

Real Life and Microboards

A New and Innovative Program from The Arc of Texas

Join us at our Annual Meeting, Tuesday January 15th, 7 p.m. at the MHMRA Conference Center, 7033 Southwest Freeway to hear a presentation by Lisa Rivers, The Arc of Texas, speak about this exciting new program that is important to every person and family seeking to insure the future of their loved one who has an intellectual and developmental disability.

A fundamental change is occurring in the way people think about the service-delivery system for people with disabilities. Pockets of trendsetters across the nation are moving their thinking away from asking what government can provide, to discovering what people can do for one another on a community level.

Too many Texans with disabilities sit on waiting lists for Medicaid Waiver services. That's why The Arc of Texas engages in legislative advocacy to protect and expand the rights of people with disabilities. But legislative change can be slow. What can people with disabilities and their families do right now to begin living a better life in the community? This was the question. In 2006, The Arc of Texas responded by launching Real Life, an innovative initiative to assist people with disabilities in community living. Real Life seeks to empower families and promote community-based solutions.

Real Life and The Arc of Texas are helping families and individuals establish microboards and devising other innovative ways to enhance community supports. A microboard is a small group of committed family and friends who have joined together with a person with a disability to create a non-profit organization. Together, this small group of people addresses the person's life-planning and support needs in the spirit of self-determination, using a Person-Centered Plan.

We will also have the annual election of directors as well as the presentation of our updated bylaws for approval by the membership. The updated bylaws can be found on the home page of our website, www.thearcofgreaterhouston.com.

Directors to be elected for 2 year terms are:

Lynne Cleveland

Katie Frantz

Linda Toungate

Jerry Wauters

In addition, Mr. Mr. Arnold Lopez, Kroger Signature Store #312, 1035 N. Shepherd will receive the Employer of the Year Award.

**PLEASE JOIN US & INVITE ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE
REAL LIFE PRESENTATION.**

For more information, call 713-957-1600