

Emergency Resolution on Commitments to State Mental Retardation Centers

Adopted June 14, 2003

WHEREAS The Arc of Pennsylvania represents approximately 350,000 individuals with mental retardation and their families;

WHEREAS The Arc of Pennsylvania is on record in supporting community based services;

WHEREAS It is the responsibility of the Department of Public Welfare to develop capacity in local community to accommodate the needs of citizens with mental retardation though Pennsylvania;

WHEREAS It is evident that a movement is under way to commit individuals into state mental retardation centers. Instances included information from the Delaware County Office of Mental Retardation Services annual plan and a letter of intent directed to family members from the Philadelphia Office of Behavioral Health and Mental Retardation Services indicating that state center commitment would be considered in community supports could not be secured;

WHEREAS This action is contrary to the core values that guide Pennsylvania's mental retardation service delivery system;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that commitments of people with mental retardation to state centers must stop;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED that the Emergency Waiting List for community based services must be fully funded.

Duly enacted this fourteenth day of June, two thousand and thee by general membership.