



ADVOCACY CENTER

SERVING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND SENIOR CITIZENS

2018 State Plan
Protection and Advocacy Program Priorities

Kim Y. Jones
Executive Director

November 13, 2017

Dear Friends of the Advocacy Center:

Attached you will find the Advocacy Center of Louisiana's 2018 State Plan. Substantial parts of this plan were adopted by the Board of Directors at its July, 2016 meeting to set priorities for the fiscal year of 2017.

As you may know, the Advocacy Center underwent significant changes in its staffing and leadership structure in 2017. As a result, it was determined that it was important to maintain continuity in our work during this transition. The Board of Directors agreed to re-adopt the existing priorities for 2018. We have undertaken the State Planning process in order to develop revised priorities with public input for the 2019 fiscal year.

The priorities outlined in this document have not been altered significantly, but reflect changes in the organizational program structure. Your input is greatly appreciated and we hope to have your participation as we plan for the FY 2019 year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at our office 504-522-5337.

Thank you,
Kim Y. Jones
Executive Director

Priority 1: Community Integration / Healthcare

Goal 1: People with disabilities and seniors have access to necessary healthcare and long-term supports and services that will allow them to remain in their homes.

Description of Target Population:

Medicaid-eligible children and adults with disabilities who need adequate home- and community-based services, primary care, behavioral health services or other health care in order to live safely and successfully in their homes and in the community.

Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers):

- In 2012, Louisiana began exploring how it could reform Medicaid funded long-term services and supports through managed care for people with developmental and adult onset disabilities. This transformation has been delayed due to opposition from institutional providers, who have historically received the majority of the long-term care budget.
- There are over forty-thousand (40,000) people waiting for home and community based services in Louisiana, some of whom have been waiting for decades.
- Long-term care service delivery systems are complex and often overly restrictive, resulting in problems for people who try to use the system without an advocate.
- Also in 2012, Louisiana adopted managed care systems for citizens with Medicaid coverage. Physical/acute healthcare was to be provided by five (5) managed care companies in a system called Healthy Louisiana. In 2015, behavioral health services were integrated into Healthy Louisiana.
- Monitoring of the planning and implementation activities and delivery of services through managed care and legacy Medicaid is vital to insure that high quality health care is provided to people with disabilities.
- Notices of denials for services and equipment are confusing and do not protect the due process rights of the person with the disability.
- The Department of Health and Hospitals has not fully complied with orders and stipulations in *Chisholm v. Greenstein* that would enable children on the NOW waiting list full access to home and community-based services.

Objectives:

- 1) Through the provision of technical assistance and Direct Representation, obtain or preserve Medicaid funded.
- 2) Review and comment upon at least one (1) rule, policy or practice relative to the Medicaid HCBS or managed care programs.
- 3) Monitor the orders and stipulations in *Chisholm v. Greenstein* to insure that children receive HCBS and ABA therapy and can access needed behavioral health services after integration.
- 4) Monitor and enforce *Wells v. Kliebert* (due process for Medicaid recipients).
- 5) Monitor and improve the delivery of mental health services to school aged children through Coordinated System of Care for children, local school districts, and other providers by providing representation to at least three (3) children in need of mental health services.
- 6) Consider litigation to increase access to home and community based services and decrease Louisiana's extensive waiting times for home and community based services and/or medical improvement issues.
- 7) Investigate the possibility of a state Medicaid waiver or Medicaid-funded services for people with traumatic brain injuries.

Case Selection Criteria:

Within the limits of its resources, the Advocacy Center will consider cases that:

- Present the opportunity to correct systemic problems or achieve systemic improvements.
- Where the services that the person is seeking or being denied are crucial to their remaining in the community or maintaining their health.
- In deciding whether to provide direct representation, AC will consider whether the case has a reasonable chance of success and whether it is likely to have systemic impact.

Priority 1: Community Integration / Healthcare

Goal 2: Ensure that people with developmental disabilities who are waiver recipients have access to an independent advocate to assist them with rights protection and quality of life issues.

Description of Target Population:

People living in Supported Living and other similar situations who need an external advocate in parishes served by Metropolitan Human Services District, Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority, or Capitol Area Human Services District.

Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers):

- Many people living in Supported Independent Living are isolated, with all or most of their human interaction dependent on people who are paid to support them.
- Because they are isolated and depend on state services, they are vulnerable to having their rights violated.
- Some of these individuals need an independent advocate who can help them get the services and supports they need and to make sure that they are safe and have access to a quality life.

Objectives:

- 1) Through representation, address concerns such as: dissatisfaction with service provider; dissatisfaction with support coordinator; employment; living conditions; abuse; neglect or exploitation; access; autonomy; adequacy/appropriateness of HCBS; healthcare; and voting.
- 2) Through O&T, increase the knowledge of the target population about their rights.
- 3) Empower the people served by the program so that they better know how to advocate for themselves.
- 4) Advocate for quality and appropriate services and supports for this population.
- 5) Advocate for improved support coordination as recommended in AC's report on support coordination services funded by Louisiana Medicaid.

Case Selection Criteria:

Within the limits of its resources, the Advocacy Center will consider cases that:

- Are violations of the rights of people with disabilities;
- Fall within the priority outlined above;
- Have a reasonable chance of success; and
- May have systemic impact.

Goal 3: Ensure that people with developmental disabilities who are waiver recipients have access to an independent advocate to assist them with rights protection and quality of life issues.

Description of Target Population:

People in community living arrangements receiving waiver services who need an external advocate and are not eligible for Advocacy Center's SILAP program.

Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers):

- Many people living in SIL are isolated, with all or most of their human interaction dependent on people who are paid to support them.
- Because they are isolated and depend on state services, they are vulnerable to having their rights violated.
- Some of these individuals need an independent advocate who can help them get the services and supports they need and to make sure that they are safe and have access to a quality life.

Objectives (Measurable and Achievable within FY 2018):

- 1) Through representation, address concerns such as: dissatisfaction with service provider; dissatisfaction with support coordinator; employment; living conditions; abuse; neglect or exploitation; access; autonomy; adequacy/appropriateness of HCBS; healthcare; and voting.
- 2) Advocate for improved support coordination as recommended in AC's report on support coordination services funded by Louisiana Medicaid.

Case Selection Criteria:

Within the limits of its resources, the Advocacy Center will consider cases that:

- Are violations of the rights of people with disabilities;
- Fall within the priority outlined above;
- Have a reasonable chance of success; and
- May have systemic impact or where there is a substantial likelihood that, without representation, the person may be institutionalized.

Priority 1: Community Integration / Healthcare

Goal 4: Ensure that people with disabilities are offered a choice of a “non-disability specific setting”.
Description of Target Population: All individuals with disabilities receiving Medicaid funded services
Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The HCBS settings rule provides an unprecedented opportunity to move state systems away from outdated, segregated services models towards integrated, more individualized services.• In effective implementation could undermine the intent of the Olmstead litigation and inhibit positive state initiatives and cement in place segregated services.
Objectives (Measurable and Achievable within FY 2018): 1) Make implementation of the rule in Louisiana a top priority by playing a leading role in helping stakeholders understand what’s at stake and coordinating a progressive voice in the public input process through an analysis of the input procedure and at least one (1) comment on that process.
Case Selection Criteria: Not applicable

Priority 2: Physical/Programmatic Access

Goal 1: Elimination of barriers to physical and programmatic access to critical programs, services and housing.
Description of Target Population: Adults with disabilities living in the community who need AC assistance to remove barriers to physical and programmatic access to programs, services, and housing.
Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individuals with disabilities often encounter barriers to living independently that can only be addressed with legal assistance. These include illegal discrimination in critical benefits, services, and programs.
Objectives (Measurable and Achievable within FY 2018): <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Through direct representation, bring cases challenging discrimination in critical benefits, services, and housing.2) Insure that needs of people with disabilities are met during emergencies.3) Advocate for ADA improvements to sidewalks and streets in at least one (1) Louisiana community.4) Monitor compliance with the settlement in <i>Williams v Southern University</i>.
Case Selection Criteria: Within the limits of its resources, the Advocacy Center will consider cases that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a decisive impact on the person's ability to live independently in the community or involve critical government services. Examples of such cases are those affect the person's ability to maintain independent housing and access to critical government programs such as food stamps and healthcare;• Have a reasonable chance of success; and• May have systemic impact.

