**The Arc of Virginia Governance Committee**

**Summary of Proposed Bylaws Changes**

**General:**

* References The Arc of Virginia as the “Association” were changed to “The Arc.”
* Language was added requiring that The Arc of Virginia be a non-secular, non-discriminatory organization.
* The Arc’s mission statement is now included.
* The Arc’s Core Values and Guiding Principles (from The Arc of US) are now included.

**Restructure of the Board of Directors:**

* Requires that The Arc of Virginia Board of Directors consist of no less than 11 and no more than 15 members and include up to (a) five members of affiliated local chapters of The Arc, including at least one local chapter executive, nominated by the Local Chapter Advisory Council; (b) three to five at-large members; (c) two self-advocates and (d) one to three community leaders.
* Board Members will be nominated by the Governance Committee and elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting.
* Board Members will serve three year, staggered terms.

**Chapter Council:**

* Establishes a Local Chapter Advisory Council, which will meet a minimum of twice per year.
* Defines the role of the Local Chapter Advisory Council to include the following:
  + Promoting effective implementation of the affiliation agreement;
  + Advising The Arc of Virginia's on issues of concern to local Arc chapters, including both public policy and issues related to inter-organizational collaboration within the state-local Arc network;
  + Facilitating peer-to-peer support and information sharing among and between local chapters of The Arc on issues of mutual concern, including areas such as building effective grassroots advocacy networks, instating innovative service and support programs, improving information and referral services, launching fundraising initiatives and membership drives and developing training programs;
  + Advising the Board on establishing the service boundaries of affiliated local chapters;
  + Such other functions or tasks as may be assigned by the Board.

**Board Business:**

* The Finance Committee and Governance Committee are added as standing committees.
* The Governance Committee is responsible for developing the Slate of Officers. The election of officers will occur at the first Board Meeting following the Annual Meeting.
* Language was added to define the purpose of Executive Session.
* Language was added that protects Board Members from individual liability.