



FY 2019 Proposed Goals and Priorities

FREEDOM FROM HARM

Tennesseans with disabilities will experience reduced abuse and neglect and have appropriate safeguards to ensure their legal and human rights. (PADD, PAIMI, PAIR, PATBI)

- Investigate complaints of and monitor facilities and programs for abuse, neglect, exploitation, or death. Prioritize incidents indicating underlying systemic problems that, if uncorrected, may result in additional harm to people with disabilities.
- Provide individual advocacy to enforce the rights of residents of facilities and participants in programs.
- Identify incidents of abuse and neglect that impact large numbers of Tennesseans with disabilities. As issues are identified, utilize all available advocacy methods to address identified issues.
- Advocate for the availability of a full scope of services for Tennesseans with mental illness and developmental disabilities.

FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION

To ensure Tennesseans with disabilities have equal access to the same programs and services as Tennesseans without disabilities, and to increase opportunities for independent decision making and independent living for Tennesseans with disabilities. (PADD, PAIMI, PAIR, PATBI, PAAT, PABSS)

- Provide individual advocacy, technical assistance, and litigation for individuals who have experienced a denial of equal access in programs or services; providing education, training, and self-advocacy skills as appropriate.
- Monitor opportunities to provide systemic advocacy, collaboration, and training for equal access to existing programs and services in Tennessee.

Tennesseans with disabilities will understand their rights and how to self-advocate and Tennesseans without disabilities will develop cultural competency regarding the disability experience. As a result, Tennesseans with disabilities will be treated with respect and dignity and will be included in their communities. (PADD, PAIMI, PAIR, PATBI, PAAT)

- Collaboration with key disability stakeholders to improve the respect, dignity, and integration of people with disabilities.

FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE

Improve competitive integrated employment outcomes for Tennesseans with disabilities, with priority given to Vocational Rehabilitation clients and beneficiaries of Social Security. (CAP, PABSS, PADD)

- Pursue individual cases for all clients and applicants of Vocational Rehabilitation and beneficiaries of Social Security who are experiencing barriers to employment. Provide education and training to advance successful pursuit of employment.
- Actively monitor systemic issues within Vocational Rehabilitation and other employment related services. Advocate using a full range of advocacy methods to resolve identified issues to safeguard Tennesseans with disabilities' right to secure, maintain, regain, and advance competitive integrated employment.
- Participate with key stakeholders in efforts to improve the availability of and access to services which help with successful competitive integrated employment.

Students with disabilities in Tennessee will receive a free appropriate public education through appropriate implementation of educational plans, and educational rights will be protected through appropriate development and implementation of educational plans. (PADD, PAIMI, PAIR, PAAT, PATBI)

- Students with disabilities across the State will receive individual advocacy for the development and implementation of IEP's and 504 plans, especially those related to behavior supports. In addition, limited advocacy and technical assistance will be provided when appropriate.
- Systemic educational issues will be identified and focused advocacy will be utilized to address the issues found. Students in identified school systems will receive advocacy and training resulting in policy change and successful outcomes for students with disabilities.
- Through collaborative efforts with key education stakeholders, the public (including families of students with disabilities and agencies) will receive education and training statewide on Functional Behavioral Assessments and Behavioral Intervention Plans.

Ensure compliance with the Help America Vote Act (PAVA, PADD, PAIR, PATBI, PAAT)

- Monitor for compliance at both the local and state level to include attendance at the quarterly Election Commission meetings and advocate for accessibility in voter registration.
- Increase access in historically unserved and underserved counties through relationship building and education of voters.