



2022 Advocacy Day Schedule

WHAT TO EXPECT AT ADVOCACY DAY

Advocacy Day begins at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays during the 2022 legislative session. We start with an hour and a half briefing on current issues and end with an afternoon of advocacy. While we feature a highlighted topic each week, the morning briefing will also cover late breaking news on budget items and bills of interest relating to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. You can register each Advocacy Day at <https://arcwa.org/advocacy/advocacy-days>

January 12th—Legislative Briefing/Reception

“Zooming In on the Northstar! Developmental Disabilities” Join us for a briefing on the seven Northstar components of state services and supports that legislators need to fund for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD). Within all these topics are systems accessibility issues that must be addressed! Join us on Zoom at 2 pm for a briefing of the current issues of concern, then attend the Statewide Legislative Reception which will be held from 5:00 - 7:00 pm.

January 19th—Housing Accessibility

Finding an safe, affordable, accessible place to live is a crisis for people with IDD! Whether its just finding the housing, trying to secure staffing for supported living services, having well-trained Adult Family Homes or any other residential services, people with IDD struggle to find a place to call home. Most are still living with their families because of lack of options. People with IDD are homeless, being taken advantage of because they have no place to live! What can be done?

January 26th—Civil Rights

Guardianship and Supported Decision-making can be confusing, but both have their appropriate uses. As people improve their employment careers, benefits planners need to be available so they can accept raises and increased hours without losing their healthcare and other essential services. Nothing About Us Without Us means that people with IDD should be involved in any decisions that are made that affect their lives. How can you help?

February 2nd—Employment and Day Services

Having a job means that individuals with IDD can be productive citizens, contributing to our economy by paying taxes, while also providing valuable services. Being gainfully employed is not all there is in a person’s life. In our state, you must choose to receive employment services OR day services, but you can’t have both. Should we provide options instead of only one choice, as most other states do and as our state used to do?

February 9th—Barriers to Transportation

Most people with IDD can’t drive and must rely on public transportation to get around. Due to budget cuts, many bus routes run more limited schedules and no longer run on some routes at all. Many transportation issues are controlled locally by the counties, but some are concerns the state could address. Transferring from one county to the next can be hard because the King and Pierce Counties use the Orca card, but Thurston county does not. How can we fix this?

February 16th—Caregiving of Children and Adults

Caregivers for people with IDD are paid low wages that often require them to work two or three jobs. Its a challenge to find caregivers, especially if the individual has high behavior or physical needs. Language differences increase barriers. Parents often have to quit there job to stay home and provide care for their son or daughter. If you choose to live in a rural area, you face an even greater shortage of providers. What are your needs?

February 23rd—Meeting All Needs in Education

We need full inclusion for all students! Language supports need to be available to all families so they can participate in their child’s education. There are many cultural and language barriers; BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) parents and students experience barriers in equitable education at a much higher rate. We need more assistive technology that can be used at home, especially during the pandemic. Will universal design and person centered planning help simplify a complex system?

March 2nd—Healthcare for People with IDD

There is a lack of qualified healthcare providers for people with IDD, especially in mental/behavioral health and IDD dual diagnosis, as well as psychiatric medication management. Medicaid pays 35-50 cents on the dollar in comparison to private health plans. People with significant challenges are taken to hospital emergency rooms, then get stuck there with no medical need. How can we change this?

HOW WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE?

We want to know how Advocacy Day was for YOU! After each Advocacy Day event you will be able to share your experience with us. Our evaluation form is short and easy to fill out, find it online by going to:

http://arcwa.org/advocacy/advocacy_day Click on [Your Feedback Matters](#)