



ARRM

2017 Legislative Agenda

ARRM Policy Reform Bill:

Support, families, friendship and staff

(HF 696/ SF 359)

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 in them. In 2017, ARRM and its members are focused on passing reforms that help address the significant workforce shortages in our industry.



Streamline Background Studies for Child Foster Care

The current system is very antiquated and can at times take up to 6 months to get a background study returned.



By moving background studies to NET Study 2.0, once fully implemented will have an average return time of 2-3 days.



Providers will be able to put qualified staff to work quickly, giving them a much needed resource in filling open shifts.

Improve training quality and efficiency

Current training requirements are based on staff completing a set number of training hours and proving competency.



Providers will be able to opt-in to either an hours-based training system or a competency-based training system.



Allowing providers the flexibility to chose the training model that works best for their staff supports the highest quality workforce.

Support family and friendships

The definition of who is a volunteer is so broad, it limits individuals' ability to form friendships and natural supports.



ARRM will amend statute defining who is a volunteer, thus requiring a background study, and who is a natural support.



This will allow staff to work more with natural supports in supporting individuals and also better support natural relationships.

Enhance technology use

Many individuals are not fully informed on the technology options available and their are limitations on how things are paid for.



ARRM proposed that discussions about the use of technology be mandatory when developing care plans and allowing waiver dollars to be used when purchasing technology.



Customized technology solutions are one of the greatest tools we have to support greater independence for individuals and better support staff in managing the workforce crisis.

Promote independent living

Current licensing and rate structures do not allow for In-Home Supports (IHS) provided under certain waivers and the moratorium discourages moving into more independent settings.



Expand the continuum of services to cover IHS services and expand exceptions to the current new bed moratorium.



Expanding the options for people wishing to live on their own creates a stronger network of services and a safety net for individuals.

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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