

ndalc news

Highlights of FY2006 and Upcoming Events for FY2007

Message from the President & Executive Director

NDALC has worked diligently over the past year to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities, and we are pleased to share with you the highlights of FY2006 and our plans for FY2007.

One of the items that we are extremely proud of was to be involved in the development and implementation of Nevada 211; the information and referral hotline that is accessible throughout the state by dialing 211 on your telephone. Callers are connected with operators who offer free information about health and human services available in their community. Additional details about Nevada 211 can be found on Page 10 of this Newsletter.

NDALC conducts several ongoing activities and training events throughout the year. Our Annual Advocacy Awards Ceremony continues to recognize outstanding individuals who have made extraordinary efforts throughout Nevada to promote the rights of individuals with disabilities. We invite everyone to join us at the 7th Annual Advocacy Awards Ceremony on May 9, 2007. More information can be found on Page 15.

After reviewing the information obtained from our Annual Advocacy Questionnaire, the Board of Directors have prioritized increasing outreach, education, and training services throughout the state. This is reflected by the addition of an Outreach Priority within the FY2007 Service Priorities listed on Page 14.

NDALC has determined that individuals with disabilities who reside in Northeastern Nevada are underserved. To address this issue, we have decided to open a satellite office in Elko to increase consumers' access to NDALC's legal services.

As Nevada's protection and advocacy office, we invite all readers to provide feedback to ensure that we are meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities throughout Nevada.

Sheila King, President

Jack Mayes, Executive Director

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ndalc news

A publication of the Nevada
Disability Advocacy & Law Center
(NDALC)

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(Additional Information on Back Page)

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wHaT Is ndalc

The Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center (NDALC) is a private, nonprofit organization serving as Nevada's federally-mandated protection and advocacy system for the human, legal, and service rights of individuals with disabilities. NDALC was designated as Nevada's protection and advocacy system by the Governor in March, 1995 and is funded by Federal grants and charitable, tax-deductible contributions.

Services provided by NDALC include:

- information and referral;
- education and training;
- advocacy, negotiation, or mediation;
- investigation of reported or suspected abuse or neglect;
- legal counsel, technical assistance, and litigation services; and
- technical assistance about policy, administration, and legislative developments.

NDALC has offices in Reno/Sparks and Las Vegas with services provided statewide. All services are offered at no cost to eligible individuals in accordance with NDALC's available resources and service priorities. (For contact information, please see back page of this newsletter.)

MISSION:

- Protect and advocate for the human and legal rights, interests, and welfare of Nevadans with disabilities.
- Promote, support, and assist Nevadans with disabilities in understanding and controlling those systems and processes which directly affect their lives.
- Foster the development, availability, and accessibility of services which increase the opportunities available to Nevadans with disabilities to live their lives as fully, independently, and productively as possible.

FUNDING:

NDALC receives funding from the following entities:

- Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (PAIMI)
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (PADD, PAVA)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (PATBI)
- Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration (PAIR)
- Department of Education, National Institute on Disability & Rehabilitation Research (AT)
- Social Security Administration, Office of Employment Support Program (PABSS)
- The Nevada Law Foundation (IOLTA)

FY2006 Grants accomplishments

paIMI

PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH
MENTAL ILLNESS

Administered by: Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Established by: PAIMI Act of 1986. Agencies are mandated to:

- Protect and advocate the rights of individuals with mental illness; and
- Investigate allegations of abuse and/or neglect in facilities that care for or treat individuals with mental illness.

FY2006 Case Highlights:

An individual living in a group home was talking to an NDALC advocate on the telephone, when a group home staff member approached him and told him to hang up the telephone, because he had not asked permission to use the telephone. The NDALC advocate visited this individual to discuss concerns about how the staff treated everyone living in the home and also spoke with the manager of the group home who had questions about house rules as they related to clients' individual rights. NDALC staff met with state mental health staff and proposed that a Rights Training Workshop be conducted by NDALC to all providers of community living services.

Outcome: *In September, NDALC staff conducted a training on individual rights which was attended by 65 service providers.*

NDALC was contacted by a state family court judge to represent a 54-year-old woman and the guardianship initially filed against her by a private guardian and subsequently transferred to a public guardian. NDALC agreed to be appointed as counsel and after meeting with the guardian and its counsel, all parties agreed that guardianship over the client was not appropriate.

Outcome: *The parties are working toward discharge of the client back into the community and termination of the guardianship after appropriate discharge.*

NDALC was a co-sponsor for the First Annual Nevada Juvenile Defender Summit. Over 45 attorneys throughout the State of Nevada attended the two-day event.