Priority 3: Autonomy

Goal 1: Elimination of barriers to exercising autonomy.

Description of Target Population:

Adults with disabilities who need Advocacy Center's assistance to remove barriers to exercising autonomy.

Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers):

Individuals with disabilities sometimes encounter barriers to exercising autonomy such as inappropriate interdictions.

Objectives (Measurable and Achievable within FY 2018):

- 1) Through direct representation, investigate and represent clients in meritorious cases where the Advocacy Center is the only practical source of effective representation to enable people to obtain or retain autonomy. In most cases, these will be situations in which the client is seeking to revoke or limit an interdiction, but meritorious cases of interdiction defense or representation in commitment proceedings may be considered if there is a critical need for AC representation: two (2) PADD-eligible clients, one (1) PAIMI-eligible client, and one (1) PATBI-eligible client. (PADD, PAIMI, PATBI)

Case Selection Criteria:

Within the limits of its resources, the Advocacy Center will consider cases:

- In which the person has a critical need to maintain autonomy, has no other source of representation, and there is a reasonable chance of success.

Priority 4: Employment

Goal 1: Adults with disabilities are given opportunities to engage in competitive employment.

Description of Target Population:

Adults with disabilities who are able to engage in competitive employment with or without supports, and who would choose such employment given the opportunity, but who have not been given the opportunity to participate in competitive employment.

Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers):

People with disabilities in Louisiana, especially those with intellectual disabilities, are often steered to “day habilitation” programs or sheltered workshops, rather than being evaluated for and supported in competitive employment.

Objectives (Measurable and Achievable within FY 2018):

- 1) Assist people with disabilities throughout LA who have indicated a desire to work in competitive employment with any barriers to employment. (PABSS, CLOP)
- 2) Conduct outreach to seek people who wish to engage in competitive employment. (PADD, PABSS, PATBI, CLOP)
- 3) Make recommendations regarding increasing the opportunities for people with disabilities to engage in competitive employment to the requisite state and federal agencies. (PADD, PABSS, PATBI, CLOP)
- 4) Research viability of legal action to force systemic reform if advocacy activities fail. (PADD, PABSS, PATBI, CLOP)
- 5) Monitor sheltered employment providers via the NDRN monitoring tool and take systemic action to address issues as needed. (PABSS)
- 6) Analyze the wage and hour (14c) issues data obtained from the monitoring of sheltered employment providers and draft a 14c wage claim or Department of Labor complaint related to the Fair Labor Standards Act, if warranted. (PABSS)
- 7) Target people with disabilities receiving Medicaid Waivers in Independent Living programs to help them access competitive employment services. (SILAP, PABSS)
- 8) Conduct training on sheltered workshop monitoring project to other states and territories, as requested. (PABSS)

Case Selection Criteria:

Within the limits of its resources, the Advocacy Center will consider cases that:

- Fall within the priority outlined above;
- Have a reasonable chance of success; and
- May have systemic impact.

Priority 4: Employment

Goal 2: Ensure that people with disabilities have access to information, advice and representation in the area of rehabilitation services, and that beneficiaries of Social Security are aware of their employment rights.

Description of Target Population:

Clients and applicants of the LRS; beneficiaries of Social Security who seek to obtain, regain, or maintain employment.

Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers):

- LRS is a large state government bureaucracy that is sometimes difficult for clients and applicants to navigate.
- Beneficiaries of Social Security who seek to obtain, regain, or maintain employment often face discrimination on the basis of disability and other barriers to employment.

Objectives (Measurable and Achievable within FY 2018):

- 1) Assist clients and applicants to understand LRS regulations as they apply to each client's unique situation.
- 2) Assist clients and applicants with legitimate claims to challenge the LRS system through its Administrative Review procedure.
- 3) When warranted, assist clients with legitimate claims to challenge LRS decisions in federal court.
- 4) Provide direct representation or advice on issues related to employment discrimination.
- 5) Identify and develop a plan to address vocational rehabilitation issues with the potential to be addressed systemically or via litigation.

