

## **COMMUNITY INTEGRATION FY2017 TEAM PLAN**

**Priority: Community Integration** Individuals with disabilities will live in integrated and inclusive settings in the community with appropriate services and supports. The rights of individuals with disabilities who reside in facilities will be protected and advanced.

**I. Programs:** PADD, PAIMI, PAIR, PAAT, PATBI, PAVA, PABSS

**II. Focus Areas/Units/Functions: Community Involvement Unit**

### **A. Investigations**

The Community Integration Team will conduct investigations of all reported and/or discovered allegations of abuse, neglect or inappropriate use of seclusion or restraints (R&S), serious injuries, and deaths of individuals with disabilities in any setting where they receive services and supports. (PADD, PAIMI, PATBI, PAIR)

### **B. Monitoring & Rights Training**

The Community Integration Team will promote safe living environments and will observe practices in 80% of the state's facilities to ensure the rights and dignity of all people are protected. Staff will concentrate time and energy on serving the clients living in these facilities. (PADD, PAIMI, PAIR, PATBI, PAAT)

The Community Integration Team will conduct a minimum of 15 monitoring visits to select psychiatric facilities. (PAIMI)

The Community Integration Team will conduct a minimum of 10 monitoring visits to select facilities serving people with developmental disabilities. (PADD)

The Community Integration Team will conduct voting rights training at 10 different facilities including mental health treatment facilities and mental health regional centers. (PAVA)

The Community Integration Team will monitor conditions and provide rights trainings and outreach in a minimum of 12 different group homes, and nursing homes. (PADD, PAIMI, PAIR, PATBI)

The Community Integration Team will monitor and provide outreach and rights trainings in to a minimum of 20 different sheltered workshops, personal care homes, clubhouse programs and other settings which provide services to people with disabilities. (PADD, PAIMI, PAIR, PATBI, PABSS)

### **C. Outreach & Public Relations/Intakes**

The Community Integration Team will coordinate all DRMS outreach and public relations activities, and will plan and implement all outreach and public relations activities except those specifically assigned to/reserved by the Education team. Other team outreach efforts include:

- Megaconference: Directly assist with the planning and organizing of the annual conference with other disability organizations in Mississippi.
- Review and respond to requests for outreach and training received by DRMS during the year.
- Maintain agency website, Facebook group and page. Coordinate efforts to publicize the agency in general and specific events or successes.

The Community Integration Team will address concerns of citizens by providing referrals, information and guidance on issues that are disability related and do not meet team's case selection criteria.

### **D. Systems Advocacy, including Policy/Legislative Activity (new projects noted with \*)**

#### **Win Job Centers monitoring & Employment Issues**

DRMS will continue to serve as a resource to job centers by doing site visits and offering resources. DRMS will continue to review segregated/sheltered work settings for compliance with federal rules for 14 (c) certificates. (PABSS)

#### **\*Monitor implementation of Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**

Ensure that Mississippi's Department of Employment Security, Department of Rehabilitation Services, and Department of Education fully implement the requirements of WIOA by monitoring services provided to promote competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities.

#### **Magnolia EPSDT\***

DRMS CI Team will monitor issues at community mental health centers and PRTFs who are experiencing inconsistencies in allowed coverage from Medicaid/Managed Care organizations. Team will work with individual clients on appeals to the provider. Team will also collect information from different CMHs about their difficulties in getting necessary services approved for children and adults. If necessary, DRMS will pursue legal remedies. (PADD, PAIMI)

#### **Mental Health Evaluations for Inmates\***

We are gathering information about the scope of the problem, i.e., that people accused of crimes who have mental disabilities are waiting for very long periods

of time, sometimes years, to have a mental evaluation to determine their competence to stand trial. We also know that there is a population of people who have had their mental evaluations and been found to be incompetent to stand trial but still languish in city and county jails because there is nowhere else for them to go. (PAIMI)

**Secondary Education clients**

DRMS will continue to keep track of the individuals who need assistance with getting accommodations in college. (PADD, PAIR)

