



# DISABILITY RIGHTS PENNSYLVANIA

[www.disabilityrightspa.org](http://www.disabilityrightspa.org)

**This training is supported by a grant from the  
Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council.**

# Disability Rights Pennsylvania (DRP)

- DRP is an independent, nonprofit corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code
- DRP is apart of the National Protection and Advocacy System authorized by Congress to advocate for people with disabilities.
- DRP is designated by the Governor as Pennsylvania's Protection and Advocacy System

## **OUR MISSION**

Disability Rights Pennsylvania protects and advocates for rights of people with disabilities so that they may live the lives they choose, free from abuse, neglect, discrimination, and segregation.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

A Commonwealth where people of all abilities are equal and free

# DRP Programs

## **Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (PADD)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> P&A program
- Created by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 1975
- Protects and advocates for the rights of individuals with disabilities under all applicable federal and state laws.

## **Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act (PAIMI)**

- Established in 1986
- Protects the rights of people with mental illness and investigate reports of abuse and neglect in facilities and in the community.

# DRP Programs

## **Protection & Advocacy of Individual Rights Act (PAIR)**

- Established by Congress under an amendment of Rehabilitation Act of 1993.
- Programs provide for services to persons with disabilities not eligible for services under the PADD and PAIMI programs.

## **Protection & Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT)**

- Created in 1994 when Congress expanded the Tech Act to allow P&As to assist persons with disabilities in acquisition, utilization or maintenance of assistive technology devices or services.



# DRP Programs

## **Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)**

- Established in 1999 when the Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Improvement (TWWIIA),
- Allows us to assist beneficiaries of Social Security secure or regain gainful employment.

## **Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI)**

- Created in 2002 to provide protection and advocacy to individuals with traumatic brain injuries

# DRP Programs

## **Protection & Advocacy for Voting Accessibility (PAVA)**

- Established in 2003 as part of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 to help ensure that individuals with disabilities participate in the electoral process.

## **DRP operates additional grant funded programs:**

### **Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA)**

- Benefits planning for Southeastern counties in PA

### **Facility Advocacy Program**

- State-operated intermediate care facilities
- project is supported by the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs of the Department of Public Welfare.

# DRP Services

- **Intake**
- **Information and Referral (I&R)**
  - information about DRP or information about additional programs and resources external to the DRP.
  - information about deadlines for filing complaints.
- **Case Services:**
  - **Short- term and Technical Assistance**
    - more involved than just an I&R.
    - may involve DRP making a phone call or sending a letter.
    - Provide information on how to access services at county level, access AT and other durable medical equipment.
    - How to appeal denials, termination of services etc.
    - Self Advocacy Assistance- assisting callers with tools to best advocate for themselves.

# DRP Services

- **Abuse/ Neglect Investigations and Monitoring**

- may involve DRP staff visiting facilities/ centers to investigate claims of abuse and neglect with periodic monitoring

- **Informal Resolution**

- discuss situation and ways to resolve the incident and how to prevent its reoccurrence

- **Policy and Systemic Advocacy**

- **Litigation**

# Why do we exist? A little history...

- In early days people with disabilities received no help from the government, charity or other entities
- They were hidden away in attics
- Seen as a “burden”
- Abuse and neglect due to ignorance
- “Asylums” and other institutions
- Annihilation
- Forced sterilization

# New beginnings

- Professionalization & Rehabilitation
- Civil Rights and Independent Living
- Introduction of Acts to protect civil rights
  - Education for all Handicapped Children Act (1972. PARC Consent Decree)
  - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973
  - The ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) 1990.

# Seclusion to Inclusion

- Closing of public institutions to promote community living
- No Restraints
- Recovery
- Advanced Directives
- Person Centered Planning

# “Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.” » Winston Churchill

- *“If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him. ... We need not wait to see what others do.”- Gandhi*
- Personal and social transformation go hand in hand.
- There is strength in numbers.
- Be the change...

# Contact Information

## Harrisburg Office

301 Chestnut St., Suite 300

Harrisburg, PA 17101

1-800-692-7443 [Voice]

1-877-375-7139 [TDD]

(717) 236-8110 [Voice]

(717) 236-0192 [Fax]

drnpa-

hbg@disabilityrightspa.org

[Email]

## Philadelphia Office

The Philadelphia Building

1315 Walnut St., Suite 500

Philadelphia, PA 19107-4798

(215) 238-8070 [Voice]

(215) 772-3126 [Fax]

drnpa-

phila@disabilityrightspa.org

[Email]

## Pittsburgh Office

429 Fourth Avenue, Suite 701

Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1505

(412) 391-5225 [Voice]

(412) 467-8940 [Fax]

drnpa-

pgh@disabilityrightspa.org

[Email]

[www.disabilityrightspa.org](http://www.disabilityrightspa.org)