

DISABILITY RIGHTS IDAHO

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

Fiscal Year 2011 (October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011)

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

PRIORITY I: People with disabilities will live in the community of their choice with the supports they need.

Objective: Assist people with disabilities to move from an institutional placement, or to remain in the community if at risk of an institutional placement.

PRIORITY II: Individuals with disabilities will have better access to appropriate mental health care coverage and services.

Objective: Influence policy makers to improve the quality of mental health services.

PRIORITY III: People with disabilities will have access to assistive technology devices and services that they need.

Objective: Provide individual and systemic advocacy to ensure access to assistive technology.

PRIORITY IV: People with traumatic brain injury (TBI) will have access to the services they need in the communities in which they live.

Objective: Collaborate with the Institute on Rural Health, and other organizations and agencies concerned with services for people with TBI to improve those TBI related services.

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION

PRIORITY I: Public entities and places of public accommodation will not discriminate on the basis of disability in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504, or the Idaho Human Rights Act.

Objective #1: Accept and address cases of alleged non-employment related, illegal discrimination by places of public accommodation.

Objective #2: Accept and address cases of alleged illegal discrimination by state or local government entities.

Objective #3: Increase accessibility to Idaho courts and court related services.

EDUCATION

PRIORITY I: Students with disabilities will receive appropriate education services.

Objective #1: Provide individual and systemic advocacy in selected issues to students with disabilities.

Objective #2: Address inappropriate practices concerning the use of restraints, seclusion and aversive behavior modification techniques with students with disabilities.

PRIORITY II: Students with disabilities will have access to transition services.

Objective: Ensure students have access to transition age services.

EMPLOYMENT

PRIORITY I: Social Security beneficiaries will obtain or retain employment.

Objective #1: Reduce barriers to employment for beneficiaries of Supplemental Security Income and/or Social Security Disability Insurance.

Objective #2: Provide work incentives planning and assistance to ensure beneficiaries are informed about how work will impact their benefits.

PRIORITY II: Increase access to Rehabilitation Services Administration funded services (e.g., Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Independent Living Centers).

Objective: Provide individual and systemic advocacy to address barriers in accessing RSA funded services.

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

PRIORITY I: People with mental illness will have their rights upheld.

Objective: Accept and address cases of alleged serious violations of the Idaho Hospitalization of the Mentally Ill Act that do not pertain to an individual's commitment hearing.

PRIORITY II: People with disabilities who are victims of crime will have their rights protected.

Objective: Provide services to individuals with disabilities who are victims of crime.

PRIORITY III: People with disabilities will not be subjected to unnecessary or abusive guardianships or conservatorships.

Objective #1: Increase public awareness as to the rights of people with disabilities who are, or may be subject to, a guardianship or conservatorship.

Objective #2: Protect the rights of people with disabilities who are seeking to change or prevent an unnecessary or abusive guardianship.

PRIORITY IV: People with disabilities will have access to Social Security benefits.

Objective: People with disabilities who are entitled to Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income will receive their SSDI/SSI benefits.

PRIORITY V: People with disabilities will be protected from discrimination in decisions involving denial of medical treatment and end of life decisions.

Objective: Preserve and improve current protections in the Idaho Code which prevent disability discrimination in medical decisions.

PRIORITY VI: Participate in systemic advocacy that protects and promotes the rights of people with disabilities.

Objective: Participate with stakeholders and disability groups on task forces, workgroups and councils that provide the opportunity to advocate on behalf of people with disabilities.

MEDICAID

PRIORITY I: People with disabilities will have increased access to Medicaid services.

Objective #1: Provide assistance to people with disabilities who have been denied Medicaid services.

Objective #2: Address Medicaid rules or practices that violate federal or state laws and that create barriers to service.

PRIORITY II: Idaho's Medicaid program will provide access to adequate community based treatment and services for people with disabilities.

Objective: Address systemic public policy issues in the Idaho Medicaid program.

OUTREACH and TRAINING

PRIORITY I: People with disabilities will have increased access to the services offered by DisAbility Rights Idaho.

Objective #1: Conduct outreach to military veterans, their families and veteran organizations.

Objective #2: Conduct outreach and provide services to selected unserved and underserved populations.

Objective #3: Conduct outreach in the community to increase awareness of agency services.

PRIORITY II: People with disabilities will have the information and skills to advocate for themselves or others.

Objective #1: Provide self advocacy training to individuals with disabilities.

Objective #2: Develop disability related materials to assist individuals with self advocacy.

RIGHTS IN FACILITIES

PRIORITY I: People with disabilities will live free from abuse.

Objective #1: Address issues of restraints and/or seclusion in facilities.

Objective #2: Affect changes in policy or practice by investigating instances of death at facilities.

Objective #3: Address issues of abuse in facilities.

PRIORITY II: People with disabilities in facilities will live free from neglect.

Objective: Address issues of neglect in facilities.

PRIORITY III: People with disabilities in facilities will have their rights protected.

Objective #1: Address issues of rights violations in facilities.

Objective #2: Identify and address unlawful denials of P&A access to residents and records in facilities.

Objective #3: Conduct monitoring of selected facilities.

PRIORITY IV: Licensed residential facilities in Idaho will have policies and procedures regarding residents' rights that comply with state and federal laws.

Objective: Policies and procedures at selected facilities will be analyzed, and those not complying with state and federal laws will be brought into compliance.

PRIORITY V: Beneficiaries with employer representative payees will be free from abuse and neglect.

Objective: Investigate employer representative payees to determine whether beneficiaries are free from abuse and neglect.

VOTING

PRIORITY: People with disabilities will have full access to the voting process.

Objective #1: Collaborate with other agencies and organizations to ensure access to the voting process.

Objective #2: Address barriers to the voting process for individuals with disabilities.

Objective #3: Conduct training that ensures people with disabilities have full access to the voting process.

Approved by the Board of Directors of DisAbility Rights Idaho, September 18, 2010

DisAbility Rights Idaho is a private non-profit organization, primarily funded by special federal grants. Due to limited funding in each program, we must establish specific priorities and objectives on an annual basis.

Priorities are areas of concern which DisAbility Rights Idaho hopes to address through activities described in the Objectives.

Objectives describe the specific activities for which DRI has committed resources in this fiscal year and the types of cases the agency will accept in the priority areas.

To comment on these priorities and objectives, or to suggest new ones for next year, please contact us:

By Mail: **Public Comment**
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