



Statement of Goals and Priorities FY2022

Individuals with disabilities will be free from abuse, neglect, and violation of individual rights.

- Identify and investigate instances of rights violations of individuals with disabilities in any/all public and private living settings.
- Investigate 100% of all allegations of abuse, wrongful death, or neglect received by DRMS.
- Complete investigation of conditions in both licensed and unlicensed personal care homes. Present state government leaders with report of any/all significant issues and the statutory and regulatory frameworks that have created or contributed to problems of safety, abuse, neglect, and violation of individual rights for people with disabilities.
- Continue to monitor and investigate medical care, mental health care, and accessibility for individuals with disabilities residing in Mississippi prisons, county jails, and juvenile justice facilities.
- Investigate cases of suspected financial exploitation for Mississippians with a disability who have a representative payee.
- Launch Medicaid team and develop monitoring policies, procedures, and metrics for measuring success therein.
- Investigate children (in CPS custody) who remain in a residential setting longer their treatment requires.



People with disabilities will be integrated into the community and have access to appropriate, individualized services that will enhance their ability to live safely, independently, and with the best quality of life.

- Protect and advance the rights of students with disabilities to an appropriate an education in the least restrictive environment with appropriate services and support.
- Promote full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities, including educating candidates on campaign accessibility, encouraging exercise of constitution rights, and reassessing methods for determining polling site accessibility and distributing that data.
- Advocate for Mississippians with disabilities to have access to fair housing and housing-related accommodations that promote the inclusion of individuals with disabilities within their chose communities.
- Continue monitoring JATRAN litigation during extension of consent decree with the United States Department of Justice.
- Continue to monitor the resolution of the DOJ vs. Mississippi trial following release of remedial plan(s).
- Resume accessibility surveys of: IHL athletic facilities; sidewalks throughout the state of Mississippi; and Mississippi courthouses, in partnership with Mississippi Access to Justice and the Mississippi Supreme Court.
- Advocate for PAIMI eligible children to receive appropriate psychiatric services, including rights protection and appropriate discharge and recovery planning for those residing in facilities, as well as home- and community-based support.
- Advocate against employment discrimination and assist beneficiaries in securing access to meaningful opportunities to prepare for employment that is consistent with their interests, preferences, and capabilities.



DRMS will increase its capacity to fulfill its mission by educating both the disability community and the general public about DRMS services, self-advocacy, and disability awareness.

- Educate the disability community about the COVID-19 vaccine through information and referrals, a media campaign, and outreach.
- Train students about the rights of individuals with disabilities receiving accommodations in the college classroom.
- Network with other agencies and nonprofits to build working relationships in order to better advocate for people with disabilities.
- Follow the 2022 legislative session to identify bills and policy activity related to disability issues; seek opportunities to educate policymakers and participate in awareness days when applicable.
- Plan and promote outreach events, particularly in underserved areas of the state.
- Increase fundraising efforts through events, outreach, and media efforts.
- Address rights of students with disabilities to effective school and community-based transition services via outreach activities and resources for students and their parents.
- Establish calls with the Choctaw reservation liaison officer.