

**Protection & Advocacy Project Priorities
Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Program
Fiscal Year 2022 (10/1/21–9/30/22)**

Rev. 6.25.21

A. Abuse, Neglect, & Exploitation

GOAL: Individuals with developmental disabilities will be free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

1. P&A will investigate, or cause to be investigated, suspected abuse, neglect, and exploitation of individuals with developmental disabilities.
2. P&A will provide training to individuals with developmental disabilities, guardians, Developmental Disabilities Program Managers, as well as staff in institutions, facilities, and other service systems resulting in increased knowledge or understanding of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and developmental disabilities related rights and issues.
3. P&A will complete & distribute a booklet about a/n/e to include definitions, scenarios, processes, and protocols for people with developmental disabilities, families, guardians, staff and related professionals.
4. P&A will, in collaboration with the DD Division, monitor service providers for compliance with mandatory reporting of a/n/e and serious events, appropriate risk management, and implementation of corrective action plans.
5. P&A will continue to work collaboratively with the DD Division and NDACP to develop a more impactful, timely, and efficient a/n/e process.

B. Inclusion

GOAL: Individuals with developmental disabilities will live, learn, work, and play in the least restrictive environment of their choice with necessary services and supports.

1. Individuals with developmental disabilities, who are at risk of institutionalization, will receive the disability-related supports, behavioral health supports, and crisis intervention services necessary to remain in their community.
2. Individuals with developmental disabilities who are in an institution and able to live in the community will receive the disability-related supports necessary to meet their needs in less restrictive settings.

3. Advocate systemically for adequate services & supports for individuals to live in the least restrictive environment. (transition monies, outlier process, etc.)

C. Education

GOAL: Students with developmental disabilities will receive a free appropriate public education.

1. Students with developmental disabilities inappropriately denied their rights to education through shortened school days, seclusion and restraint, least restrictive environment, discipline, positive behavioral supports and/or involvement in the juvenile justice system will be provided with advocacy to achieve a favorable outcome.
2. In collaboration with other advocacy partners, P&A will revise, publish, and distribute the Common Ground training manual and process.
3. P&A will collaborate with the ND Association of School Resource Officers regarding the role of SRO's, law enforcement, and school personnel in interacting with students with disabilities.

D. Supported Decision-Making and Guardianship

GOAL: Individuals will have competent support with decision-making.

1. Individuals with developmental disabilities, parents, guardians, service providers, related professionals, and other stakeholders will receive information and training regarding Supported Decision-Making and guardianship.

E. Criminal Justice

GOAL: The disability-related rights of individuals with Developmental Disabilities will be protected and enforced.

1. P&A will update, republish, and distribute the Individual Justice Planning manual using input from the PAIMI Advisory Council and other stakeholders.
2. P&A will provide education, training, and awareness to stakeholders (e.g., individuals with disabilities, juvenile and adult justice system, law enforcement, attorneys, providers) on IJP's.

Protection & Advocacy Project Priorities
Mental Health Advocacy Program
Fiscal Year 2022 (10/1/21–9/30/22)

Rev. 6.25.21

A. Abuse, Neglect, & Exploitation

GOAL: Individuals with mental illness will be free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

1. P&A will investigate, or cause to be investigated, suspected abuse, neglect, and exploitation of individuals with mental illness who are in facilities, or who receive community-based treatment or services.
2. P&A will provide training to individuals with mental illness and staff in institutions, residential facilities, and other treatment and recovery settings resulting in increased knowledge or understanding of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and mental health related rights and issues.
3. P&A will establish a memorandum of agreement with the Dept. of Human Services regarding implementation of a/n/e reporting timelines, investigations, and follow-up on recommendations specific to mental health facilities and services.

B. Inclusion

GOAL: Individuals with mental illness will receive treatment and services to maximize their inclusion in the community and placement in the least restrictive setting.

1. Individuals with mental illness who are at risk of institutionalization will receive the disability-related supports necessary to remain in their community.
2. Individuals with mental illness who are in an institution or treatment facility and able to live in the community will receive the disability-related supports necessary to meet their needs in the least restrictive setting.
3. In collaboration with the mental health advocacy network P&A will the implementation of the 1915(i) amendment to the State Plan for the State of ND and inform & educate stakeholders.

C. Education

GOAL: Students with mental illness will receive a free appropriate public education.

1. Students with mental illness inappropriately denied their rights to education through shortened school days, seclusion and restraint, least restrictive environment, discipline, positive behavioral supports and/or involvement in the juvenile justice system will be provided with advocacy to achieve a favorable outcome.
2. In collaboration with other advocacy partners, P&A will revise, publish, and distribute the Common Ground training manual and process.
3. P&A will collaborate with the ND Association of School Resource Officers regarding the role of SRO's, law enforcement, and school personnel in interacting with students with mental illness.

