

Identify and fix systemic gaps with Washington's abuse investigations and mortality reviews.

Problem:

There are numerous systemic gaps with how the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and Residential Care Services (RCS) investigate suspicious deaths. These gaps lead to abuse and neglect investigations being unfairly biased towards service-providers which could cause a lack of accountability that puts disabled people at risk. In SFY 2024 DDA made significant improvements in their policies concerning reporting and responding to suspicious deaths.

Proposals:

- a.** Mandate RCS to create a suspicious death investigation and review protocol and track their reports of suspicious deaths to the coroner or medical examiner.
- b.** DDA must monitor their new Mandatory Reporting requirements for DDA staff to report suspicious deaths to the medical examiner or the coroner's offices.
- c.** Review how DDA enforces residential quality standards for contracted providers.
- d.** Create and fund increased quality assurance mechanisms for DDA to use with residential providers.

