



## The Arc of North Carolina's Position on Families as Providers Policy

Families of people with developmental disabilities have and will continue to be critical support to their children with developmental disabilities. The Arc of North Carolina reaffirms its commitment to families to receive family support dollars to provide care to their children in the home.

Often families are placed in the position of becoming the primary paid caregiver for their child due to the lack of high quality direct support work force. Parents who have provided this service have done so because of their interest in ensuring high quality service to their loved ones.

The Arc of North Carolina does understand the need for the State of North Carolina to regulate services that utilize funds from the CAP-MR/DD program. The policy adopted in Implementation Update #19 is generally consistent with the values and beliefs of our Board of Directors. In order to implement this policy in a manner that is fair to parents, people with developmental disabilities and the citizens of North Carolina, we recommend that the Department of Health and Human Services implement the policy in the following manner:

- Create a quarterly limit of 520 hours (40 hours average per week) to allow for maximum flexibility for parents
- Allow for a family to provide additional service through temporary exceptions for specific situations such as a provider going out of business, abuse by a provider agency staff, lack of available direct support workers
- Allow for exception of the prohibition against guardian being providers if needed provided that a second level review process is in place to assure the interest of the person with disabilities is being served
- Review the possibility of amending guardianship statute to allow for limited guardianship for an individual's medical needs
- Change the implementation date to June 30, 2007 for everyone affected to allow for transition
- Review the policy that allows AFL providers to be guardians

In addition, The Arc of North Carolina calls upon the General Assembly and the Administration to address the crisis in available direct support workers. Specifically, we recommend:

- Legislation that would create a direct pass-through rate increase for direct care workers
- Create an option for direct care workers to "buy in" at a reduced rate to the State Employee Health Plan
- Create an option that allows for direct care workers to increase their pay by increasing participation in certified training programs

The Arc of North Carolina intends to work with members of the General Assembly, Administration, families and consumers to implement these recommendations.

For more information, contact The Arc of North Carolina at **(919) 782-4632** or **(800)662-8706**