

DISABILITY RIGHTS PENNSYLVANIA

GOALS FY 2015-2018

OBJECTIVES FY 2018

(October 2017 – September 2018)

Goal 1: Protect and advocate for people with disabilities who are subject to abuse, neglect, exploitation, and rights violations.

Objective 1: Respond to individual and systemic reports of abuse, neglect, exploitation or rights violations (including, but not limited to, the inappropriate use of restraints) through the provision of information, resources, referrals, technical assistance, individual assistance, follow-up, monitoring, investigation and/or litigation, including enforcement of DRP's authority to access facilities, residents, and records.

Objective 2: Monitor systems, advocating necessary improvements for reporting, investigating and responding to abuse or neglect.

Objective 3: Provide advice and/or information and referral services, as appropriate, to clients who contact our intake system regarding abuse, neglect, or exploitation of individuals with disabilities.

Goal 2: Eliminate institutionalization and segregation of people with disabilities and address treatment issues relating to institutionalized persons.

Objective 1: Advocate for integrated community services, supports, and treatment for children and adults with disabilities who are institutionalized, at risk of institutionalization, or in segregated settings.

Objective 2: Advocate for the closure, downsizing, or reduce admissions to state-operated hospitals for individuals with mental illness and state-operated centers for people with intellectual disabilities, nursing facilities, and other congregate state or privately-operated congregate, segregated facilities, and residential treatment facilities.

Objective 3: Advocate for the development, full implementation of, and funding for a comprehensive/integrated Pennsylvania Olmstead Plan.

Objective 4: Assure that children and adults with disabilities who are incarcerated or at risk of incarceration receive appropriate treatment and access to necessary services and diversion from incarceration.

Objective 5: Provide advice and/or information and referral services, as appropriate, to clients who contact our intake system regarding issues relating to individuals with disabilities who are unnecessarily institutionalized or segregated, at risk of unnecessary institutionalization or segregation, or subject to mistreatment in an institutional setting.

Goal 3: Promote an array of quality, consumer-controlled, consumer-driven, person-centered, and recovery-oriented services to enable people with disabilities to live and thrive in their own homes, and communities.

Objective 1: Advocate for access to programs and services that support people with disabilities in making their own choices and directing their own services.

Objective 2: Advocate to end waiting lists for or removing other barriers to community services for people with disabilities who are unserved or underserved.

Objective 3: Assure and expand access to health and mental health care and related services for people with disabilities including, but not limited to, Medicaid services, transportation, and assistive technology.

Objective 4: Advocate to ensure that people with disabilities make their own decisions to the maximum extent possible and receive appropriate supported and/or substitute decision-making when necessary.

Objective 5: Provide advice and/or information and referral services, as appropriate, to individuals who contact our intake system regarding community services for people with disabilities.

Goal 4: Eliminate disability discrimination and promote integration of people with disabilities in all aspects of society.

Objective 1: Address disability discrimination in government services, programs and activities, in housing, transportation, and by public accommodations including, but not limited to, assuring physical access to facilities and addressing the failure to provide effective communication or reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures.

Objective 2: Address disability discrimination in education and assure access to quality education for students with disabilities including, but not limited to, early intervention, special education, transition, and post-secondary education services.

Objective 3: Address disability discrimination in employment and promote and expand access to employment of people with disabilities including advocating for Employment First and other competitive and supported opportunities for individuals in segregated employment.

Objective 4: Assure that people with disabilities have equal opportunity to vote.

Objective 5: Provide advice and/or information and referral services, as appropriate, to individuals contacting our intake system regarding issues relating to disability discrimination in and/or access to government services, public accommodations, housing, employment, education, voting, transportation, and other aspects of community life.

Goal 5: Conduct outreach, training, and education activities.

Objective 1: Identify and work with unserved and underserved communities.

Objective 2: Provide presentations and trainings to educate people with disabilities, family members, advocates, and professionals about disability rights, services, and issues.

Objective 3: Conduct in-person outreach at community events to enhance the public's knowledge of DRP and its services and to provide information to the public about disability rights, services, and issues, including one major event in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

Objective 4: Develop and distribute publications (that are also accessible and multilingual) on disability rights, services, and issues to facilitate knowledge and self-advocacy; distribute those publications through our website and at trainings and outreaches and, on request, by mail; and, as requested, make those publications available in alternative formats and in other languages.

Objective 5: Develop and disseminate information important to people with disabilities via DRP's electronic mailing lists, website, and social media.