

COMPREHENSIVE ADVOCACY, INC.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

October 1, 2005 - September 30, 2006

ABUSE AND NEGLECT

PRIORITY: People with disabilities will live free from abuse and neglect.

- Objective #1:** Reduce the amount of time people are held in restraints and/or seclusion in selected facilities.
- Objective #2:** Affect changes in policy by investigating instances of serious injury and/or death at facilities.
- Objective #3:** Address domestic and sexual violence issues for persons with disabilities.
- Objective #4:** Investigate and provide assistance to individuals with disabilities to challenge significant abuse or neglect by guardians or conservators.
- Objective #5:** Enforce P&A access rights to residents and records in facilities.
- Objective #6:** Accept up to ten (10) cases of alleged abuse or neglect in facilities.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

PRIORITY: Individuals with disabilities will have better access to health care coverage and services.

- Objective #1:** Children with disabilities will have access to clinic services under the Maternal Child Health Children's Special Health Program.
- Objective #2:** Individuals with disabilities will have better access to private health insurance.
- Objective #3:** Influence task forces to improve the quality of community mental health services.

ADA/ACCESSIBILITY

PRIORITY: Public entities and places of public accommodation will be accessible and will not otherwise discriminate against people with disabilities in violation of the ADA and/or Section 504.

- Objective #1:** Identify and address up to three (3) instances of alleged illegal discrimination by a place of public accommodation.
- Objective #2:** Identify and address at least one instance of alleged illegal discrimination by a state or local government entity.
- Objective #3:** Collaborate with the Idaho ADA Task Force to ensure Idaho counties have ADA compliance officers.

CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

PRIORITY I: Increase access to Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) funded services [eg. Idaho Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR), Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI), Independent Living Councils (ILC)].

- Objective:** Provide individual and systemic advocacy to address barriers in accessing RSA funded services.

PRIORITY II: Increase outreach and awareness of CAP services to RSA funded agencies.

- Objective:** Participate in IDVR, ICBVI and ILC staff and directors' meetings.

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

PRIORITY: People with disabilities will live in their community of choice with the supports they need for successful integration.

- Objective #1:** At least five (5) people with disabilities will move from long-term institutional placement to living in the community of their choice.
- Objective #2:** Up to five (5) people at risk of a more restrictive placement will receive services that prevent a more restrictive placement.
- Objective #3:** People with disabilities will have assistive technology devices and services that they need to live independently.
- Objective #4:** Challenge Idaho State School and Hospital (ISSH) policies that allow court appointed guardians to override recommended discharge to community placement.
- Objective #5:** Adolescents at ISSH will receive effective mental health treatment to insure timely discharge .

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

PRIORITY: Individuals with mental illness committed to the Idaho Department of Corrections (IDOC) will receive appropriate mental health services.

- Objective:** Partner with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to pursue legal remedy to address lack of mental health services in the IDOC.

EDUCATION

PRIORITY I: Children with disabilities in Idaho will receive appropriate education services.

- Objective #1:** Accept up to ten (10) cases of children with disabilities from under-served cultural populations.
- Objective #2:** Accept up to twenty (20) cases that address educational issues of children with disabilities.
- Objective #3:** Collaborate with Idaho Parents Unlimited (IPUL) to provide advocacy workshops.

PRIORITY II: Address systemic barriers to Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for children with disabilities.

- Objective #1:** Ensure Nampa School District complies with IDEA requirements for students at ISSH.
- Objective #2:** Propose changes to State Board of Education (SBE) rules and the State Special Education manual to ensure conformity to IDEA amendments.
- Objective #3:** Reduce systemic barriers to appropriate educational services through participation in policy making decisions.
- Objective #4:** Monitor the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind Plan of Improvement.

EMPLOYMENT

PRIORITY: Social Security beneficiaries will obtain or retain employment.

- Objective:** Reduce barriers to employment for beneficiaries of Social Security.

FINANCIAL ENTITLEMENTS

PRIORITY: People with disabilities who are entitled to Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income will receive their SSDI/SSI benefits.

Objective: Increase access to SS benefits for individuals with disabilities.

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

PRIORITY I: Individuals with disabilities involved in the courts will have representation by attorneys who are knowledgeable of their rights, and the disability issues which affect their lives.

Objective #1: Provide training to local attorneys and judges regarding the rights of, and the full array of services available for, individuals with disabilities involved in the Bannock County court system.

Objective #2: Conduct a pilot project in collaboration with Bannock County Courts to provide consultation to attorneys representing people with disabilities, and in selected cases referred by the courts, provide individual representation on issues within Co-Ad's priorities.

PRIORITY II: Monitor and participate in the creation and development of mental health courts to insure individual rights are protected.

Objective: Insure the procedures adopted by a mental health court protect the rights of individuals with disabilities.

PRIORITY III: Public and private housing entities and owners will not discriminate against persons with disabilities in violation of the Fair Housing Act (FHA).

Objective: Identify and address up to three (3) violations of the FHA based on disability.

MEDICAID

PRIORITY: Individuals with disabilities will have increased access to Medicaid services

Objective #1: Address restrictions on Medicaid services required in the state Medicaid plan or a state waiver.

Objective #2: Advocate for adequate Medicaid coverage and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) for Idahoans with disabilities.

Objective #3: Advocate for a change in the state Home Care for Certain Disabled Children rules to include standards of eligibility for children with a mental health diagnosis.

Objective #4: Develop materials to assist target service coordinators, consumers, and providers to be more successful in obtaining needed HCBS waiver services.

OUTREACH

PRIORITY: People with disabilities in Idaho will have increased access to Co-Ad services.

Objective #1: Conduct outreach campaigns to selected unserved and under-served populations.

Objective #2: Conduct outreach activities to selected facilities and post-secondary institutions

Objective #3: Promote cultural competence within Co-Ad.

Objective #4: Conduct outreach in the community to increase awareness of Co-Ad services.

RIGHTS IN FACILITIES

PRIORITY I: Individuals in facilities will not have their rights violated.

Objective #1: Address policies or practices in facilities that allow residents to be referred for criminal prosecution for episodes of inappropriate behavior at the facility.

Objective #2: Accept up to five (5) cases of significant violations of individual rights in facilities.

PRIORITY II: People at State Hospital North will have their rights enhanced through facility accreditation.

Objective: Promote accreditation of State Hospital North.

PRIORITY III: Licensed residential facilities in Idaho will have policies and procedures regarding residents' rights that comply with state and federal laws.

Objective: Policies and procedures at select mental health facilities will be analyzed, and those not complying with state and/or federal laws will be brought into compliance.

PRIORITY IV: Persons with disabilities will have access to their health records in accordance with federal law.

Objective: Propose changes in state law that may be necessary to bring it into compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regarding the access of a current or former psychiatric patient to his or her health records.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI)

PRIORITY: Individuals with traumatic brain injuries (TBI) will live in their community of choice with the supports they need for successful integration.

Objective #1: Promote specialized community services for individuals with TBI.

Objective #2: Provide individual and systemic advocacy to address barriers to independent living for individuals with TBI.

VOTING

PRIORITY: Idahoans with disabilities will have increased access to the voting process.

Objective# 1: Coordinate with Project Vote and other advocacy organizations to ensure access to the voting process.

Objective #2: Address barriers to the voting process for individuals with disabilities.

PRIORITIES are areas of concern which Co-Ad hopes to address through activities described in the Objectives.

OBJECTIVES describe the specific activities for which Co-Ad has committed resources in this fiscal year and the types of cases Co-Ad will accept in the priority areas.

To comment on these priorities or to suggest new priorities for next year, please contact us :

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