

**TESTIMONY OF KEN HOBBS, PRESIDENT
The Arc-Dane County BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**TO THE DANE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN NEEDS
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2010**

Good Evening. I am Ken Hobbs, President of the Board of Directors of The Arc-Dane County. I am appearing before your Committee to share the concerns of the members of our organization as Dane County moves forward to adopt the provisions of the State's Family Care Program.

As many of you know, The Arc-Dane County is a membership organization representing people with developmental disabilities and their families. Individuals with developmental disabilities are valued members of our community, and The Arc-Dane County seeks to enhance public awareness and understanding of their needs. We believe that public policies like Family Care must assure access to education, training, job opportunities, and social supports in order for people with developmental disabilities to fully participate in their communities.

The Arc-Dane County has worked in partnership with the State and Dane County during the last ten years in the development of the Family Care Program. We recognize the importance of the ultimate goal of the program – to bring quality services to seniors, those people with physical disabilities, and those with developmental disabilities in all counties of Wisconsin. Like you, we place a priority on a program that fosters consumer independence and encourages comprehensive and flexible long-term care.

To these ends, we support the change embodied in the concepts of Family Care. However, we do have concerns that we believe must be addressed. Dane County has been a state and national leader in the development and delivery of human services. We take pride in the quality of care and access to care. We believe that innovation is a hallmark of the types of programs that serve people well. We do not want to see these standards lost as Dane County moves forward with Family Care.

Specifically, the Arc-Dane County believes that the County Board and County Executive must focus your attention on the following to assure that Family Care works in Dane County...

The Arc-Dane County supports the concept of least restrictive environment consistent with the needs of the person and the concept of self determination.

All eligible individuals must have equal access to the services they need.

Parents of adults with disabilities who live at home, as well as parents of children, must have access to respite care.

Each person served by Dane County must have an individual service plan developed by the person and others who know the person well and understand his or her abilities and needs.

Every effort must be made to secure adequate funding to serve the needs of citizens with disabilities, with special emphasis on state responsibility for services.

There must be public accountability for the spending of public money.

Thank you for listening and please accept our best wishes for your efforts to deal with the hard decisions ahead.

Ken Hobbs, President
The Arc-Dane County