

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION FY2018 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 Integration

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 personal care homes, group homes, nursing homes, and other similar facilities. (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 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 the team's case selection criteria.

D. Systems Advocacy, including Policy/Legislative Activity

Women's Foundation Grant

The team will provide in depth services to adult member of families of children that DMRS is already representing. The goal of this program is to improve education and employment outcomes across two generations.

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.

Mental Health Evaluations for Inmates

The Community Integration Team will gather 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. The CIT will also gather information on those 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

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

Voter Hotline

The Community Integration Team will maintain a telephone hotline on all primary, general, and special election days in an effort to provide support and information to assist to ensure that there are no barriers to electoral participation by persons with disabilities. DRMS will publicize the hotline telephone number through Circuit Clerk's offices, county Election Commission offices, and social media outlets. (PAVA)

Physical and Chemical Restraints

The Community Integration Team will work to develop policies and procedures to reduce the use of chemical and physical restraints in PRTFs and other facilities in Mississippi. (PAIMI)

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

The Community Integration Team will review and provide input and oversight in Mississippi's development and implementation of its transition plan to comply with CMS regulations regarding HCBS and waiver services. (PADD, PAIR)

E. Litigation

JATRAN Lawsuit

The Community Integration Team 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. The Consent Decree has been extended until 2018. The CIT will continue to monitor the monthly reports submitted by the City of Jackson/JATRAN and to advocate for the City to complete its compliance with the Consent Decree. (PADD, PAIR)

Henley Young Consent Decree

The Community Integration Team will continue to monitor the Henley Young Youth Detention Center's compliance with the Consent Decree in this case. (PADD, PAIMI)

Access to CARES Residential Program

The Community Integration Team will ensure that the facility permits legally required access to its facility and residents for rights training and monitoring as outlined in the Settlement Agreement and in accordance with federal law. (PADD, PAIMI)

Access to Facilities

The Community Integration Team will assert DRMS' access authority under federal law and will investigate allegations of abuse, neglect, inadequate mental health services, unsanitary living conditions, use of chemical restraints, and improper treatment of residents. Jones County Detention Center and Leakesville Correctional Facility will be monitored closely.(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.