Outcome: *NDALC staff presented training on how juvenile defenders can properly advocate for juveniles with disabilities in the juvenile justice system.*

(Continued on Page 4)

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Supervising Rights Attorney

Lynne Bigley

TRAINING & OUTREACH

RURAL OUTREACH IN ELKO

NDALC attorneys and advocates conducted three information sessions in Elko, Nevada on "Your Rights & How To Self Advocate." The sessions were free and open to the public.

August 8, 2006 at the Elko Head Start Center: Presentation on NDALC, transition planning for teens, early childhood services, and IEP changes since the last legislative session.

August 9, 2006 at the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living: Legal/advocacy disability issues were discussed.

August 9, 2006 at the Elko County Library: Discussion regarding the rights of individuals receiving services from the Rural Regional Center.

RIGHTS TRAINING WORKSHOP

In September, NDALC advocates and attorneys conducted a training on individual rights to providers of community living services. The workshop was attended by 65 service providers. (See more details on Page 3, under PAIMI Highlights.)

VOTER RIGHTS TRAINING

Under the PAVA Program, NDALC advocates conducted 38 voter registration outreach events, which included 32 outreach/educational and training meetings throughout the State of Nevada and participation in six public meetings. (See more details on Page 8, under PAVA Highlights.)

(Continued on Page 5)

(PAIMI Highlights Continued from Page 3)

NDALC was contacted by the Elko County Jail for our assistance in helping an individual with a mental illness who had been in custody for three months with no action taking place on her case. NDALC staff met with the individual while in detention. NDALC and the Elko County Public Defender's Office worked together to formulate a plan.

Outcome: *Based on that plan, an evaluation was completed, medications were started, and the individual was released to her family with a pending court date.*

On August 8-9, 2006, NDALC held rural outreach sessions in Elko, Nevada (located in the Northeastern part of the state). Because of its location, Elko is one of the most underserved communities in Nevada. NDALC staff members met with various community stakeholders to gauge the pressing issues of the community; namely housing and transportation.

Outcome: *NDALC assisted in formulating strategies to help combat those issues and also met with individuals with disabilities to help assist with their individual needs.*



A selection of films were shown by the Sprout Film Company of NYC for October is Disability Awareness Month. From left: Laura Cohen from Sprout Film; Anna Maria Carini, NDALC Office Coordinator; Joann Johnson, Executive Director, UCEDD; Lisa Lee-High, NDALC Communications Coordinator; and Elizabeth Cannon-Lynch, NDALC Rights Attorney.

Administered by: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services,
Administration for Children and Families

Established by: Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights
(DD) Act of 1975 to:

- Pursue legal, administrative, and other appropriate remedies under all applicable federal and state laws to protect and advocate for the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities.

FY2006 Case Highlights:

Case of CF, an 11-year-old boy with mental retardation: CF's IEP required the school district to provide transportation to an after school program which the school district refused to provide. CF's grandparents had been transporting CF because of the district's denial of transportation. NDALC assisted the grandparents in filing a state complaint.

Outcome: *As a result of NDALC's advocacy assistance, the school district transported CF and provided reimbursement to the grandparents for mileage.*

Cases of JG and NG, twin 3-year-old brothers who have autism: Their Northern Nevada school district delayed evaluating them for special education services and failed to create IEPs to meet their unique needs. After an unfavorable ruling in a due process hearing, NDALC staff attorneys spent considerable time and resources briefing/arguing the issues in federal district court.

Outcome: *The case is ongoing.*

Case of IG, a 13-year-old boy with autism: IG was eligible for Medicaid under the Katie Beckett eligibility standard but the state believed he no longer met the disability criteria for eligibility. IG's parents relied on Medicaid to pay for the services he needed to remain living in the community.

Outcome: *NDALC represented IG in the fair hearing process and was successful in restoring IG's Medicaid eligibility.*

Case of RW, a 29-year-old woman with mental retardation: RW's mother obtained temporary guardianship over RW and RW's baby, because of concerns about the treatment of RW and the baby by the child's father.

Outcome: *NDALC's representation in the guardianship process resulted in the temporary guardianship over RW to be terminated and for RW's rights to be restored.*

(Continued on Page 6)

(Training & Outreach Continued from
Page 4)

**OCTOBER: DISABILITY
AWARENESS MONTH**

On October 5, 2006, NDALC collaborated with the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) to sponsor the viewing of selected disability films from the Sprout Film Company in New York City. The viewing was held in conjunction with the Nevada Museum of Art's "First Thursday" event. Over 200 participants at "First Thursday" had access to view the films, to receive information from the three disability organizations, as well as discuss disability issues with staff members.

