

DRCVI ADVOCACY SERVICE PLAN 2008-2012

Goals and Priorities

Advocacy Priorities

- Abuse & Neglect
- Discrimination
- Benefits
- Community-Based Collaboration
- Education for Children & Youth
- Mental Health
- Public Education & Communication
- Quality Assurance

Abuse & Neglect

Goals and Priorities

- Reduce serious harm caused by abuse and neglect in all facilities.
- Reduce serious harm caused by abuse and neglect in community settings.
- Investigate and assist in the reduction of physical and chemical restraint, seclusion, and other methods of containment for people with disabilities.
- Inform people with disabilities about their rights and provide information they need to advocate for themselves.

Discrimination

Goals and Priorities

- Make sure voting systems and election processes are accessible and barrier free, and increase the numbers of people with disabilities who vote.
- Make sure people with disabilities know their rights and have information they need to advocate for themselves.
- Monitor proposed state legislation about discrimination and comment as needed.

Discrimination

Goals and Priorities

- Access to public, private and governmental programs and services, including transportation, higher education, housing, restaurants, stores, and businesses,
- Employment of their choice, with or without supports, and
- Directing their own lives, including rights to privacy, making choices, and other personal autonomy rights.

Benefits

Goals and Priorities

- Preserve, expand and improve access to quality healthcare
- Preserve, expand and improve access to employment opportunities
- Increase, expand and improve access to assistive technology devices and services
- Make sure that people with disabilities are informed about their rights and have the information they need to advocate for themselves

Education for Children & Youth

Goals and Priorities

- Make sure that educational processes required by law are followed.
- Make sure that students are educated in the most integrated and least restrictive setting
- Make sure that students with disabilities and their families are informed about their rights and have the information they need to effectively advocate for themselves
- Monitor the Dept. of Education to determine consent decree compliance

Community-Based Collaboration Goals and Priorities

- Work to ensure that people with disabilities are included in and accounted for in emergency preparedness planning
- Assist people with disabilities to develop advocacy projects (e.g. anti-stigma work, foster care, handicapped parking, “visitability”) that foster collaboration and promotes issues that are important to all groups of people with disabilities.

Mental Health Goals & Priorities

- Pressure the establishment to implement effective, client-centered services for people with mental health disabilities
- Help people with mental health disabilities direct their own lives and avoid institutionalization by challenging laws, policies and practices that violate civil rights and lead to unnecessary loss of freedom or personal autonomy.
- Make sure that people are informed about their rights and have the materials they need to effectively advocate for themselves, and
- Monitor proposed legislation about mental health and comment on these proposed rules as needed.

Public Education & Communication Goals & Priorities

Outreach

- Strengthen and increase the effectiveness of our coalition building activities with the disability rights movement and other social justice groups
- Promote DRCVI's disability rights expertise to the community at large

Public Education & Communication Goals & Priorities

Communication

- Promote positive images of people with disabilities through communications strategies including the media and DRCVI website
- Ensure that media and communications strategies are part of all aspects of DRCVI's work
- Strengthening DRCVI's communication tools and strategies, including DRCVI's website in order to tell others about our work

Public Education & Communication Goals & Priorities

Public Education

- Publish Annual Report
- Make DRCVI available in other languages
- Produce materials for people with disabilities and increase access to such publication by writing at appropriate literacy levels, and creating alternative formats
- Provide training and other education activities for people with disabilities their families, their advocates and organizations which target traditionally underserved communities.

Quality Assurance Goals & Priorities

- To develop and maintain activities promoting assessment of client satisfaction.
- To ensure that clients receive information regarding procedural protection with regard to client grievance and appeal
- To ensure that DRCVI provides culturally competent services.
- To ensure appropriate oversight and supervision of DRCVI' s client services.