Case Selection Criteria:

Within the limits of its resources, the Advocacy Center will consider cases that:

- Fall within the priority outlined above;
- Have a reasonable chance of success; and
- May have systemic impact.

Priority 4: Employment

Goal 3: Ensure that students with disabilities have access to Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS), particularly related to LRS transition obligations under Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA).
Description of Target Population: Clients or potential clients of LRS who wish to become employed or receive additional education or training to support employment after high school.
Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transition services, required for students with disabilities as part of their Individual Education Plans, are inadequate.• Students with disabilities and their families need additional information about Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.• Louisiana Rehabilitation Services should be an active part of the transition process for students with disabilities.
Objectives (Measurable and Achievable within FY 2018): <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Assist students with disabilities to obtain services from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.2) Ensure LRS complies with the Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA) via comments on regulations, policies and procedures meetings and other advocacy.3) Advocate for improved coordination between LRS and local school districts.4) Update information sheet on LRS and transition in accordance with the WIOA regulations. Distribute in conjunction with Families Helping Families.
Case Selection Criteria: Within the limits of its resources, the Advocacy Center will consider cases that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fall within the priority outlined above;• Have a reasonable chance of success; and• May have systemic impact.

Priority 4: Employment

Goal 4: Ensure that beneficiaries of Social Security have access to South Louisiana Benefits Planning Program (SLBPP).
Description of Target Population: Beneficiaries of Social Security who seek to obtain, regain, or maintain employment.
Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers): <ul style="list-style-type: none">Beneficiaries of Social Security who seek to obtain, regain, or maintain employment information regarding the availability of work incentives planning and assistance services.
Objectives (Measurable and Achievable within FY 2018): <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Ensure beneficiaries who are actively working, looking for work or have a pending job offer receive accurate information regarding work incentives and the impact work may have on other benefits and programs.2) Assist beneficiaries to make informed choices about working, utilizing their Ticket to Work voucher and transitioning into the workforce.3) Provide ongoing follow along supports to ensure beneficiaries maximize employment outcomes and succeed in their employment goals.4) As needed, conduct outreach and training to beneficiaries and provider agencies on how to apply for SLBPP services and provide information on basic work incentives.
Case Selection Criteria: Within the limits of its resources, the Advocacy Center will consider cases that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fall within the priority outlined above; andHave a reasonable chance of success.

Priority 5: Voting

Goal 1: Elimination of barriers to voting and increased knowledge of voting rights.

Description of Target Population:

All people with disabilities in the state who are eligible or will be eligible to vote.

Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers):

- People with disabilities have specific rights related to voting which are sometimes ignored by voting officials.
- People with disabilities lack knowledge about upcoming elections and their voting rights.
- All polling places should be fully accessible to people with disabilities; they often are not.

Objectives (Measurable and Achievable within FY 2018):

- 1) Ensure compliance with the settlement in *Drake v. Jefferson Parish*.
- 2) Publicize procedures to complain about polling place inaccessibility and vote in an alternate location in Jefferson parish.
- 3) Educate people with disabilities about voting rights through the provision of outreach and training. Educate voters and election officials about the voting rights of people with disabilities.
- 4) Provide technical assistance to at least five (5) voters with disabilities to resolve voting barriers.
- 5) Conduct surveys of candidates in major elections on disability issues. Promote responses to educate voters with disabilities.
- 6) Educate candidates on methods to make their campaigns more accessible to people with disabilities.
- 7) Advocate for removal of barriers for people with disabilities to serve as poll workers.
- 8) Advocate for increased accessibility of voting equipment as the state considers replacing outdated voting equipment.
- 9) Conduct a survey of people with disabilities in institutions regarding access to vote via absentee ballot, early in person and on Election Day.

Case Selection Criteria:

Within the limits of its resources, the Advocacy Center will consider any case.

Priority 6: Rights Protection/Institutions

Goal 1: Insure that the rights of people with disabilities living in institutions and residential facilities, other than jails, prisons and nursing homes, are protected and enforced, and that they are able to live in adequate and humane conditions, are able to access services in the community, and able to exercise autonomy to the maximum extent possible.

Description of Target Population:

People with disabilities living in institutions and residential facilities excluding prisons and nursing homes.

Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers):

- Approximately four thousand (4,000) people w/ developmental disabilities live in privately operated group homes throughout Louisiana.
- There are hundreds more that live other congregate facilities throughout LA.
- Many of them do not have family or friends who insure that they receive the quality and appropriate services they deserve.

General

- Adequacy of Funding
- Lack of adequate transportation-Provider operated or public
- LRS Practices
- Provider/Vendor incompetence
- Lack of competent case managers

Group Home Specific

- Cultural attitude of providers
- Group Home sites-Low cost, poor neighborhoods
- Profit-Taking
- Lack of state oversight
- No or ineffective sanctions

Objectives (Measurable and Achievable within FY 2018):

- 1) Conduct at least two (2) investigations into conditions in facilities serving adults and/or children with DD and take legal action as needed.
- 2) Conduct at least two (2) investigations into conditions in facilities serving adults and/or children with mental illness and take legal action as needed.
- 3) Bring a case against, or enter into negotiations with, at least one (1) state entity or private provider in order to ensure that persons with mental illness in the community settings receive appropriate and adequate mental health treatment in the least restrictive environment, including access to needed medications.
- 4) Bring a case against, or enter into negotiations with, at least one (1) state entity or private provider serving people with developmental disabilities and at least one (1) state entity or private provider serving people with mental illness in order to ensure that persons with disabilities can access services that are timely, seamless, efficient and effective.
- 5) Through the provision of technical assistance and direct representation, protect the rights individuals with mental illness or traumatic brain injury through 504/ADA claims.
- 6) Bring cases challenging the conditions or vindicating rights denied in one (1) or more facility for individuals with mental illness and/or individuals with developmental disabilities.
- 7) Collaborate with the Employment team to rectify the failure to provide group home residents with competitive work opportunities.

Case Selection Criteria:

Within the limits of its resources, the Advocacy Center will consider cases that:

- Fall within the priority outlined above;
- Have a reasonable chance of success; and
- May have systemic impact.

Priority 6: Rights Protection / Institutions

Goal 2: Correct egregious conditions of neglect or abuse in prisons and jails.
Description of Target Population: People with disabilities residing in jails and prisons.
Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adequacy of funding• Prison administration incompetence• Public indifference• Lack of oversight• Use of prisons as holding facilities for persons with MI due to lack of available community resources• PLRA (legal barrier)• Deference to prison officials (legal barrier)
Objectives (Measurable and Achievable within FY 2018): <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Pursue cases involving the rights of prisoners with disabilities to adequate treatment or the denial of other important civil rights.2) Continue litigation regarding access to medical treatment at Angola in <i>Lewis v. Cain</i>.3) Pursue litigation to ensure access to appropriate mental health treatment in the David Wade Correctional Facility.
Case Selection Criteria: Within the limits of its resources, the Advocacy Center will consider cases that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are egregious violations of the rights of people with disabilities in prisons;• Fall within the priority outlined above;• Have a reasonable chance of success; and• May have systemic impact.

Priority 6: Rights Protection / Institutions

Goal 3: Improve conditions, protect and enforce rights and increase opportunities for community integration for people living in nursing homes.
Description of Target Population: People living in nursing homes.
Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers): People with disabilities and seniors live in overly restrictive environments such as nursing homes because of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interdiction laws or application of interdiction laws that unnecessarily restrict ability to self-determine.• Lack of funding and reduced state budget.• Insufficient number of quality providers.• Lack of affordable housing.• Questionable practices in delivery of services.• Lack of oversight by state.
Objectives (Measurable and Achievable within FY 2018): <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Through the provision of technical assistance and direct representation, protect the rights of at individuals in nursing homes.2) Provide legal assistance to nursing home residents and ombudsmen as per the Ombudsman Legal Assistance Program contract.3) Pursue litigation to improve access to community based mental health services in response to Department of Justice report on the overuse of skilled care facilities.
Case Selection Criteria: Within the limits of its resources, the Advocacy Center will consider cases that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impact people in nursing homes or are egregious violations of the rights of or denial of integration opportunities for people with disabilities in nursing homes;• Fall within the priority outlined above;• Have a reasonable chance of success; and• May have systemic impact.

