

DISABILITY RIGHTS IDAHO

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

Fiscal Year 2012 (October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012)

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 nursing facilities, or to remain in the community if at risk of a nursing facility 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 (AT) devices and services that they need.

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

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION

PRIORITY: State or local government entities will not discriminate on the basis of disability in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504.

Objective: Address selected cases of alleged illegal discrimination by state or local government entities.

EDUCATION

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

Objective #1: Provide individual advocacy to students with disabilities whose suspension or expulsion violates provisions of FAPE.

Objective #2: Address the practice of the unnecessary segregation of students with disabilities and the use of aversive behavior modification techniques.

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 (RSA) funded services [e.g., Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR), Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI), Independent Living Centers (ILC)].

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

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

PRIORITY I: 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 II: 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 III: 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 IV: 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.

PRIORITY V: Parents with disabilities will have their parental rights protected during pregnancy and/or during the first three months of the newborn's life.

Objective: Address practices of Child Protection Services that restrict or remove the parental rights of parents with disabilities.

MEDICAID

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

Objective: 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/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 to selected individuals who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk for experiencing homelessness.

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: Beneficiaries with organizational representative payees will be free from abuse and neglect.

Objective: Investigate organizational 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 people with disabilities.

Objective #3: Conduct training that ensures people in selected facilities have full access to the voting process.

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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