



Response Form

2005 Summit

State Team Priorities

For each of the three major categories listed below, please identify the two or three most critical changes in policy or practice that needs to occur **WITHIN YOUR STATE** in order to provide individuals with developmental disabilities enhanced opportunities to become valued, contributing members of their local communities. Indicate in the left hand column the nature of the change required and in the right hand column the parties that will need to act to accomplish the desired changes. Before completing this form, please review the detailed instructions and the descriptions of the three major action categories

State: colorado

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LEADERSHIP: Where will the next generation of individuals, organizational, advocacy and community leadership come from?

Priority	Policy/Practice Priority	Critical Actors
1	Current trainings need to consciously include information on becoming involved in policy making and legislative process in a coordinated manner.	
2	Use generic resources to connect/introduce/recruit next generation of professionals such as Americorps and other voluntary opportunities.	

3	Support self-advocacy groups in a financially consistent manner. Use outcomes based measures that parallel those of the mission by content areas: home ownership, accessible transportation, real jobs for real pay.	

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP: Building communities that welcome and AND SELF DETERMINATION support people with disabilities

Priority	Policy/Practice Priority	Critical Actors
1	Increase asset limits out of S.S.A. to allow easier generation of income.	
2	Money follows the persona and MiCASSA legislation should be moved up on priority list to be passed and implemented.	
3	Implement Medicaid buy-in to allow increased revenue for Medicaid as well as expanding those served and meeting needs.	

ENHANCING THE QUALITY: Upgrading the workforce and establishing

OF SUPPORTS & SERVICES performance expectations

Priority	Policy/Practice Priority	Critical Actors
1	Alter Q.A. to be more individualized, flexible, and person specific as self-determination is being implemented.	
2	Increase direct care providers training, benefits, and salaries to reflect their importance within the quality of the lives of the individuals we are serving.	
3	Allow individuals within a self-determination model to train, supervise, and acknowledge importance of their personal assistants.	

Please return completed feedback forms via e-mail to:
walshworks@mindspring.com by June 24, 2005 or fax at 240-331-4468



Thumbnail Description of Program Themes

LEADERSHIP: Where Will the Next Generation of Individual, Organizational and Community Leaders Come From?

Our ability to maintain and build upon the many successes of the past four decades depends on the availability of strong leadership. To ensure that we will always have a strong group of leaders, we must work at identifying and supporting leadership qualities of self-advocates, family members, public and private program administrators, researchers, educators, policy makers and other supporters.

Many of our field's current leaders are people who started working or advocating in the disability field in the 60s and the 70s and will retire within the next few years. We must ensure that the next generation of leaders is prepared and supported and committed to the vision of full participation.

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP AND SELF DETERMINATION: Building Communities that Welcome and Support People with Disabilities.

Integration and inclusion have been the focus of the disability service system for two decades. Yet, specialization and segregation are common practice in many state and local service systems. Segregation can be seen in our continued reliance on separate early intervention, childcare, and special education schools and classrooms, sheltered workshops, other specialized adult day habilitation programs, and congregate living arrangements.

Advocates for full community membership argue for system reforms that enable the individuals with disabilities and, when appropriate, their family members, to determine how public dollars are used on their behalf. Yet, we have not developed the infrastructure to facilitate community membership through self-determination.

ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF SUPPORTS AND SERVICES: Upgrading the Workforce and Establishing Performance Expectations.

The traditional way of measuring program quality does not focus on self-determination, individualized supports and community inclusion. Our challenge is to maximize the quality of current supports and services, while trying to change them at the same time. Our other challenge is to develop quality assurance standards that protect the health and safety of people, while letting individuals and families live their lives.

Whether our goal is to improve the quality of current services and supports or to transform the existing system, we need to improve the cultural competency of service systems and enhance the capacity and competency of direct support professionals. We will need improved management and information systems to lead us in designing quality services and supports.