D. Criminal Justice

GOAL: The disability-related rights of individuals with mental illness will be protected and enforced.

1. Followed by P&A outreach and awareness, individuals with mental illness in correctional facilities will receive appropriate mental health treatment and services.
2. P&A will provide I&R, and short-term assistance on individual justice planning (IJP's) to consumers, family members, and teams.
3. P&A will update, republish, and distribute the Individual Justice Planning manual using input from the PAIMI Advisory Council and other stakeholders.
4. P&A will provide education, training, and awareness to stakeholders (e.g., individuals with disabilities, juvenile and adult justice system, law enforcement, attorneys, providers) on IJP's.
5. P&A will collaborate to achieve systemic change within ND's juvenile justice system.
6. P&A will provide advocacy services to individuals going through the process of being subjected to forced medication.

E. Behavioral Health Care Continuum

GOAL: There will be positive systemic change to service delivery systems affecting the rights of people with mental illness.

1. P&A will provide training and information to people with mental illness, family members and the general public regarding mental health related rights and issues, advocacy, and Supported Decision-Making.

Protection & Advocacy Project Priorities
Individual Rights Advocacy Program
Fiscal Year 2022 (10/1/21–9/30/22)

6.25.21

A. Abuse, Neglect, & Exploitation

GOAL: Individuals with disabilities will be free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

1. P&A will investigate, or cause to be investigated, suspected abuse, neglect, and exploitation of individuals with disabilities.

B. Inclusion

GOAL: Individuals with disabilities will reside in the least restrictive environment of their choice with necessary services and supports.

1. Individuals with disabilities who are at risk of institutionalization will receive the disability-related supports necessary to remain in the community.
2. P&A will provide education & training on Supported Decision-Making to individuals with disabilities, their families, providers, and related professionals.
3. P&A will ensure the implementation of the DOJ settlement agreement includes engagement of people with disabilities and family members.

C. Education

GOAL: Students with disabilities will receive a free appropriate public education.

1. Students with disabilities inappropriately denied their rights to education through behavioral supports, transition, shortened school days, seclusion & restraint and 504 disability-related accommodations will be provided with advocacy to achieve a favorable outcome.
2. In collaboration with other advocacy partners, P&A will revise, publish, and distribute the Common Ground training manual and process.
3. P&A will collaborate with the ND Association of School Resource Officers regarding the role of SRO's, law enforcement, and school personnel in interacting with students with disabilities.

D. Criminal/Juvenile Justice

GOAL: The disability-related rights of individuals with disabilities will be protected and enforced.

1. P&A will provide education, training, and awareness to stakeholders (e.g., juvenile, and adult justice system, law enforcement, attorneys, providers) on IJP's.
2. P&A will collaborate to achieve systemic change within ND's juvenile justice system.

E. Health Care

GOAL: People with disabilities will have the health care necessary to meet their disability-related needs.

1. People with disabilities improperly denied coverage for their disability-related health care needs by Medicaid, Medicare, the Veterans' Administration, or private insurance will have a favorable outcome as a result of P&A involvement.

Protection & Advocacy Project Priorities
Brain Injury Advocacy Program
Fiscal Year 2022 (10/1/21–9/30/22)

6.30.21

A. Abuse, Neglect, & Exploitation

GOAL: Individuals with brain injury will be free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

1. P&A will investigate suspected abuse, neglect, and exploitation of individuals with brain injury who are institutionalized or residing in facilities.
2. P&A will provide training to individuals with brain injury and staff in institutions, facilities, and other treatment and recovery settings resulting in increased knowledge or understanding of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and related rights and issues.

B. Inclusion

GOAL: Individuals with brain injury will receive services in the least restrictive environment within their communities.

1. Individuals with brain injury who are at risk of institutionalization will receive the disability-related supports necessary to remain in the least restrictive environment.
2. Individuals with brain injury who are in an institution or treatment facility and able to live in the community will receive the disability-related supports necessary to meet their needs in less restrictive settings.
3. P&A, in collaboration with other stakeholders, will achieve system changes that expand supports and services for individuals with brain injury and allow full participation in the community.
4. P&A will provide education & training on Supported Decision-Making to individuals with brain injury, their families, providers, and related professionals.

C. Education

GOAL: Students with brain injury will receive a free appropriate public education including needed accommodations.

1. Students with brain injury inappropriately denied their rights to education will be provided with advocacy to achieve a favorable outcome.
2. P&A will collaborate with the ND Association of School Resource Officers regarding the role of SRO's, law enforcement, and school personnel in interacting with students with disabilities.