In Southern Nevada, NDALC staff members provided information and disseminated NDALC publications at the 15th Annual Disability Awareness Day in Las Vegas. The event was organized by the Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living.

**EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
PROVIDER REQUESTS
OUTREACH FOR
CONSUMERS**

In the fall of 2006, staff from the Las Vegas NDALC office were invited by a local employment service provider for persons with developmental disabilities to conduct outreach sessions for their consumers. As a part of this outreach, NDALC advocates visited two Las Vegas sites and one Pahrump site to visit with consumers. Discussions included an array of issues from voting to self-advocacy skills.

MONITORING & INVESTIGATIONS

In April 2006, NDALC completed its Out-of-State Monitoring Project Report which identifies problems and action steps to be taken by NDALC to ensure individuals are free from abuse and neglect while in out-of-state placements. NDALC is a member of the Second Judicial District Court Task Force which was established by Honorable Frances Doherty to address many of the concerns identified. In addition, NDALC continues to work with other task force members to address the over-institutionalization of Nevadans, as well as to advocate for the return of individuals back to Nevada with placements in the community with proper supports.

(PADD Highlights Continued from Page 5)

Case of JS, a 30-year-old man with mental retardation in county jail: JS previously received services from the state developmental disability service agency. The state developmental disability agency delayed finding him eligible for services and even after finding him eligible, the agency delayed providing services and developing a program plan, resulting in him staying in jail longer.

Outcome: *NDALC filed a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) on his behalf alleging an Olmstead violation and notified the state Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities Commission about concerns. OCR's investigation is ongoing.*



NDALC staff members gathered in Reno at the Siena Hotel on January 22-23, 2007 for their annual staff training.

Administered by: Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration

Established by: Congress as a national program under the Rehabilitation Act in 1993 to:

- Protect and advocate for the legal and human rights of persons not covered by other programs - such as those with visual or hearing impairments or those with physical disabilities acquired as an adult.

FY2006 Case Highlights:

Case of RP, an individual with a physical disability: RP contacted NDALC with a complaint regarding a broken seat belt of a hydraulic chair lift and broken skimmer at the Northern Nevada YMCA. NDALC negotiated on behalf of the consumer.

Outcome: *NDALC's negotiation resulted in the repair of the seat belt on the hydraulic chair lift and the pool skimmer, enabling full access to the swimming pool for people with disabilities.*

Case of SM, a woman with various physical impairments: SM wanted to install shower grab bars because of episodes where she had fallen in the shower. After meeting with the landlord to get permission to install the bars, the landlord, in writing, refused to let SM install the grab bars and informed SM that her disability was too severe for her to live independently in the apartment. The landlord then issued a 30-day, no-cause eviction notice to SM. NDALC assisted SM in filing a complaint with Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD returned a finding of cause of discrimination, and NDALC represented SM in the HUD administrative hearing process.

Outcome: *As a result of NDALC's advocacy, SM was awarded damages, moving expenses, and NDALC was awarded attorneys fees. The client received the funds and was able to move into a more accessible apartment.*

Case of Northern Nevada Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA): NDALC was contacted by the MDA office regarding accessible parking at the commercial property leased by their office. NDALC contacted the management company and advocated for compliance.

Outcome: *The management company made the necessary repairs to bring the parking space back into compliance with the ADA regarding accessible parking.*

My advocate was very professional and returned telephone calls as soon as possible. It is people like him that make the world an understanding place.

(Response from a Client satisfaction survey)

ANNUAL ADVOCACY AWARDS CEREMONY

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PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

NDALC hosts the Annual Advocacy Awards Ceremony to honor outstanding individuals who have made extraordinary efforts throughout Nevada to promote the rights of individuals with disabilities. Last year's ceremony was held on May 10, 2006 at the South Coast Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas with 121 individuals in attendance. (See details about this years ceremony on Page 11.)

PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS:

SELF ADVOCATE AWARD

Brenda Allen	2001
James Ross	2002
Karen Wheeler	2003
Elizabeth Downie	2004
Carlos Ramirez	2005
Santa Perez	2006

PROFESSIONAL ADVOCATE

Mary Evilsizer	2001
Lisa Erquiaga	2002
Rilo Weisner	2003
Katherine Copeland	2004
Robert Desruisseaux	2005
Gary Olsen	2006

LEGAL ADVOCATE

Rodney Jean	2001
Kathleen O'Leary	2002
Alda Anderson	2003
Jon Sasser	2004
Emily J. Reeder	2005
Christy Craig	2006

FAMILY ADVOCATE

Cheryl Jung	2001
Lisa Rogers	2002
Diane Monahan	2002
Cheryl Dinnell	2003
Toni Richard	2004
Christiane Dumas	2004
Stephanie Yates	2005
Diane Butler	2005
Regina McDade	2006

VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE

Ann Marie Smith	2001
Kelley DeRiemer	2002
Joy Sawyer	2003
Kathryn Crawford	2004
Wendi Fauria	2005
Cheryl Delhagen	2006

(Continued on Page 9)

Administered by: Department of Education, National Institute on Disability & Rehabilitation Research

Established by: Created in 1994 when Congress expanded the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act (Tech Act) to:

- Assist individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives in accessing technology devices and assistive technology services through case management, legal representation, and self-advocacy training.

FY2006 Case Highlight:

Case of CG, who suffered a severe brain hemorrhage on February 20, 1998, at the age of 57: Because CG is now immobile and bedridden, her doctor prescribed a manual tilt table for home use to: (1) maintain current systems functions related to circulation and digestion, reduce contractures and spasms; and (2) prevent future co-morbidities such as a pulmonary embolism, deep-veined thrombosis, pneumonia, contractures, and skin ulcers.

When Nevada Medicaid denied CG's prior authorization request for a tilt table, her husband requested a Medicaid Fair Hearing and contacted NDALC for representation. NDALC represented CG at the Fair Hearing, where the Hearing Officer held that Medicaid had wrongfully denied CG a tilt table and made the following findings: (1) a tilt table is consistent with CG's symptoms or diagnosis. Since CG is immobile and bedridden, a tilt table will ward off co-morbidities and stimulate her body functions; (2) A tilt table is neither experimental nor investigational as medical providers routinely prescribe it. It is also a simple device and safe enough to operate by anyone who receives appropriate training; (3) a tilt table at home is not a matter of convenience but of necessity, since CG is bedridden with hook ups, frail, and susceptible to respiratory illness; and (4) CG's doctor prescribed a tilt table only after other treatments failed to help her. CG is unable to continue using a standing frame because her leg bones are too brittle and her knees and ankles cannot accommodate the strain.

Outcome: Due to NDALC's representation, the client received the durable medical equipment that was medically required.

Administered by: Social Security Administration, Office of Employment Support Program

Established by: Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 to:

- Assist social security beneficiaries with disabilities in obtaining information and advice about receiving vocational rehabilitation and employment services; and to provide advocacy or other related services that beneficiaries may need to secure or regain gainful employment.

FY2006 Case Highlights:

Case of LW, a 49-year-old man with mental illness who received SSDI benefits: LW returned to work and received a notice of a \$25,000 overpayment while LW had a representative payee. NDALC assisted LW with completing the paperwork to have his overpayment waived.

Outcome: *LW notified NDALC that the Social Security Administration had waived the overpayment.*

Case of TH, a woman with mental retardation living in rural Nevada, who had returned to work. TH had received SSI benefits and had an overpayment of her social security benefits because her payee failed to report appropriate information to the Social Security Administration about her work activity. NDALC completed the appropriate paperwork for TH to request a waiver of the overpayment from the Social Security Administration because TH was not at fault in failing to make the appropriate reports.

Outcome: *As a result of NDALC's advocacy assistance, the Social Security Administration waived TH's work-related overpayment.*

Previous Award Recipients Continued from Page 8)

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE

- Senator Raymond Rawson 2001
- Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie 2002
- Senator Dina Titus 2003
- Senator Randolph Townsend 2004
- Senator William J. Raggio 2005
- Senator Barbara Cegavske 2006

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- Michael Melner 2001
- S. Travis Wall 2001
- Rose McKinney-James 2002
- Honorable Scott Jordan 2002
- Brian Lahren 2003
- Challenger Newspaper 2003
- Nevada Association of the Deaf . 2003
- Michael J. Willden 2004
- Honorable Kenny C. Guinn 2005
- John Miller 2006
- Judge Jackie Glass 2006
- Judge John McGroarty 2006

**LOIS JOHNSON ADMINISTRATIVE
ADVOCATE AWARD**

- Dr. Jonna Triggs 2006



2006 NDALC Advocacy Awards Ceremony Recipients: (From left) Cheryl Delhagen, Regina McDade, Gary Olsen, Christy Craig, Honorable John McGroarty, Honorable Jackie Glass, Senator Barbara Cegavske, John Miller, Dr. Jonna Triggs, (Front) Santa Perez

NEVADA 2-1-1

NDALC serves as one of the Coalition Agencies for the implementation and oversight of the newly-established 211 Hotline in Nevada. Below is information on the Hotline.

