



News Conference

Disability Community Responds to House & Senate Health & Human Services Targets

Contact: Bruce Nelson, ARRM, 651-492-8645 / bnelson@arrm.org

When / Where: Tuesday April 2nd 11 a.m. / 181 State Office Building

Background:

- The House and Senate would increase revenue by approximately \$2 billion.
- Funding targets for health and human services are \$150 million below forecast.
- From fiscal year 2008 through 2012 provider rates have decreased 0.1% while the CPI rose 9.9%.
- 79% of rates go to caregivers, most of whom haven't had an increase for four years.
- Average wage for caregivers in ARRM member residential services is \$11.62 / hour; \$10.62 / hour starting wage.
- Federal Poverty level for a family of four is \$23,550 -- \$11.31/hour for a full time worker.
- 97 percent of funding comes from government – so we cannot cost shift or raise our prices .
- Current law requires a six-month 1.67 percent rate cut starting in July – so we start in a hole
- There's a waiting list of 3,602 people for the Developmental Disability Waiver
- Hundreds of people with disabilities and their caregivers, providers and family will be at the capitol this day to welcome legislators back from their holiday break.

Main message:

The House and Senate targets provide needed resources for jobs, education and property tax relief, but go backward with funding for the state's most vulnerable citizens. We ask the House and Senate to reconsider their health and human services targets with funding to support our most vulnerable citizens, who shouldered large cuts in the past several years.

Participants:

- Bruce Nelson, ARRM CEO
- Norm Munk, CEO Partnership Resources, Inc., President of MOHR
- Marrie Bottelson, Self Advocate
- Sam Subah, Caregiver, Dakota Communities, Inc.
- Liz McCambridge, Sister of Cathy, Gina and Teresa – The Phoenix Residence

Participating Organizations:

Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, ARRM, MOHR, MnDACA, The Arc Minnesota, Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance