



Proposed Statement of Goals and Priorities-PADD 2023

PADD Plan FY 2023

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 December 9, 2022.

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 in service to 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 declined considerably over the past several years. As a result, it is difficult for us to expand our advocacy 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.

The major change to this plan from last year’s plan is the removal of our Covid-specific goal. Covid has become an ongoing medical reality for our clients and will continue to create issues for them into the foreseeable future. It no longer warrants its own priority because it is no longer a novel, time-limited issue that we assumed would go away. We now factor Covid into every one of these goals because it is one of the baseline causes of problems in schools, in home and community-based Medicaid, in places of employment and housing, and of the violation of rights people with IDD experience.

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: Melanie Cairns
1502 West Broadway, Suite 201
Madison, WI 53713

To comment by email contact Melanie Cairns at: Melanie.Cairns@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) Disability Rights Wisconsin at 800-928-8778 to arrange any accommodation that may be necessary to allow you to comment.

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

Priority 1: Reduce the use of seclusion and restraint in schools by investigating and reporting on incidents 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. Issue reports and findings as appropriate.

Priority 3: 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. Issue reports and findings as appropriate.

Priority 4: Work in conjunction with the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities' Living Well project on systemic change aimed at strengthening regulatory oversight of community-based services and protection of people with IDD from abuse and neglect.

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 IDD 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.

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: Increase the number of children with IDD who receive appropriate special education in the least restrictive setting.

Priority 1: Reduce the number of students with IDD who are excluded from school due to expulsion, repeated suspension, or law enforcement intervention through systemic advocacy, , technical assistance, training, monitoring, and limited individual case advocacy

Priority 2: Increase availability of adequate mental/behavioral health services and supports to reduce the number of students with IDD placed in restrictive alternative settings through systemic advocacy, technical assistance, training, monitoring, and limited individual case advocacy.

Priority 3: Increase the number of children with IDD over age 14 who receive integrated transition planning and support through systemic advocacy, technical assistance, training, monitoring, and individual case advocacy.

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 resident of a facility that is closing who requests assistance with individual community relocation planning.

Priority 2: Disseminate self-advocacy materials for people with IDD to access the client rights grievance system. Advocate for regular review of guardianships. Provide technical assistance and represent clients in cases of egregious rights violations.