

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS:

**A Guide to the
DC Council 2007 Oversight and 2008 Budget Hearings
for DC Residents with Developmental Disabilities
and their Families**



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Introduction

The Arc of the District of Columbia, Inc. (“The Arc of DC”) is a nonprofit organization which since 1950 has provided supports and advocacy to improve the quality of life of District of Columbia residents diagnosed with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities (referred to as “developmental disabilities” or “DD” throughout this report) and their families.*

Although The Arc of DC has seen many changes and improvements in the District’s services for residents with developmental disabilities over the last 57 years, the twenty-first century has brought unique challenges which highlight the need for the voices of individuals with disabilities, their families and supporters to be heard.

In 1991, the District became the second jurisdiction in the nation to close its large public institution for individuals with developmental disabilities (Forest Haven). While the District led the country in deinstitutionalization, sixteen years later the city lags behind nearly all states in providing community supports so that people with disabilities can live in their own homes or with family. Instead, the District serves approximately 2,000 individuals with developmental disabilities primarily in medical-model group homes and segregated day programs.

People with disabilities overwhelmingly want to live independently in the community and direct their own lives. The federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the District’s Human Rights Act of 1977, the Supreme Court’s *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision and President Bush’s New Freedom Initiative all affirm these rights. Federal Medicaid dollars under the Home and Community Based Services Waiver provide funding to make this vision a reality by allowing states to deliver a wide range of services and supports to people in their own homes. By failing to provide comprehensive supports to help people to live and work in the community, the District is limiting the ability of individuals with developmental disabilities to realize their full human potential and is losing the opportunity to access federal funds to pay for services.

In 2006, the District saw several significant developments affecting residents with developmental disabilities and their families:

- ✓ In June the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Administration acquired its 19th Administrator in 12 years. Kathy Sawyer brings years of successful administrative experience to this job, but is currently only with the District on a short-term basis;
- ✓ In July, the D.C. Council approved legislation requiring the use of “people first” respectful language in all D.C. government laws, regulations, documents and web sites that refer to individuals with disabilities;
- ✓ In June, the plaintiffs in the *Evans* lawsuit (a long-standing lawsuit against the District on behalf of residents with developmental disabilities who once lived at Forest Haven) filed a motion for the court to put the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Administration directly under the court’s control (called receivership);

- ✓ In September, the D.C. Council approved temporary legislation to increase the supports for individuals with developmental disabilities who are unable to make health-care decisions on their own behalf;
- ✓ October marked the 15th anniversary of the closing of Forest Haven;
- ✓ In December, the D.C. Council approved legislation which created a new Department of Disability Services to address the critical issues, policies and services of the former Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Administration. The new Department will eventually also house the Rehabilitation Services Administration;
- ✓ In December, the D.C. Council approved legislation to make District government buildings and programs more accessible to residents with disabilities, establishing a new Office of Disability Rights to promote greater compliance with the ADA and related disability rights laws;

2007 brings new challenges and opportunities. Mayor Fenty and the new D.C. Council are supported in their work by a vibrant community which is eager for change. As noted in the final report of the Fenty e-Transition, Developmental Disability Services Work Group, residents with developmental disabilities, their families and supporters envision that:

The District will become a city where children, youth and adults with developmental disabilities live in the most inclusive community setting and are able to realize their potential as full, active participants in the District's social and economic life. To make this vision a reality, the District government will develop an effective, efficient system for delivering quality services and supports across the lifespan to all residents with developmental disabilities and their families.

At this critical juncture, it is imperative that the voices of people with disabilities, their families and supporters be heard. The Arc of DC's second annual D.C. Council hearing guide, the ***Guide to the DC Council 2007 Oversight and 2008 Budget Hearings***, is a tool to help people participate in upcoming D.C. Council hearings, which are a key opportunity to directly educate and persuade policy makers and the public.

Each year, the Council of the District of Columbia holds annual oversight and budget hearings which subject all government agencies to public scrutiny to identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas of need. Through these hearings, the Council establishes budget priorities for the coming year. Hearings are watched closely by the D.C. Council as well as the Mayor, public officials, the media and the general public (all hearings are televised).

Over the last decade, advocates have often testified at Council hearings dealing with the former Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Administration. The ***Guide to the DC Council 2007 Oversight and 2008 Budget Hearings*** provides information not only on these hearings, but also on hearings focused on the broader range of District agencies that must work together if individuals with developmental disabilities are to live and thrive in the community.

The Arc of DC urges people with disabilities, their family members and supporters to be part of the upcoming D.C. Council hearings at every step. Persistent, thoughtful and vocal participation is needed to educate policy makers and the public and to call for a comprehensive, quality service system that promotes full community participation for all District residents with developmental disabilities.