What:

2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember telephone number that connects callers to free information about critical health and human services available in their community.

Why:

Until Nevada 2-1-1, there has been no single, comprehensive statewide provider of information and referrals for Nevadans. Because many health and human services providers offer specialized programs and services for those in need, clients were often confused or frustrated about where to turn for help.

Capabilities:

Service will be available to those calling from selected areas of Carson City, Washoe County, Clark County and surrounding areas with some exceptions. Ultimately, the service will extend to Nevada's rural communities. Statewide cellular access to 2-1-1 will be available to certain cellular subscribers initially and will become available through other cellular providers as capabilities and service areas are expanded. 2-1-1 is not a substitute for 9-1-1 (emergency services), 4-1-1 (telephone directory assistance) or other specialized hotlines or automated recordings. Those with hearing/speech impairments may access 2-1-1 services by calling 7-1-1. Translation services are available to those calling 2-1-1.

(Continued on page 11)

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PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR VOTING ACCESS

Administered by: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

Established by: Created in 2002 when Congress enacted the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to:

- Secure election access for a wide range of individuals with disabilities, pursuant to Congress' broad mandate to ensure the full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities, including registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places.

FY2006 Highlights:

NDALC conducted 38 voter registration outreach events, which included 32 outreach/educational and training meetings throughout the State of Nevada, and participated in six public meetings.

NDALC inspected 51 polling sites statewide (public schools, churches, libraries, public recreation centers, and grocery stores), including early voting polling sites. Four sites were found to have an issue regarding access. Six of the polling sites were visited on Election Days, and all but one of the six had the isip and puffi assistive technology device for people with physical disabilities that are unable to use their hands to vote. The one that did not have the isip and puffi device was at the Primary Election; however the device was on order and was available for the General Election.

Outcome: *All sites (including those with previously identified issues) were in compliance, including the availability of the isip and puffi device and the audio headset for individuals who are visually and cognitively impaired. NDALC plans to continue the inspection of additional polling sites to evaluate accessibility to ensure the full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities.*

p a T B I

PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

Administered by: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau

Established by: Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act authorized as part of the Children's Health Act of 2000 to:

- Provide advocacy services, information and referral, and self-advocacy training to individuals who face a loss of legal rights as a direct result of TBI; and works to increase and improve systems of support for people impacted by TBI.

(Continued on Page 11)

(PATBI Continued from page 10)

FY2006 Case Highlights:

Case of JR, a 38-year-old man with TBI who was residing in Utah in an out-of-state facility: NDALC's advocacy with the State Medicaid agency resulted in JR not having to remain on the waiting list for community-based services, because of his placement in Utah and residency in an institutional setting.

Outcome: NDALC's advocacy to State Medicaid officials resulted in JR returning to Nevada in a community-based setting to be near his family.

Case of RY, a 57-year-old man with TBI who is residing in a nursing home: RY is almost completely non-verbal due to severe aphasia. NDALC requested that the State Medicaid agency complete an assessment regarding RY's eligibility for Medicaid waiver services and his ability to live in the community. Unfortunately, the state Medicaid agency's assessment indicated he is incompetent which resulted in a referral to the county public guardian's office to institute guardianship proceedings. NDALC then advocated to ensure that the public guardian's office was aware that RY's aphasia made it difficult for him to speak and likely resulted in the incompetency assessment and the referral for a guardianship.

Outcome: NDALC's advocacy with the facility and public guardian's office permitted the referral for potential guardianship to lapse without any guardianship proceedings being instituted. NDALC continues to advocate for RY to obtain a community-based placement.

I o l T a

INTEREST ON LAWYERS' TRUST ACCOUNT

Administered by: Nevada Law Foundation

FY2006 Case Highlights:

Nevada Law Foundation has granted IOLTA funds to NDALC since 2001 for the provision of services to individuals with mental illness. In 2006, NDALC completed its written Out-of-State Monitoring Project Report which identifies problems and action steps to be taken by NDALC for individuals in supervised living arrangements to ensure they are free from abuse and neglect while in out-of-state placements. NDALC is a member of the Second Judicial District Court Task Force established by Honorable Frances Doherty to address many of the concerns identified.

Outcome: NDALC continues to advocate for the return of individuals back to Nevada and placement in the community with proper supports.

In Washoe County, NDALC continues to work collaboratively with the Silver State Fair Housing Council, the Northern Nevada fair housing

(Continued on Page 12)

(Nevada 211 Continued from page 10)

Call Centers:

HELP of Southern Nevada and Crisis Call Center will serve as the Nevada 2-1-1 information and referral centers. The centers are staffed by live information and referral specialists.

