



Arkansas Governor's

Developmental Disabilities Council

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Our 2001-2006 State Plan

The Arkansas Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council has completed updating the five-year plan for federal fiscal year(s) 2001-2006. The Council's primary purpose is to promote through systemic change "innovative" model projects specifically designed to assist persons with developmental disabilities to achieve independence, productivity and integration and inclusion into the community. We would like to solicit your input on selected goals and objectives and ask that you complete and return the attached questionnaire. Comments can be faxed, written or emailed (wstewart@healthyarkansas.com). If you have additional questions, please contact the Council at (501)661-2589 or Voice/TDD 1-800-482-5400, ext 2589.

About the Council and Its 2001-2006 State Plan

The Developmental Disabilities Council is a federally-funded state agency established to bring the perspective of individuals with developmental disabilities and his or her family or natural support system to policy makers and make improvements to the service system. Federal law requires the Council to support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to have the information and knowledge needed to assist them in making informed decisions about services appropriate to meet their individualized situations.

The Council believes individuals and their families should be the primary decision makers regarding issues which affect their lives and they should be provided with opportunities to participate in the development of policies and services. The Council supports the development of a service system with an array of services that allows individuals and families to make choices which meet their unique needs. The Council understands that individual and family needs change and believes the service system should be flexible and versatile enough to accommodate differing situations.

The 2001-2006 State Plan addresses specific information required by the federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities, and includes the Council's "Areas of Emphasis" and resulting goals and objectives for the next five years. Based on a needs assessment and other forms of information gathering, the Council has selected employment, education, transportation, health, quality assurance and crosscutting issues from the federal areas of emphasis as priorities for current Council activities. All programs and projects of the Council, regardless of priority, are to be conducted in a manner that respects individual differences and cultural diversity.

What are the priorities of the Council, and why?

Public Law 106-402 specifies federal "areas of emphasis" which direct Council activities. Councils have latitude in selecting areas of focus based upon identified needs. The areas of emphasis include quality assurance activities, education and early intervention activities, child care related activities, health-related activities, housing activities, transportation activities, recreation activities, and other activities in the community that affect quality of life.

The Council conducted a family survey to gather input on critical needs of families and used information gathered from other public meetings, forums and comments sponsored by state agencies and advocacy groups to select current year activities. Meetings were scheduled at numerous sites throughout the state. Individuals, parents, service providers, and agency representatives attended the meetings and provided local input on areas of need. Using information collected in these meetings, the Council has selected Employment, Education, Transportation, Health, Quality Assurance and other Cross-Cutting Issues as the focus for Council activities.

Summary of Goals and Objectives

All Council objectives for the 2001-2006 State Plan fall within the selected federal priority areas. In the 2001-2006 Plan Cycle, the Council has chosen to focus on areas within these priorities that it has determined are most in need of systemic change, capacity building and advocacy in Arkansas. These priority areas are:

- F Employment
- F Education
- F Transportation
- F Health
- F Quality Assurance
- F Cross-Cutting Issues

Listed under each “area of emphasis” is a brief definition of the topic and the goal(s) related to that area of emphasis. Each goal also carries a “goal reference” identification (example, Goal EM1) and is followed by the goal’s objective.

EMPLOYMENT – People get and keep employment consistent with their interests, abilities, and needs.

Goal EM1 – To increase opportunities for individuals to have employment of their choice and supports needed to function in a variety of job settings.

Objective – By 2006 at least one business or organization will redirect or restructure current practices and increase community based employment in integrated settings.

EDUCATION – Students reach their educational and developmental potential.

Goal EDU1 – To ensure that students with developmental disabilities reach their educational and developmental potential through increased opportunities for inclusive education.

Objective – By 2005, six institutions of higher education will develop on-going relationships with at least two local school districts to provide technical assistance to implement inclusive education practices in regular classroom settings.

HEALTH – People are healthy and benefit from a full range of needed health services and well trained staff.

Goal HLTH1 – People benefit from improved access to available, affordable and equitable health services.

Objective – Develop a uniform training and certification program for direct support professionals and conduct training sessions in at least 6 sites through the state.

Objective – Initiate efforts between state agencies and organizations to coordinate existing resources to provide dental services to persons with developmental disabilities.

TRANSPORTATION – Individuals have increased access to transportation services.

Goal TR1 – To expand and/or increase transportation services for individuals to be included in community activities by providing adequate transportation.

Objective – To create and/or expand 1 or 2 transportation systems that will provide transportation services for 150 persons.

QUALITY ASSURANCE – All individuals with developmental disabilities in Arkansas have a right to control, choice and flexibility in the services and support they receive.

Goal QA1 – Individuals will live, work, learn, play, and worship as integral members of the community.

Objective – By 2006, the state will have a statewide organization of Arkansas People First with 8 regional chapters and 500 members. Annual training sessions on leadership, self-advocacy, and management skills will be provided to 1,000 individuals with developmental disabilities.

Objective – By 2006, 100 parents will be trained in self-advocacy and develop skills to access services and supports for their children by participating in the Family Leadership Training Program.

Objective – By 2005, 2,000 individuals, parents, and professionals will receive information and training on emerging trends in disability issues by attending and participating in the annual state conference.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES – Activities which have an impact on all areas of emphasis.

Goal CC1 – Provide information and education to policymakers and the general public through public education, awareness and media activities.

Objective – By 2005, 150 policymakers will receive information and education about disability issues through a Council sponsored legislative initiative.

Objective – By 2005, 5,000 people will receive publications, newsletters, and informational brochures about improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities through public information activities.

4. If you answered “no” to any of priority areas, please specify which goals and objectives, from the summary listing, you disagree with, why you disagree and any thoughts you have on the topic.

5. Overall, are there other Goals and Objectives you think the Council should focus its resources and efforts on during the next three years?

Other Comments?

Optional Information:	Name: _____	e-mail address: _____
	Street Address: _____	
	City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____
	Telephone: (____) _____	
<p>Thank you for your interest in the Arkansas Governor’s Developmental Disabilities Council’s state plan. Please return this questionnaire to the following address:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Arkansas Governor’s Developmental Disabilities Council 5800 West 10th Street, Suite 805 Little Rock, AR 72204</p> <p>or, if you prefer, you can fax it to (501) 661-2399 or email it to wstewart@healthyarkansas.com</p>		