* *A note on language:* Across the United States, people with disabilities are calling on policy makers and the public to use respectful language when referring to individuals with disabilities. The term “mental retardation” is now widely viewed as offensive. Many national advocacy and professional organizations in the field are beginning to use alternate terms such as “cognitive disability” and “intellectual disability.” Most notably, in November of 2006 one of the premier national professional organizations, the former American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR), became the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD).

Locally, in July of 2006 the D.C. Council approved a new law requiring the use of “people first” language in all D.C. government laws, regulations, policies and official publications including web sites. As a result of this new law, the D.C. Developmental Disabilities Council is completing a survey on the use of the term “mental retardation” and will soon issue a report and recommendations for future use of the term in D.C.

The Arc of DC respects the sensitivity of this issue and supports an alternative to the current language. In this regard, The Arc of DC uses the term “individuals with developmental disabilities” or “individuals with DD” throughout this report to refer to individuals who have a significant mental or physical impairment (which may include a diagnosis of mental retardation) manifested before age 22.

Overarching Issues

Many District of Columbia services for residents with developmental disabilities address overlapping needs and often face similar challenges. Key issues that reach across D.C. government, and recommendations by The Arc of D.C., are as follows:

Individual and Family Involvement. The District government has in the past often set policy without the participation of people with disabilities and their families. As a result, current policies and programs do not meet the full range of needs and are not family-friendly.

Recommendation: People with disabilities and their families must be actively involved in making decisions about services and the policies, laws, regulations and budgets that determine access to services and supports. District agencies that serve people with disabilities should have formal guidelines for including individuals and their families in work groups and for actively seeking input on program and policy changes.

Service Structure. In December, 2006 the District enacted legislation restructuring its service system for residents with developmental disabilities.¹ Under this new law, the former Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Administration (MRDDA) moved from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to the new, cabinet-level Department of Disability Services (DDS). By June 30, 2007 the Rehabilitation Services Administration will also move from DHS to the new DDS. However, the exact structure and future leadership of this new agency remains unclear. The D.C. Developmental Disabilities Council – a federally-mandated and federally-funded education and advocacy entity – remains at DHS.

“Make Mental Retardation Developmental Disabilities Administration a cabinet-level agency and change the name to the more appropriate Department of Disability Services (30 days)”

“Hire a permanent Director for the Department of Disability Services (6 months)”

-- Goals from ***100 Days and Beyond: 2007 Action Plan for the District of Columbia***, Mayor Adrian Fenty, Jan. 2007.

Furthermore, the District’s law governing services to residents with developmental disabilities is nearly 30 years old. Although D.C. Law 2-137, the *Mentally Retarded Citizens Constitutional Rights and Dignity Act of 1978*, was ground-breaking legislation for its time, the law no longer reflects standard national practices for services and individual rights.

Recommendation: The District should clarify the structure of the new Department of Disability Services and recruit permanent, visionary leadership for the agency.

Recommendation: The District should work with the D.C. Developmental Disabilities Council to establish and implement a plan to relocate the Council to a place of greater

¹ *Developmental Disabilities Services Management Reform Emergency Amendment Act of 2006*, Act 16-672, effective December 28, 2006; and *Department of Disability Services Establishment Act of 2005*, Act 16-620, projected D.C. Law date March 12, 2007.

independence which complies with the federal *Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000*.²

Recommendation: The District should support efforts to re-write D.C. Law 2-137 with the involvement of individuals with disabilities, families and community advocates. Plans to accomplish this are currently underway.

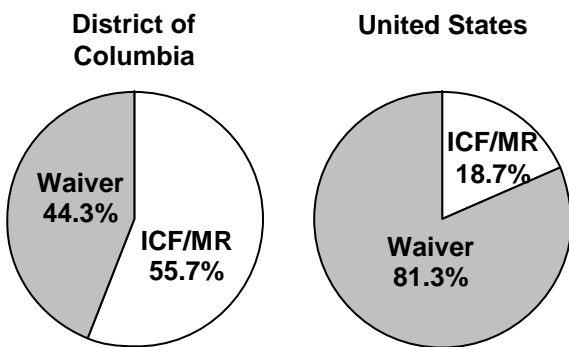
Civil Rights. The District’s laws, regulations, policies and programs should actively promote the civil rights of individuals with disabilities and must fully comply with relevant laws including the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Supreme Court’s *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision (119 S.Ct. 2176; 1999) and the District’s Human Rights Act of 1977.

The ADA is designed to integrate people with disabilities fully into the mainstream of American life. Title II of the ADA prohibits discrimination in state and local programs, and requires all public entities with 50 or more employees to have staff and procedures in place to ensure access for people with disabilities. From 1994 to 2002, the District – like other cities and states – had a central office to help coordinate ADA-related activities; however, in 2002 the D.C. Council eliminated all funding for this office. Without a central office, the District government has struggled to make itself accessible and as a result, people with disabilities have been excluded from much-needed services and the District has been repeatedly sued.