Funded by:

The planning and development of this essential service has been made possible through funding from the State of Nevada.

Online Assistance:

Information and referrals are available and can be accessed online at www.nevada211.org.

NDALC STAFF TRANSITIONS



Kate Osti
Rights Advocate
(Las Vegas Office)

"I joined NDALC in November 2006 as an advocate for the Traumatic Brain Injury program. I am a licensed clinical social worker and was an advocate for social security benefits. I have a six-year history working for Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health as a psychiatric case manager. "I have two great kids and a great husband."



Sarah Gorman
Executive Assistant / IT Manager
(Las Vegas Office)

"Originally from San Diego, I moved to Las Vegas in 2001 and joined NDALC last June. Having worked primarily for sales-driven companies in the past, I enjoy being part of the team at NDALC; knowing we are making a difference in our community.

Brian Burke, former NDALC Rights Attorney, resigned from NDALC to assume the position of Managing Attorney for Community Legal Services in Kingman, Arizona. NDALC is grateful to Brian for his dedication to NDALC and for his work advocating for the rights of individuals with mental illness in Nevada.

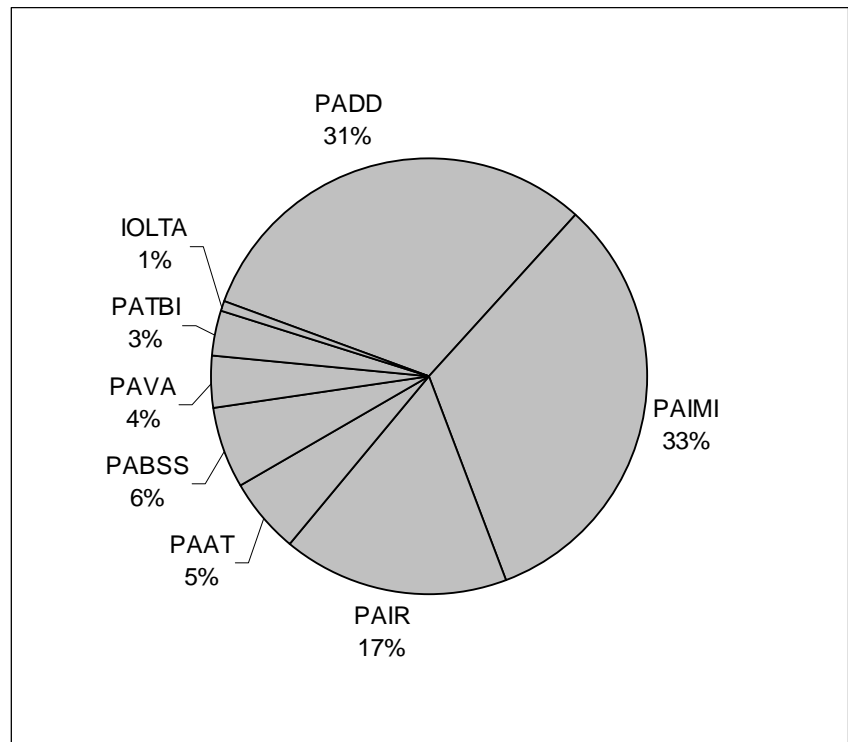
Vic Davis resigned from the PAIMI Council in November 2006.

(IOLTA Highlights Continued from Page 11)

agency, and legal services agencies in cases involving housing discrimination against individuals with mental illness. NDALC continues to conduct outreach efforts to clients residing in mental health facilities, group homes, and board and care homes and shelters. NDALC worked closely with the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living to advocate on behalf of individuals inappropriately institutionalized. Also, NDALC works closely with mental health professionals at Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services and Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Institute in development and monitoring of discharge planning for persons with mental illness returning to the community from mental health institutions.

