



FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN (2017 - 2021) RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

On July 27, 2016 the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities (GCPD) Board met to consider and discuss public commentary on the draft Five-Year State Plan (2017-2021). GCPD received 78 total responses, including 55 online comments, 21 written letters or email responses, and two phone calls during the public comment period. Overall, each comment and suggestion was reviewed and considered, with the consensus that the majority of the comments provided suitable recommendations for strategy implementation rather than changes to the language of goals and objectives themselves. Specific responses to certain goals and objectives that require additional attention to detail are provided below. No other changes were made to the language of the goals and objectives of the state plan. The Council board and staff will use the comments as a reference when developing strategies to implement the state plan.

GOAL 1. COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Promote a comprehensive system that results in self-directed community supports and engagement for people with disabilities.

- One comment included adding an additional objective: "Advocate for additional state, and federal funding for Direct Support Professional Wages in order to recruit and retain qualified staff to support individuals with disabilities which will lead to increased expansion of community based supports and services."

Response: No change was made to the language in Goal 1. The Board believes that the suggested additional objective is captured in Objectives 1.1 and 1.2 and will potentially be a by-product of those two objectives.



- **Objective 1.5: Educate a minimum of 400 people with disabilities and family members about legal rights and remedies to home and community based services and equitable access to services.**

Response: The board accepted the comment to add “engage with state and community partners,” but modified the language to be more board; “engage with partners to...” The modified objective will read: *“Engage with community partners to educate a minimum of 400 people with disabilities and family members about legal rights and remedies to home and community based services and equitable access to services.”*

GOAL 2: EMPLOYMENT

Increase resources, access and options for competitive, integrated employment at a living wage for people with disabilities.

Response: No changes were made to the language of this goal.

- **Objective 2.2: Through collaboration with the IIDC, Indiana Disability Rights, and Council, the DD network will advocate for the adoption and implementation of a statewide Employment First initiative.**

Response: The board accepted the recommendation from INARF to add the Indiana Association of People Supporting Employment First (INAPSE) as collaborative partner. Additionally, the board accepted the recommendation to specify the meaning of “DD” and change the language to “Developmental Disabilities” for more clarity. The objective will be modified to read *“Through collaboration with the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, Indiana Disability Rights, and the Council, the Developmental Disabilities Network will work with Indiana Association of People Supporting Employment First (INAPSE) and other partners to advocate for the adoption and implementation of a statewide Employment First initiative.”*



- **Objective 2.3: Increase the employment of youth transitioning from high school to adult life through business industry partnerships by 10%.**

Response: After some discussion, the consensus by the board was to add the word “government” to the objective. The modified objective will read *“Increase the employment of youth transitioning from high school to adult life through business, industry, and government partnerships by 10%.”*

- **Objective 2.8: Advocate for the abolition of sub-minimum wage.**

Response: After careful consideration of all the comments provided for this objective, the board determined that the language should be changed to be more inclusive of the previous objectives, and to take into consideration the concerns brought to the Council through the public comments. Therefore, the language in the objective was changed to read: *“Advocate to abolish the sub-minimum wage while expanding other employment options.”* The board consensus was that people with disabilities need to feel valued in the workplace, be able to maintain personal choice, quality of life, and that significant changes need to be made in the areas of employment, in order to address other related issues such as poverty and the expansion of competitive, integrated employment opportunities in the community at large.

- **Goal 3: HEALTHCARE- Reduce disparities through ensuring equal access, health promotion, illness prevention, and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses for people with disabilities.**

Response: No changes were made to the language of this goal.

- **Objective 3.2: Promote healthy lifestyles and illness prevention through patient-focused health care, education, and equitable wellness incentives.**

Response: The board discussed the issue of using the term “patient” versus “person-focused” with the consensus being that the patient has rights and a voice to be heard as a patient, not just a person. The board decided to leave the terminology as is to allow for patient’s rights to be included as part of the objective. No changes were made to the language however the board discussed and determined that there is a



need for a definition section to be added as a supporting document or resource for public inquiry.



GOAL 4: TRANSPORTATION

Increase resources, access, and options for transportation for people with disabilities.

Response: No changes were made to the language of this goal.

- **Objective 4.1: Identify and address at least (4) four transportation-related policies, practices, or funding barriers to community employment or participation and conduct activities to improve access to transportation and mobility within the community.**

Response: The board discussed removing “within the community” in order to be more inclusive of all areas of the state, both rural and urban. The objective will be modified as follows: *“Identify and address at least (4) four transportation-related policies, practices, or funding barriers to community employment or participation and conduct activities to improve access to transportation and mobility.”*

- **Objective 4.2: Advocate for transportation changes in Medicaid and waiver regulations and policies.**

Response: The board accepted the suggestion to rewording Objective 4.2 to say *“Advocate for changes in Medicaid and waiver regulations and policies related to transportation”* because the language is more concise and reads better.

- **Objective 4.3: Identify and train at least 25 transportation providers on disability etiquette, respect, and rider rights.**

Response: After some discussion, the board decided to add the word “service” to clarify who will receive the training. The modified objective will read *“Identify and train at least 25 transportation service providers on disability etiquette, respect, and rider rights.”*



GOAL 5: INCLUSION AND ADVOCACY

Promote full inclusion through educating people with disabilities, their families, and their communities.

Response: No changes were made to the language of this goal.

- **Objective 5.1: Support a statewide organization led by self-advocates who will train other self-advocates to become leaders and expand participation of individuals with development disabilities in cross-disability and culturally diverse coalitions.**

Response: The board recommended adding "(s)" to the end of the word "organization" to allow for support of multiple organizations led by self-advocates by the Council and in the event there is more than one organization. The modified objective will read: *"Support a statewide organization(s) led by self-advocates who will train other self-advocates to become leaders and expand participation of individuals with development disabilities in cross-disability and culturally diverse coalitions."*

- **Objective 5.3: Promote mutual understanding and appreciation between people with and without disabilities through a comprehensive campaign and other effort that result in participation of at least 2,000 individuals in disability awareness events and activities.**

Response: In order to clarify the timeframe for this goal, the board decided to add "per year" to Objective 5.3. The objective will read *"Promote mutual understanding and appreciation between people with and without disabilities through a comprehensive campaign and other effort that result in participation of at least 2,000 individuals per year in disability awareness events and activities."*