy agenda, contact:

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