Priority 7: Education

Goal 1: Reduce incidences of illegal exclusions from schools.
Description of Target Population: Students with disabilities who are removed from educational placements or denied appropriate evaluations necessary to obtain special education services in violation of the procedural safeguards and/or substantive protections guaranteed under IDEA and Section 504.
Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers): <ul style="list-style-type: none">Students with disabilities are often removed from educational placements or denied appropriate evaluations necessary to obtain special education services without benefit of the procedural safeguards and/or substantive protections guaranteed under IDEA and Section 504.
Objectives (Measurable and Achievable within FY 2018): <ol style="list-style-type: none">Ensure that student(s) are not subject to removal from their educational placements or denied an appropriate evaluation necessary to obtain special education services in violation of the procedural safeguards and/or substantive protections guaranteed under IDEA and Section 504.Conduct O&T to fully educate parents and professionals about rights.Identify at least one (1) school district that arrests or disciplines students with disabilities in a disproportionate manner as compared to students without disabilities, and file at least one (1) complaint with appropriate state or federal agencies.Investigate filing a class OCR or state complaint on an issue that impacts multiple districts.Investigate the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act in Louisiana and participate in the planning process via membership on at least one (1) committee or submission of at least one (1) comment.
Case Selection Criteria: Within the limits of its resources, the Advocacy Center will consider cases that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Are meritorious.Address issues related to removal from educational placements or denial of appropriate evaluations necessary to obtain special education services.

Priority 7: Education

Goal 2: Obtain appropriate transition services.
Description of Target Population: Students with disabilities who are in need of appropriate transition services necessary to facilitate the student's movement from school to post-school activities including continuing education and competitive employment.
Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students with disabilities often do not receive appropriate transition services that are necessary to facilitate the student's movement from school to post-school activities including continuing education and competitive employment.
Objectives (Measurable and Achievable within FY 2018): <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Ensure that student(s) receive appropriate transition services necessary to facilitate the student's movement from school to post-school activities including continuing education and employment.2) Conduct outreach and training events to fully educate parents and professionals about educational rights.
Case Selection Criteria: Within the limits of its resources, the Advocacy Center will consider cases that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are meritorious.• Address issues related to appropriate transition services.

Priority 8: Community Education and Training

Goal 1: General Information and Outreach about the Advocacy Center
Description of Target Population: Anyone who has need for or interest in our services.
Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocacy Center receives requests for our presence at health and community resource fairs.• Advocacy Center receives requests for our participation on panel discussions or as presenters at gatherings of people with disabilities and their families.• Advocacy Center received requests for our participation on panel discussions or as presenters at gatherings of disability professionals.• Advocacy Center receives requests for our participation on panel discussions or as presenters at gatherings of the general public.
Objectives (Measurable and Achievable within FY 2018): <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Conduct outreach and to support program goals and comply with contract requirements.2) Conduct targeted outreach to people with traumatic brain injuries, their families and professionals serving this population.3) Conduct targeted outreach and training to people who are deaf and targeted service providers regarding access to interpreters and other rights. STRETCH: <ol style="list-style-type: none">4) Conduct targeted outreach in North Louisiana.
Case Selection Criteria: N/A

Priority 9: Public Policy and Legislative Advocacy

Goal 1: Educate the LA Legislature about issues of importance to our client population.
Description of Target Population: All people with disabilities or seniors who may be impacted by legislative decisions.
Description of the problem to be addressed (include a discussion of existing barriers): <ul style="list-style-type: none">Legislators and policy makers need to be educated about the rights of people with disabilities and seniors.Laws and policies must ensure people with disabilities receive appropriate services and can stay in their homes and communities.
Objectives (Measurable and Achievable within FY 2018): <ol style="list-style-type: none">Advocate for the following:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Protection of funding for home and community based services.Expansion of SILAP, a program to protect the rights of people with disabilities living in supported independent living.Able Act funding and implementation.Advocate for people with disabilities via legislative and public policy activities to support priorities outlined above.Respond to and/or introduce legislation to protect the rights of people with disabilities and seniors.Publish advocacy alerts as needed.
Case Selection Criteria: N/A