D. Criminal Justice

GOAL: The disability-related rights of individuals with brain injury will be protected and enforced.

1. P&A will provide I&R, and short-term assistance on individual justice planning (IJP's) to consumers, family members, and teams.
2. P&A will update, republish, and distribute the Individual Justice Planning manual using input from the PAIMI Advisory Council, Brain Injury Advisory Council, and other stakeholders.
3. P&A will provide education, training, and awareness to stakeholders (e.g., individuals with disabilities, juvenile and adult justice system, law enforcement, attorneys, providers) on IJP's.

**Protection & Advocacy Project Priorities
Assistive Technology Advocacy Program
Fiscal Year 2022 (10/1/21–9/30/22)**

6.30.21

A. Inclusion

GOAL: Individuals with disabilities will benefit from assistive technology to maximize their inclusion in the community or prevent placement within a more restrictive setting.

1. People with disabilities denied access to assistive technology devices or services needed for them to attain and maintain their ability to live as independently as possible within the community will obtain a favorable outcome as a result of P&A involvement.
2. Facilitate supervised referrals to ND Assistive for AT assessments & consults, AT trial use (loan program + NDAD), etc.
3. People with disabilities, their families and the general public will have increased knowledge of assistive technology devices and services through focused community training events.

B. Education

GOAL: Students with disabilities will receive a free appropriate public education including needed accommodations.

1. Students with disabilities inappropriately denied their rights to assistive technology devices and services necessary to benefit from education, will be provided with advocacy to achieve a favorable outcome.

C. Health Care

GOAL: The disability-related assistive technology needs of people with disabilities will be effectively realized.

1. People with disabilities improperly denied coverage for disability-related assistive technology through Medicaid, Medicare or private insurance will have a favorable outcome as a result of P&A involvement.

**Protection & Advocacy Project Priorities
Beneficiaries of Social Security Advocacy Program
Fiscal Year 2022 (10/1/21–9/30/22)**

6.30.21

A. Employment

GOAL: People with disabilities, who receive or are eligible to receive Social Security benefits, will have the opportunity for meaningful employment, in their chosen field, at a fair wage.

1. P&A will provide services to people with disabilities who receive or are eligible for Social Security benefits to address barriers to employment, including employment discrimination and reasonable accommodations in the workplace.
2. P&A will provide education and training to individuals with disabilities, family members, and service providers regarding employment rights of people with disabilities.
3. P&A will engage in collaboration and systems advocacy to increase vocational services and employment options for people with disabilities.

**Protection & Advocacy Project Priorities
Help America Vote ACT (HAVA) Program
Fiscal Year 2022 (10/1/21–9/30/22)**

6.30.21

A. Voting

GOAL: To ensure full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities.

1. P&A will conduct outreach to people with disabilities to ensure they have knowledge of their voting rights and how to fully participate in the electoral process.
2. P&A will provide education and training to people with disabilities regarding accessible voting to include the use of the ExpressVote machine.
3. P&A will provide education, training, and/or assistance to individuals with disabilities in filing complaints under the State-based administrative grievance procedure required by HAVA.
4. P&A will actively engage in collaborative and systemic activities to achieve system change regarding the voting rights of people with disabilities.

Protection & Advocacy Project Priorities
Beneficiaries with Representative Payees Advocacy Program
Fiscal Year 2022 (10/1/21–9/30/22)

6.30.21

A. Abuse, Neglect, & Exploitation

GOAL: Individuals with disabilities will have representative payee services that ensures their Social Security benefits are utilized for their needs.

1. P&A will conduct Representative Payee reviews, as assigned by the Social Security Administration, to ensure proper usage and accounting of Social Security benefits to meet the essential needs of persons with disabilities.
2. P&A will request consideration from the Social Security Administration to conduct a targeted review of a representative payee's services when a need is identified.
3. P&A will provide information regarding Representative Payee responsibilities through our P&A website.

Protection & Advocacy Project Priorities
Client Assistant Advocacy Program
Fiscal Year 2022 (10/1/21–9/30/22)

6.30.21

A. Employment

GOAL: People with disabilities have the opportunity for meaningful employment, in their chosen field, at a fair wage.

1. Provide information and/or training regarding vocational and support services and employment rights (including those under the Rehabilitation Act and Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act), and the Client Assistance Program.
2. Provide advocacy to individuals with disabilities to resolve concerns regarding denial of eligibility or services, provided by Vocational Rehabilitation and/or the Centers for Independent Living.
3. Engage in collaboration and systems advocacy to effect policy changes that will improve vocational services and employment options for people with disabilities.