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LEGISLATIVE and Public Policy Platform

Approved 2014

About the Council

The federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 establishes State Councils on Developmental Disabilities in each of the 56 states and territories to promote self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion in all aspects of community life for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. The Lanterman Act establishes the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (Council) to fulfill those obligations through advocacy, capacity building, and systems change.

To that end, the Council develops and implements goals, objectives, and strategies designed to improve and enhance the availability and quality of services and supports.

The Council is comprised of 31 members appointed by the Governor, including individuals with disabilities and their families, and representatives from Disability Rights California, the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and state agencies.

In addition to the Council's Sacramento headquarters, 13 regional offices support individuals with IDD and their families through activities such as advocacy training, monitoring, and public information. The Council strives to ensure that appropriate laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to the rights of individuals are observed and protected.

This document conveys the Council's position on major policy issues that affect individuals with IDD and their families.



SELF-DETERMINATION

Individuals with IDD and their families must be given the option to control their service dollars and their services through Self-Determination. With the support of those they choose and trust, people with IDD and their families are best suited to understand their own unique needs, develop their own life goals, and construct those services and supports most appropriate to reach their full potential. Self-Determination gives individuals the tools and the basic human right to pursue life, liberty, and happiness in the ways that they choose.



EMPLOYMENT

A regular job with competitive pay gives people an opportunity to contribute and be valued at a work site; it gives them a chance to build relationships with co-workers, be a part of their communities, and contribute to their local economies. It reduces poverty and reliance on state support, and it provides a life of greater dignity.

Integrated competitive employment is the priority outcome for working age individuals with IDD, regardless of the severity of their disability. Policies and practices must set expectations for employment, promote collaboration between state agencies, and remove barriers to integrated competitive employment through access to information, benefits counseling, job training, postsecondary education, and appropriate provider rates that incentivize quality employment outcomes.

EQUITY

Regional center services and supports must be distributed equitably so that individuals receive culturally and linguistically competent services and supports that meet their needs, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or income. Disparities in services can result in severe health, economic, and quality of life consequences.



TRANSPORTATION

Access to transportation is essential to the education, employment, and inclusion of individuals with disabilities. Individuals with IDD must be a part of transportation planning and policymaking to assure their needs and perspectives are heard and addressed. Mobility training must be a standard program among public transportation providers to increase the use of public transportation and reduce reliance on more costly segregated systems.

HEALTH CARE

Individuals must be reimbursed for insurance co-pays, co-insurance, and deductibles, when their health insurance covers therapies that are on their IPPs.

California has an obligation to assure that individuals with disabilities have continuity of care, a full continuum of health care services and equipment, and access to plain language information and supports to make informed decisions about their health care options.

California has an obligation to support the health care of individuals with IDD. This includes people with multiple health care needs, those who require routine preventative care, mental health treatment, dental care, durable medical equipment, and those with gender specific health issues.



EDUCATION

Schools must implement the goals of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to provide children with disabilities with free appropriate public education and prepare them for post-secondary education, employment, and independent living. Students with disabilities will be educated alongside their non-disabled peers in the least restrictive environment. School districts and other educational authorities need to be held accountable for implementing the letter and the intent of IDEA, in all aspects, including measureable postsecondary goals.

HOUSING

Community integrated living options for individuals with IDD must be increased and enhanced through access to housing subsidy programs and neighborhood education to reduce discrimination. Permanent, affordable, accessible, and sustained housing options must be continually developed to meet both current and future needs.

SELF-ADVOCACY

Individuals with IDD must be supported to exert maximum control over their lives. They must be provided the opportunity and support to assume their rightful leadership in the service system and society, including voting and other civic responsibilities. Self-advocates must have access to enhanced training, plain language materials, and policy making opportunities.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Individuals with IDD must have access to and be supported to participate in their communities, with their non-disabled peers, through opportunities such as education, employment, recreation, organizational affiliations, spiritual development, and civic responsibilities.

TRANSITION TO ADULT LIFE

Education, rehabilitation, and regional center services must support students to transition to integrated competitive employment or post-secondary educational opportunities that will lead to employment. Successful strategies include starting career exploration at age 14, coordination among systems, youth empowerment in their education and service planning, integrated work experiences, family engagement, and a seamless transition to post-secondary work or education.



RATES FOR SERVICES

The state must restore rates to adequately support the availability of quality services for people with all disabilities in all the systems that serve them. A planned and systematic approach to rate adjustments must prioritize and incentivize services and supports that best promotes self-determination, independence, employment, and inclusion in all aspects of community life.

VICTIMS OF CRIME

All people have a right to be safe; however, individuals with IDD experience a much greater rate of victimization, and a far lower rate of prosecution for crimes against them, than does the general public. The same level of due process protections must be provided to all people. Individuals with IDD need to be trained in personal safety, how to protect themselves against becoming victims of crime, and how their participation in identification and prosecution can make a difference. Law enforcement personnel must be trained in how to work with people with IDD who they interact with during the course of their duties, including those who are victims of crimes.



QUALITY OF SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

The State of California must ensure that funding is used to achieve positive outcomes for individuals with IDD and their families. The state must streamline burdensome and duplicative regulations and processes that do not lead to positive outcomes for people with IDD and their families. Quality assessment and oversight must be provided by the state; it must measure what matters, be administered in a culturally competent manner, and the results made public and used to improve the system of services and supports.



Promise of the Lanterman Act

The Lanterman Act promises to honor the needs and choices of individuals with IDD by establishing an array of quality services throughout the state. Services shall support people to live integrated, productive lives in their home communities, in the least restrictive environment. Access to needed services and supports must not be undermined through categorical service elimination, service caps, means testing, or family cost participation fees and other financial barriers. California must not impose artificial limitations or reductions in community-based services and supports that would compromise the health and safety of persons with IDD.



California State Council Regional Offices

North Coast (707) 463-4700

Counties Served: Del Norte,
Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino

North State (530) 895-4027

Counties Served: Butte, Glenn,
Lassen, Plumas, Modoc,
Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity

Sacramento (916) 263-3085

Counties Served: Alpine, Colusa,
El Dorado, Nevada, Placer,
Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba, Sierra

North Bay (707) 648-4073

Counties Served: Napa, Solano,
Sonoma

Bay Area (510) 286-0439

Counties Served: Alameda, Contra
Costa, Marin, San Francisco,
San Mateo

North Valley Hills (209) 473-6930

Counties Served: Amador, Calaveras,
San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne

Silicon Valley/Monterey Bay (408) 324-2106

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Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz

Sequoia (559) 222-2496

Counties Served: Fresno, Kern, Kings,
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Los Angeles (818) 543-4631

Serving Los Angeles County

Orange County (714) 558-4404

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CALIFORNIA

SCDD

State Council on Developmental Disabilities

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