

**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.