Outcome: *IOLTA funds enable NDALC to better coordinate with other agencies for the provision of legal, educational, and outreach services to individuals with mental illness to address housing discrimination.*

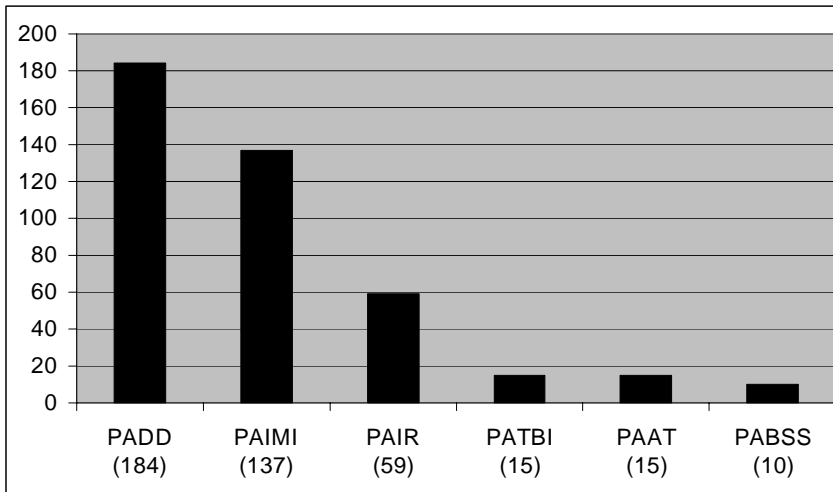
NDALC REVENUE BY GRANTS RECEIVED DURING FY2006



During FY2006, NDALC received seven federally-funded grants and a grant from the Nevada Law Foundation. The total amount of the grants were \$1,257,624.

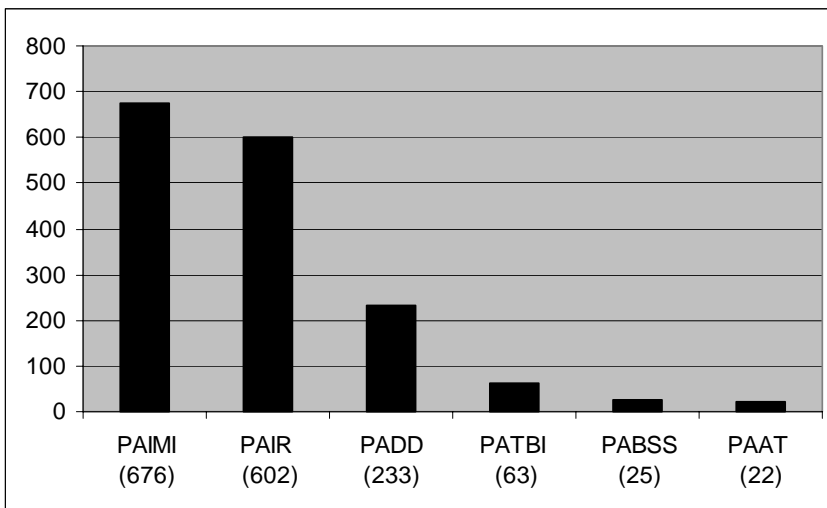
This chart demonstrates the percentage of revenue for each individual grant.

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CASES HANDLED DURING FY2006



During FY2006, NDALC handled a total of 420 individual cases. This chart breaks out individual cases into the six grant areas from which they were funded.

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL INFORMATION & REFERRALS HANDLED DURING FY2006



During FY2006, NDALC handled a total of 1621 individual information and referrals (I&Rs). This chart breaks out individual I&Rs into the six grant areas from which they were funded.

NDALC PUBLICATIONS

[NDALC Brochure](#)

[Flyers on Specific Grant Programs](#)

[NDALC News](#)

[PABSS Brochure](#)

[PAVA Informational Packet](#)

[NDALC FY2007 Service Priorities](#)

[Ten Steps to Self Advocacy](#)

[The Duty of Health Care Professionals to Provide Sign Language Interpreters](#)

[Your Rights When You Are in a Facility Which Provides Care or Treatment](#)

[Rights Poster](#)

[PATBI Fact Sheet](#)

These publications are available by contacting the NDALC offices listed on the back page of this newsletter or on the NDALC website at www.ndalc.org.

MARCH IS BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) celebrates Brain Injury Awareness Month each March. Brain Injury Awareness Month was established to increase public awareness about brain injuries and its life-altering consequences. Currently, there are at least 5.3 million Americans living with a disability because of a brain injury.

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is the result of a sudden traumatic event and is not, as many believe, the result of a medical condition such as a stroke. TBI is frequently referred to as the silent epidemic because the problems that result from it such as impaired memory often are not visible to the eye. According to existing data, more than 1.5 million people experience a TBI each year in the United States.

In conjunction with Brain Injury Awareness Month, NDALC has produced a TBI fact sheet. To receive this fact sheet, please contact Kate Osti, Rights Advocate, in the NDALC Las Vegas office at 702/ 257-8150 or 1-888/ 349-3843 (toll free).

