



Proposed Statement of Goals and Priorities-PADD 2020

Introduction to Proposed Goals and Priorities

DRW invites you to comment on our plan to use the Federal funding we receive for the “Protection and Advocacy for people with Developmental Disabilities” (PADD). Please note that this plan does not constitute the entirety of all advocacy DRW engages in on behalf of people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD). In addition to this funding, DRW receives significant additional funding from other sources that we also use on behalf of people with I/DD. For example, our Family Care and IRIS Ombudsman Program (FCIOP) serves all people under the age of 60 who have disputes with Family Care or IRIS. Over forty percent of the clients we serve through FCIOP are people with I/DD.

Our Federal PADD resources have been steadily declining for the past several years. As a result, it is difficult for us to expand beyond the work we have traditionally done, which for the most part, relates to addressing abuse, neglect and rights violations in institutional, academic and community based residential settings.

You may comment on this plan by mail, email, or any other means by which you communicate.

To comment by regular U.S. Mail direct comments to:

Disability Rights Wisconsin
ATTN: Mitch Hagopian
131 W. Wilson St.
Suite 700
Madison, WI 53703

To comment by email contact Mitch Hagopian at: mitchh@drwi.org Please put “PADD Comment” in the subject line.

To comment by any other means please call (or have someone call on your behalf) Mitch Hagopian at 267-0214 to arrange any accommodation that may be necessary to allow you to comment.

To ensure consideration, comments should be received by November 20, 2019.

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Goal 1: Decrease the risk of abuse and neglect of people with IDD in institutions, schools and the community.

Priority 1: Reduce the use of seclusion and restraint in schools by investigating and reporting on incidents of seclusion and restraint. Pursue policy changes to improve monitoring of seclusion and restraint.

Priority 2: Monitor all deaths of people with IDD in state centers and state mental health facilities, and children and adults with IDD in the community service system whose deaths we become aware of, for evidence of abuse or neglect as a factor in death and investigate when abuse or neglect appears to be a factor.

Priority 3: Respond, through community education and individual case advocacy, to instances of serious abuse and neglect of people with IDD in cases where the protective service system or law enforcement has not responded adequately.

Goal 2: Ensure that people have access to high quality, community-based Medicaid services and a long term support system that promotes self-direction and care in the least restrictive, most integrated setting.

Priority 1: Engage in systems advocacy related to Wisconsin's adult Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waivers and represent selected individual applicants and recipients in court appeals of negative fair hearing decisions that are likely to have a systemic impact.

Priority 2: Improve outcomes, through systems advocacy, technical assistance and limited individual case advocacy, for children with IDD seeking access to Children's Long Term Support services and prior authorization of autism services and other EPSDT services.

Priority 3: Ensure, through systems advocacy, technical assistance and limited individual case advocacy, that children with IDD and "challenging" behaviors receive all necessary services (from CLTS waiver, FSP, Wraparound, etc.) in order to live safely in the community.

Priority 4: Increase awareness and access to community based services and supports for African-American, Spanish speaking, and other underserved children with IDD and their families in Milwaukee County.

Goal 3: Reduce discrimination against people with IDD in employment, promote accessibility in facilities and programming, and ensure that employment for people with IDD occurs in the most integrated setting possible.

Priority 1: Educate people with IDD (and others) on their rights under the ADA to expect reasonable accommodation of their disabilities in employment. Engage in limited representation of people with IDD who have experienced significant employment discrimination because of their disability.

Priority 2: Work to increase opportunities for competitive integrated employment through systems advocacy around WIOA.

Priority 3: Respond and provide technical assistance to complaints of inaccessibility to people with IDD in transportation, housing and public accommodations.

Goal 4: Improve the special education system's response to children with IDD by reducing the incidence of segregated educational experiences, increasing availability of adequate mental health services and ensuring meaningful, most integrated transition experiences for all students with IDD.

Priority 1: Decrease the provision of education to students with IDD in segregated settings (including at Choice schools) and classrooms through individual case advocacy, technical assistance, training and monitoring.

Priority 2: Increase availability of adequate mental health services and supports to students with IDD in order to reduce expulsion, suspension and law enforcement intervention through individual case advocacy, technical assistance, training and monitoring.

Priority 3: Ensure that transition planning requirements for children 14 and over are implemented and community vocational and other age appropriate, integrated, independent living experiences are part of the available curriculum in all districts and that all requirements of WIOA are met through individual case advocacy, technical assistance, systemic advocacy, training and monitoring.

Goal 5: Increase likelihood that people with IDD will receive services and supports in the least restrictive, most integrated setting and with the least imposition of their liberty as possible.

Priority 1: Serve on facility closing teams to ensure that people moving from institutions and community based residential facilities are going to less restrictive, more integrated community settings and provide individual advocacy to any person with IDD in a facility that is closing who requests assistance with individual community relocation planning.

Priority 2: Provide outreach and training and continue in leadership role in Wisconsin's Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) group. Continue leadership role in training on Wisconsin's supported decision-making

agreements law. Advocate for training requirements for guardians. Provide technical assistance and limited individual case advocacy in cases of serious guardian overreach.