

# Self-determination

## Principles of Self-determination

### **FREEDOM-**

to have opportunities and experiences; to exercise civil and constitutional rights, to live a meaningful life.

### **AUTHORITY-**

to determine how funds available for support will be used; to direct who will provide supports.

### **SUPPORT-**

individuals can determine what supports will work best for them. A circle of trusted and cared-for friends can be helpful in identifying and supporting goals.

### **RESPONSIBILITY-**

that comes with rights; being a law-abiding citizen, using public funds wisely, being an active and contributing member of your community.

### **CONFIRMATION-**

acknowledgement that people with disabilities and their families are the key to changing our existing system and supporting them to speak out on behalf of themselves and others.



*If you are interested in learning more about the Support Brokerage Services offered by The Arc of NC, contact:*

The  
**Arc**

**SUPPORT**

**BROKERAGE**

**SERVICES**

**(A.K.A. CASE MANAGEMENT)**



## Broker Characteristics

Our support brokers possess the following essential characteristics:

- Strong sense of social justice
- Commitment to and understanding of self-determination, freedom, civil and human rights
- Ability to develop close relationships with people who receive support and anyone important in that person's life
- Believes in the value of every human life
- Has courage to take a stand on behalf of the person being supported
- Has common sense
- Is a clear, concise communicator and facilitator
- Makes a personal commitment to the person being supported
- Knows how and when to lead
- Knows how and when to listen
- Has respect for cultural values of others
- Has a sense of humor
- Is willing to transfer control

## What is Support Brokerage?

Support Brokerage is a term that can be used to mean many different things to many different people. For our purposes, it means that we offer a viable alternative to "traditional" case management services, through contracts The Arc of NC has with Area Programs or Local Management Entities.

Our brokers perform their work using the principles of freedom, self-determination and civil rights, and the operating principles and positions of The Arc as their guide. They act in a leadership capacity with regard to designing and coordinating supports and services.

Our brokers are trained to utilize all avenues of person-centered planning (Personal Futures Planning, McGill Action Planning System, Essential Lifestyle Planning, Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) to best meet the unique needs of each person we support, and develop cohesive, relevant plans with that person and others important in their lives. They serve as a primary advocate within the "system" for the people they support.

## We Believe...

The structure in which we work and support people with disabilities must respond to the

following imperatives:

- that people with disabilities are able to voice their concerns and take action with our support when needed or requested
- that the system works for people with disabilities rather than controlling them
- that people with disabilities must be afforded the dignity of taking risks
- that people with disabilities are the primary decision-makers in their lives and must be supported and encouraged to identify and realize their dreams
- that dollars allotted be used wisely to help build a positive future for people being supported
- that people with disabilities are living the lives they want to live, are healthy and happy and have meaningful relationships
- that people with disabilities have opportunities for generating income
- that people with disabilities are participating citizens of their communities
- that communication is clear and consistent

