



Proposed Statement of Goals and Priorities-PADD 2022

Introduction to Proposed Goals and Priorities

DRW invites you to comment on our plan to use the Federal funding we receive for our “Protection and Advocacy for people with Developmental Disabilities” (PADD) grant. The Goals and Priorities contained in this plan identify areas upon which we expect to devote our Federal PADD funding. To ensure consideration, comments should be received by November 30, 2021.

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. Likewise, the SSI Managed Care External Advocacy project serves all SSI recipients, including those with I/DD who are not in Family Care and IRIS, who receive their health coverage through a Medicaid HMO.

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. We also maintain an active engagement with the publicly funded long term support service systems that provide community supports for people with IDD.

Because the COVID-19 pandemic has not ended, we are maintaining that goal in this plan. Hopefully we will be able to remove it next year.

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
1502 West Broadway, Suite 201
Madison, WI 53713

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 30, 2021.

PADD Plan FY 2022

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

Priority 1: Monitor all deaths of people with disabilities in state centers and state mental health facilities, and children and adults 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 2: Respond, through self-advocacy assistance, investigation, MCO notification and limited individual case advocacy, to instances of serious abuse and neglect of people with disabilities in cases where the protective service system, regulatory entities, or law enforcement have not responded adequately.

Goal 2: Ensure that people have access to high quality, community-based support 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 Medicaid programs including adult Home and Community Based Services Waivers (Family Care, IRIS) and mental health treatment system (CCS, CSP, targeted case management, etc.). Represent selected Family Care or IRIS 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 disabilities seeking access to Children’s Long Term Support services and durable medical equipment through the Medicaid program.

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, Children’s COP, Wraparound, CCS, Children Come First, etc.) in order to live safely in the community. Work to fill gaps in the service system relating to this unique subset of youth with disabilities.

Priority 4: Increase awareness and access to community-based services and supports for African-American, Spanish speaking, and other underserved children with disabilities 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 on their rights under the ADA and WFEA 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.

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 through individual case advocacy, technical assistance, systemic advocacy, training and monitoring.

Goal 5: Increase likelihood that people with disabilities 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 resident of a facility that is closing who requests assistance with individual community relocation planning.

Priority 2: Continue leadership role in training on Wisconsin's supported decision-making agreements law. Advocate for training requirements for guardians and greater accountability of corporate guardians. Provide technical assistance and limited individual case advocacy in cases of egregious guardian overreach.

Priority 3: Disseminate self-advocacy materials for people with disabilities to access the client rights grievance system. Represent clients in cases of egregious rights violations.

Goal 6: Protect the rights of people with disabilities in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Priority 1: Recognizing that total isolation creates health problems of its own, encourage state agencies (DHS and DCF) to strike a reasonable balance between individual rights and patient and communal safety in development of guidance policies relating to visitation, access to outside activities and receipt of in-home services.

Priority 2: Educate and provide technical assistance or limited representation to people with IDD who experience barriers in long term support services, education, employment, housing, or places or public accommodation arising from Covid-19 prevention measures or lack of prevention measures.