
Developmental Disabilities Reform Act of 2008

Draft 1, December 2008

The District's law on services for people with developmental disabilities is 30 years old. While it was at the forefront of its time, today the law no longer reflects:

- ♦ The rights, abilities and needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families;
- ♦ Best practices in supports and services; and
- ♦ New federal and local disability rights and services laws.

To modernize the District's law, one year ago people with developmental disabilities, their families and allies shared their ideas in a series of Town Hall meetings and focus groups. The Department on Disability Services, Management Advisory Committee (DDS MAC), Legislative Committee took these ideas, as well as ideas from other states and best practices, and turned them into a draft bill. In December of 2008, the draft bill is going out for community review and change.

GET INVOLVED!

Get documents and updates:

Visit the blog: <http://dc-ddleg.blogspot.com>

By email or mail: Get documents from T.J. Sutcliffe at The Arc of DC at tjsutcliffe@arcadc.net or (202) 636-2963.

Join the mailing list: For updates and announcements of new meetings by email, mail or fax, contact tjsutcliffe@arcadc.net or (202) 636-2963.

Join the work! A Community Town Hall Meeting on January 10, 2009 will be followed by a series of meetings – open to all—for people to go over and help make changes to the draft bill. Stay tuned for more details.

Comment! If you can't make it to a meeting, you can post your ideas to the DDRA blog at <http://dc-ddleg.blogspot.com> or send your ideas to the DDS MAC Legislative Committee c/o tjsutcliffe@arcadc.net or (202) 636-2963.

Invite a speaker! If your group would like a speaker to talk about the DDRA, let us know. The DDS MAC Legislative Committee will make every effort to honor requests for speakers and to help your group get involved.