NDALC also provides advocacy services, information and referral, and self-advocacy training to individuals who face a loss of legal rights as a direct result of TBI; and work to increase and improve systems of support for people impacted by TBI. (See Page 10 of this newsletter for additional information).

serVice pr Ior ITies - FY 2007 -

NDALC sets annual service priorities based on input from individuals with disabilities. Below is a condensed list of the priorities for fiscal year 2007 (October 1, 2006-September 30, 2007). For a complete list of our priorities (which includes objectives and actions), please contact one of the offices listed on the back page of this newsletter.

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- PAAT:** Protection & Advocacy for Assistive Technology
PABSS: Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security
PADD: Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities
PAIMI: Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness
PAIR: Protection & Advocacy for Individual Rights
PATBI: Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury
PAVA: Protection & Advocacy for Voting Access
-

ACCESS

NDALC will assist individuals with disabilities to secure greater physical and programmatic access to entities covered under Title II or Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). (**PAIR, PATBI, PAVA**)

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

NDALC will work with individuals with disabilities, their families, and others to obtain needed and appropriate assistive technology devices and services, and to ensure that such devices and services are provided on a timely basis. (**PAAT**)

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

NDALC will advocate to ensure that children with developmental disabilities obtain appropriate and timely early intervention services and transition services. NDALC will only provide direct representation at Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meetings in select cases that address egregious systemic issues. (**PADD**)

EDUCATION

1. NDALC will advocate for students with disabilities who are being denied the opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive environment with the appropriate supportive and related services. NDALC will only provide representation at select individualized education plan (IEP) meetings. (**PADD, PAIMI**)
2. NDALC will advocate for students to receive appropriate transition planning services from the school district. NDALC will only provide representation at select individualized education plan (IEP) meetings. (**PADD**)

(Continued on Page 15)

FACILITY MONITORING

NDALC will monitor facilities and other supervised living arrangements of individuals with disabilities to ensure healthy and safe living environments, free from abuse and neglect. **(PAIMI, PADD)**

GUARDIANSHIPS

NDALC will advocate for individuals under a guardianship who want to live more independently. **(ALL)**

HOUSING

NDALC will work with individuals with disabilities to prevent discrimination in housing and will assist such individuals in obtaining reasonable accommodations and/or modifications in housing. **(PAIMI, PAIR)**

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

NDALC will advocate to ensure that the rights of individuals with psychiatric disabilities are not denied without them first being afforded due process of law. **(PAIMI)**

INSTITUTIONS

1. NDALC will advocate for the personal rights, mandated by federal and state law, for individuals in institutional settings. **(PADD, PAIMI)**
2. NDALC will advocate for the development of comprehensive, consumer-driven and appropriate discharge plans for individuals with psychiatric disabilities. **(PAIMI)**

INVESTIGATIONS

NDALC will investigate incidents involving death or serious bodily injury to persons with disabilities in public and private facilities. **(ALL)**

JUVENILE JUSTICE

NDALC will advocate for juveniles with disabilities in the juvenile justice system to ensure they receive appropriate treatment and services. **(PADD, PAIMI)**

MOST INTEGRATED SETTING

NDALC will advocate to prevent the unnecessary institutionalization of individuals with disabilities so that they can live in the community of their choice. **(PADD, PAIMI, PAIR, PATBI)**

RETURN TO WORK

NDALC will advocate on behalf of individuals with disabilities, who receive social security disability benefits, to remove barriers preventing them from obtaining or maintaining employment. **(PABSS)**

OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING

NDALC will conduct outreach, education, and training services throughout Nevada, including rural communities. **(ALL)**

SAVE THE DATE

***7th Annual
NDALC Advocacy
Awards Ceremony***

NDALC hosts an Annual Advocacy Awards Ceremony to honor outstanding individuals who have made extraordinary efforts throughout Nevada to promote the rights of individuals with disabilities.

You are invited to join us this year:

***Wednesday
May 9, 2007***

6:00 - 7:00pm: Reception

7:00 - 8:00pm: Ceremony

***Award Recipients
To Be Announced***

*Siena Hotel Spa & Casino
Reno, Nevada*

*To attend or for additional
information, please call the
Northern NDALC office at:*

*775/ 333-7878 or
1-800/ 992-5715 (toll free)*

**Nevada Disability
Advocacy and Law Center**
1311 North McCarran Blvd., #106
Sparks, NV 89431

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The Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC) is Nevada's federally mandated protection and advocacy system for the rights of individuals with disabilities. NDALC is a private, nonprofit organization funded by federal grants and charitable donations. If you would like this document in an alternative format or to be placed on the mailing list, please call either office below. (Para una copia de este documento en Espanol, porfavor llame a cualquiera de nuestras oficinas.)

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