

## DISABILITY RIGHTS SOUTH DAKOTA

### **Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights (PAIR)**

#### PROPOSED Fiscal Year 2019 Priorities and Objectives

The PAIR program was established to protect and advocate for the legal and human rights of people with disabilities who are:

- Requesting services beyond the scope of those authorized to be provided by the Client Assistance Program (CAP),
- Ineligible for protection and advocacy under the Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PADD), and
- Ineligible for protection and advocacy under the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAMI) program.

Projects and services provided under the PAIR program will be evaluated for systems impact and the potential for achieving positive change. As appropriate, assistance may be provided through monitoring activities, investigations, systemic efforts, individual service requests, and/or technical assistance. DRSD will prioritize work on those cases in which potential for creating a beneficial, state-wide change is greatest.

#### **Goal 1: People with disabilities will be free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.**

- Priority 1: Assist individuals who experience abuse, neglect, rights violation, and/or exploitation in public schools, long-term care facilities, and prisons.
- Priority 2: Provide education and training to assist individuals and families contemplating guardianship in understanding its implications and alternatives. Work with schools and long-term care facilities to assist in transition planning. Assist with dissolution of guardianships/conservatorship where appropriate and all parties are in agreement.

#### **Goal 2: People with disabilities will have equal access to employment.**

- Priority 1: Assist individuals who experience discrimination on the basis of disability in any stage of the employment process.
- Priority 2: Assist individuals in understanding and obtaining reasonable accommodations from their employers. Conduct trainings to educate employers and individuals about rights of equal access to employment, including through reasonable accommodation.

#### **Goal 3: People with disabilities will have equal access to programs, activities, and services of public entities and private places of accommodation.**

- Priority 1: Assist individuals who are not allowed access to a business, service, or program because of their disability.
- Priority 2: Assist individuals who, because of a disability, experience discrimination, rights violations, and/or exploitation related to housing opportunities. Provide education and training to individuals with disabilities and their landlords on landlord/tenant law regarding rights to service/support animals (including recent changes to SDCL 43-32).

#### **Goal 4: People with disabilities will increase their knowledge about their legal and human rights through, but not limited to, the following activities:**

- Monitoring activities
- Trainings
- Newsletter articles
- Legal clinics
- Information and Referrals
- Technical assistance
- Networking and outreach activities
- Partners in Policymaking program