**Voter Hotline**

To have open phone lines during all primary, general, and special election days from the times polls open to the time they close in an effort to provide support and knowledge to assist with ensuring the electoral participation is as barrier free as possible. Making certain this hotline number is as publicized as much as possible through circuit clerks' offices, election commissioners, and through social media. (PAVA)

**PRTF's Restraints\***

DRMS will work with SPLC to develop policies and procedures to reduce use of restraints in PRTF's in Mississippi. (PAIMI)

**Juvenile Detention Center Chemical Restraints\***

DRMS will work with the department of public safety to ensure JJ facilities do not use chemical restraints on youth. (PAIMI)

**Monitor state's implementation of new Medicaid waiver rules about community settings and programs.**

Review and provide input and oversight to in Mississippi's development and implementation of its transition plan for CMS guidelines for waiver services. (DD)

**Veteran's Services**

Advocate for improved services for veterans with disabilities, especially traumatic brain injuries. Work to improve P&A access and relationship with the VA informing staff and patients about our services. Observe VA's internal process in handling appeals. (PAIR, PATBI)

**E. Litigation**

**JATRAN Lawsuit**

We will continue to represent the Plaintiffs in this case against the City of Jackson to enforce the Plaintiffs' rights to a fully accessible transportation system. A

Consent Decree has been entered and is set to expire during the month of September, 2016. We are in the process of negotiating another extension to the consent decree for an 18 month period. We will continue to monitor the quarterly reports submitted by the City of Jackson/JATLAN and to advocate for the City to complete its compliance with the Consent Decree. (PADD, PAIR)

**Sidewalk\***

This project involves negotiating with the City of Jackson to upgrade its sidewalks to be in compliance with the ADA. (PADD, PAIR, PATBI)

**Henley Young Consent Decree**

We will Monitor HY compliance with Consent Decree (PADD, PAIMI)

**Access to CARES Residential Program**

Ensure that the facility permits legally required access to its facility and residents for rights training and monitoring. (PAIMI, PADD)

**F. Individual Advocacy**

DRMS will provide individual representation to eligible clients whose issues fall within its case selection criteria in section III.

**III. Community Integration Team Case Selection Criteria**

The Community Integration team will use the following eligibility criteria to determine which requests for assistance will be accepted as cases.

The applicant must be eligible under one or more of the DRMS grant programs (PADD, PAIMI, PAIR, PAAT, PABSS, PATBI and/or PAVA) and the issue, problem, or complaint must fall under current DRMS priorities.

The applicant's request for assistance must also involve:

- Allegation of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a person with a disability residing in a facility; or
- Advocacy on behalf of a persons living in facilities, including nursing homes, who want to transition into the community, focusing on the need for proper discharge plans and community services; or
- Issues related to proper medication for a person with a disability who is residing in a jail or prison; or
- Allegations of violations of the rights of a person who is living in a community or residential facility setting.
- Housing discrimination based on disability.

- Physical access for individuals with disabilities in accordance with the ADA to buildings, sidewalks, and transportation (where the case will have broad impact or vindicate essential rights).
- Employment discrimination in hiring practices based on disability or refusal to grant reasonable accommodations on the job. Employment discrimination cases will not be accepted once the employee has been terminated - these requests for representation will be referred to the EEOC for investigation and resolution.
- Returning to work under the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work program.
- Access to Medicaid-provided assistive technology devices needed to live independently in the community, when the complaint cannot be resolved through self-advocacy or by other individuals, agencies or organizations.
- Denial of access to the electoral process and/or the existence of polling site physical or attitudinal barriers to voting, and/or denial of the right to vote privately and independently.
- Denial of eligibility for and/or termination of eligibility for Medicaid waiver programs which would allow the person to live independently in the community.
- Denial of eligibility for and/or termination of eligibility for the Medicaid Disabled Child Living at Home program.

**The Community Integration Team will only accept those cases which appear to have legal merit as determined by the team attorney, senior advocate, and/or the executive director.**