DRCT’s 2021 FOCUS AREAS AND OBJECTIVES

Our focus areas are the goals we work on every day to achieve full equality and justice for people with disabilities. We have to establish priorities because, after we address abuse and neglect issues, we do not have the resources necessary to tackle all of the issues facing people with disabilities at one time.

Through public input and our work with clients, we identify problems that are widespread or pose the greatest threat to the independence of people with disabilities. Then we develop priorities to address those problems with the funding we receive.

ABUSE AND NEGLECT

DRCT will decrease exposure to abuse and neglect, seclusion and/or restraint (including chemical restraint) and improve compliance with protected rights of people with disabilities.

Objective 1: Review reports of Serious Injury or Death due to restraint and seclusion in facilities, conduct further investigation as necessary and issue a report, if appropriate.

Objective 2: Conduct periodic monitoring to expose unidentified instances of abuse/neglect by a service provider of people with disabilities.

Objective 3: Respond to abuse and neglect allegations and patient’s rights violations of people with disabilities living in facilities or in the community in order to identify systemic issues to effect change in practice, policy, rule or law.

Objective 4: Monitor, investigate, advocate and bring legal action when appropriate when a person is denied services in Emergency Rooms by filing complaints with the Department of Public Health or another appropriate agency.

Objective 5: Follow up on recommendations of Whiting Investigation Report.

Objective 6: Strengthen oversight of representative payees by performing onsite reviews of payee performance, on behalf of the Social Security Administration (SSA).

Objective 7: Represent individuals in involuntary medication proceedings in Connecticut and develop a report and recommendations based on the outcomes of the proceedings.
Objective 8: Conduct periodic facility monitoring to promote voter registration and participation for people with disabilities.

Objective 9: Participate in opportunities to improve institutional conditions.

EDUCATION

DRCT will ensure that students with disabilities are afforded educational services necessary for success in post-secondary or work environments

Objective 1: DRCT will ensure that students with disabilities have access to appropriate services under IDEA until the age of 22.

Objective 2: Provide information and referral, and self-advocacy assistance where necessary to assist students who are eligible for or denied accommodations in post-secondary education settings.

EMPLOYMENT

DRCT will promote independent living, competitive integrated employment, and access to the state Vocational Rehabilitation programs.

Objective 1: Provide advocacy and legal representation where appropriate to individuals determined ineligible for state vocational rehabilitation programs.

Objective 2: Provide advocacy and legal representation for clients of the state vocational rehabilitation system where necessary to advance a client’s desired employment outcome.

Objective 3: Provide limited advocacy regarding requesting reasonable accommodations in the era of COVID-19 to obtain/maintain employment.

COMMUNITY LIVING

DRCT will address barriers to full participation and independent living for people with disabilities by ensuring access to services and programs from government and public accommodations.

Objective 1: Educate policymakers, probate judges and the public and provide advocacy and legal representation when needed to create Supported Decision-Making plans for people with disabilities.

Objective 2: Increase voter registration and participation through REVUP and other targeted activities.

Objective 3: Provide limited advocacy and legal representation to individuals being denied effective communication by healthcare providers.

Objective 4: Provide advocacy and legal representation to individuals denied reasonable accommodations/modifications in housing.

Objective 5: Challenge discrimination to eliminate barriers to physical accessibility in public and private entities for people with disabilities.
Thank you for your interest and support. If you have any questions or concerns about this announcement, please contact Bob Joondeph, Interim Executive Director at Bob.Joondeph@disrightsct.org.