

Public Policy Update

January 6, 2011

From Steve Larson, Public Policy Director



➤ *Dayton Appoints Key Commissioners*

On Friday, December 31st, Governor Dayton named Brenda Cassellius as Commissioner of the Department of Education. A former Deputy Superintendent for the Minneapolis Public Schools, Cassellius took over last July as superintendent of the East Metro Integration District, a voluntary integration effort by St. Paul Public Schools and nine east metro suburbs.

The same day, Dayton appointed Dr. Edward Ehlinger as the Commissioner of the Department of Health. Since 1995, Ehlinger has been Director and Chief Health Officer at the student health service on the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus. Before that, he worked for 15 years at the Minneapolis Department of Health.



Brenda Cassellius



Edward Ehlinger

Governor Dayton still has not named his commissioner for the Department of Human Services.

➤ *Sign Up for Disability Day at the Capitol!*

Disability Matters Day at the Capitol is two and one-half weeks away. Plan to attend and advocate! Come to the State Capitol on Tuesday, January 25, 2011. [Click here](#) for a registration flyer, or see the "Take Action" section of our website.

The event is free, but you'll have to provide your own lunch. On that day, you will:

- Learn about key legislative issues.
- Rally with other advocates in the Capitol Rotunda.
- Visit your legislators, and educate them about how important disability programs and services are to you.

We've heard from House leaders that they want to cut the health and human services budget by 14.5%. If passed, these cuts would be the most serious in decades. We need your presence and voice at the Capitol more than ever! Join us and protect essential disability supports!



➤ *Online Links to New House and Senate Committee Rosters*

Both the Minnesota House and Senate have posted the members of their legislative committees online. You can find links to the membership lists of key committees by going to the page on our website for

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www.TheArcOfMinnesota.org; mail@arcmn.org; www.facebook.com/arcmn

Minnesota state government website links; [click here for that link](#) . The following committee lists will be found on that page:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| ** House Education Finance | ** House Education Reform |
| ** House Health and Human Services Finance | ** House Health and Human Services Reform |
| ** Senate Education Committee | ** Senate Health and Human Services Committee |

➤ *Upcoming Town Hall Forums and Home Visits in the Twin Cities*

Arc Greater Twin Cities has scheduled several events for its members to tell elected officials how crucial disability supports are. For more info, contact Gene Martinez at genemartinez@arcgreatertwincities.org.

- 1) ***Town Hall Forum in Roseville for those living in State Legislative Districts 53, 54, and 55***
January 13, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Fairview Community Center; 1910 County Road B West; Roseville, MN
- 2) ***Home Visit with Legislators in State Legislative District 49***
January 20, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Home of Scott and Laura Price; 14275 Crane St. NW; Andover, MN
- 3) ***Home Visit with Hennepin County officials and legislators from State Legislative Dist. 43***
February 8, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Home of Ann and Craig Strom; 16430 42nd Avenue North; Plymouth, MN

➤ *Our New Children's and Education Policy Advocate*

Kim Kang has joined the staff of The Arc of Minnesota as the Children's and Education Advocate to work part-time on issues impacting persons with disabilities. Kim most recently worked for PACER and Brain Injury Association of Minnesota on public policy issues.



➤ *Support is Available for Your Advocacy Efforts*

In addition to Kim Kang, we want to remind you of two other recent additions to our staff: Les Bauer and Jean Bender, our Volunteer Civic Engagement Coordinators. Les will be working with Greater Minnesota chapters of The Arc to encourage and support their public policy advocacy this session. Jean is available to individuals and chapters to help with personal stories to legislators. Both are available to do a Power Point presentation on the various ways you can engage your legislators and be an effective policy advocate. Les can be reached at LWMBauer@msn.com; Jean's e-mail is JeanB@arcmn.org

➤ *Help Us Honor Luther Granquist*

Join us on March 12, 2010 to honor an outstanding advocate for persons with disabilities and their families. On March 12, 2010 at 10 a.m. at the Midland Hills Country Club in Roseville, The Arc of Minnesota will celebrate Luther Granquist's accomplishments at its Public Policy Recognition Event. Luther was the lead attorney in the Welsch case when it began in the 1970s, as parents and others raised their voices against inhumane conditions in state hospitals. For 36 years, he fought for the rights of people with disabilities. Contact Sara Larson at 651-523-0823, ext. 107 or saral@arcmn.org for more information about this event.

