

NEVADA'S PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

2019 Priorities

Abuse and Neglect

Goal: Reduce or eliminate instances of abuse and neglect among people with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness.

Priority 1: Investigate cases of alleged seclusion and restraint against persons with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness in public and private facilities.

Priority 2: Ensure the investigation of reported deaths of persons with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness in public and private facilities.

Priority 3: Monitor facilities, group homes, supported living arrangements and community based living arrangements where persons with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness reside.

Priority 4: Ensure appropriate treatment and discharge planning by monitoring conditions at state and private facilities that provide care for persons with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness.

Priority 5: Monitor jails to determine whether conditions of prolonged solitary confinement occurs with persons with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness.

Assistive Technology

Goal: Accept cases when a person with a disability is denied assistive technology.

Priority: Students with disabilities in Nevada will receive appropriate technology devices and services from school districts.

Client Assistance Program

Goal: Assist people with disabilities in resolving problems they are experiencing with Nevada's federally funded rehabilitation programs.

Priority 1: NDALC will advocate for applicants or clients of the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Priority 2: NDALC will advocate for applicants or clients of the Bureau of Services to the Blind/Visually Impaired.

Priority 3: NDALC will advocate for applicants or clients of Independent Living program services.

Priority 4: NDALC will provide information on vocational rehabilitation services or Title I of the ADA.

Community Integration

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

Priority 1: Assist people with disabilities to remain in the least restrictive environment possible.

Priority 2: Assist people with disabilities to move from an institutional placement to living in the community.

Priority 3: Ensure access to adequate community-based treatment and services for people with disabilities.

Developmental Disabilities Partners

Goal: NDALC will support the activities of the Developmental Disability partners in the State of Nevada.

Priority: NDALC will collaborate with the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities on activities that support persons with developmental disabilities.

Disability Discrimination

Goal: Public entities and places of public accommodation will not discriminate on the basis of disability in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Priority: Identify and address instances of alleged illegal discrimination by a place of public accommodation or by a state or local government entity.

Education

Goal: Students with developmental disabilities in Nevada will have access to quality special education services.

Priority: Accept cases of students with developmental disabilities where eligibility, discipline, programming, and/or placement issues seriously threaten the provision of a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

Representative Payee Project

Goal: NDALC will conduct representative payee reviews and educational visits to ensure payees are using benefits properly on behalf of beneficiaries and are carrying out the representative payee responsibilities and duties correctly.

Employment

Goal: Social Security beneficiaries will obtain or retain employment.

Priority 1: Reduce barriers to employment for beneficiaries of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Priority 2: Provide individual and systemic advocacy to ensure eligible transition age students with disabilities have access to vocational rehabilitation services and employment supports.

Priority 3: Promote integrated and competitive wage employment for persons with developmental disabilities.

Health Care

Goal: Persons with disabilities will have increased access to the health care services they need.

Priority 1: Address systemic issues in the Medicaid program that decrease access to services to individuals with disabilities.

Priority 2: Ensure access to Health Care coverage and services, including managed care, for people with disabilities.

Individual Rights

Goal: People with disabilities will have their rights protected.

Priority 1: Accept cases of alleged denial of rights of individuals with disabilities by care and treatment service providers.

Priority 2: Provide self-advocacy training and resource materials about personal rights, including alternatives to guardianship.

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance

Goal: Social Security beneficiaries will be able to make informed choices about work and will be able to successfully transition to self-sufficiency.

Priority 1: Provide information about work incentives and/or referral to other agencies or employment networks.

Priority 2: Provide benefits analysis and explanations of work incentives.

Priority 3: Provide work incentives planning including development of customized Work Incentives Plans that will assist beneficiaries in becoming self-sufficient.

Priority 4: Provide periodic benefits management, adjustments and information to assist in maintaining work and moving toward self-sufficiency.

Protection & Advocacy for Voting Access

Goal: People with disabilities will be educated about their voting rights; barriers to voting will be eliminated.

Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Advisory Council

Goal: NDALC will support the activities of the Advisory Council.

NDALC Case Selection Criteria

- a. The applicant must meet the program eligibility guidelines and the legal problems must fall within an objective or priority for services.
- b. Services will be provided only to persons whose legal problems are related to their status as an individual with a disability, whose legal problems are susceptible to resolution by NDALC staff, and whose claims have legal merit.
- c. Services will generally only be provided to individuals whose problems cannot be solved through self-advocacy or by other individuals, agencies, attorneys or organizations.
- d. While NDALC will provide direct legal representation to individual clients, legal issues that are systemic in nature will receive priority.
- e. The demand for NDALC services exceeds the available resources, and the agency must plan its activities in a strategic manner to effectively utilize its limited resources. Therefore, NDALC may decline to provide direct advocacy assistance even in situations where a case may be within the priorities and meet case acceptance criteria.
- f. NDALC resolves disputes whenever possible through non-adversarial means such as negotiation, mediation, conciliation, and exhaustion of administrative remedies, where appropriate, prior to initiating legal action in a Federal or State court.