“Develop a strategy to dramatically change the ratio of institutional versus family-based service provision to MRDDA clients (1st year)”

-- Goal from **100 Days and Beyond: 2007 Action Plan for the District of Columbia**, Mayor Adrian Fenty, Jan. 2007.

Persons with DD Receiving Medicaid-funded Residential Services



Based on the ADA, the Supreme Court’s *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision (119 S.Ct. 2176; 1999) directs states to ensure that people with disabilities receive services in the most inclusive setting.³ The *Olmstead* decision establishes unjustified institutionalization of people with disabilities as a form of discrimination under the ADA. The District is one of the few jurisdictions that have failed to develop and implement a plan to comply with the *Olmstead* decision as recommended by the Supreme Court and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The District also has one of the highest rates of individuals with developmental

disabilities living in small institutions known as Intermediate Care Facilities for persons with mental retardation (ICFs/MR).

Fortunately, in December, 2006 the D.C. Council unanimously approved the *Disability Rights Protection Act of 2006*. This new law will create a cabinet-level Office of Disability Rights to provide training, technical assistance, monitoring and information and referral to support the District government’s compliance with the ADA and related disability rights laws.

² P.L. 106-402, effective October 30, 2000; 114 STAT. 1677.

³ Defined in 28 C.F.R. 35 Pt. 35 App. A 35.130.

The law will also require the District to create an annual Olmstead Compliance Plan. The law will not take effect, however, until the District government provides funds for implementation.

Recommendation: The District should immediately implement the *Disability Rights Protection Act of 2006* and establish the Office of Disability Rights with 4 full-time staff in FY 2007 and 10 full-time staff in FY 2008.

Medicaid Waiver. In FY 2007 the District will spend approximately \$80 million in local funds on services for individuals with developmental disabilities through the Department of Disability Services (DDS). Many of these funds could be better leveraged by assisting individuals in the community under a Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waiver, which would cover 70% of most costs in federal dollars. Waiver services help people live and thrive in the community and are congruent with the ADA and *Olmstead*. Although waivers are central to most state efforts to help people with disabilities live in the community, the District has yet to implement a fully functioning developmental disabilities waiver.

Recommendation: The District should make implementing a fully functioning developmental disabilities waiver a top priority. Mayoral leadership is needed to ensure that the DDS and the Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) work together, along with people with disabilities and community stakeholders, to redesign the current waiver. The current waiver must be renewed in 2007, which presents a key redesign opportunity.

Coordination. Many District agencies which could be working together to assist individuals with DD and their families instead operate separately and provide disjointed services. Effective interagency partnerships are needed to ensure that people with developmental disabilities

experience smooth transitions between service systems throughout their lives. Individuals and families repeatedly report that confusing, divided service structures and multiple points of entry often prevent access to services.

“...we cannot stress enough that universal agreement on the need for interagency collaboration reflects the District’s failure to develop and implement programming that effectively marshals multiple agency resources to achieve better outcomes for District residents.”

-- **Final Report and Recommendations,**
Fenty e-Transition, Human Services
Transition Team, Dec. 2006

For example, the budgets and responsibilities for Medicaid services for individuals with developmental disabilities are split between DDS and the Department of Health’s Medical Assistance Administration (MAA). Public witnesses have repeatedly testified at D.C. Council hearings that lack of coordination between these two

agencies has generated significant barriers to fully implementing the Medicaid waiver (discussed above).

Another prominent example is the need for transition services to help youth with disabilities prepare to leave the DC Public Schools. While each public school has a transition coordinator, youth and families report that transition services have not been a priority for the

“Eliminate unnecessary District rules that limit use of Medicaid to fund services (1st year)”

“End the 90-day moratorium on new Medicaid Waiver placements for people with disabilities (30 days)”

-- Goals from **100 Days and Beyond: 2007 Action Plan for the District of Columbia**, Mayor Adrian Fenty, Jan. 2007.

schools. Often, students with disabilities graduate with little or no preparation for adult life and little information about options such as work and job training. In FY 2007 the D.C. Council's Committee on Human Services provided \$250,000 to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to hire staff to provide transition services in the public schools. This was the first time that a local appropriation had been directed to RSA to facilitate this work.

Recommendation: By July, 2007 the District should establish a single point-of-entry and/or unified information and referral service for individuals with DD and their families, housed within the DDS.

Recommendation: The District should clearly define roles and responsibilities between DDS and MAA. DDS should have greater responsibility to regulate Medicaid services, including the ability to execute provider agreements and establish rates; to establish, monitor, and enforce quality standards; and to issue regulations and policies.

Recommendation: The District should continue to support the work of the RSA Transition Unit and should consider expanding the Unit. The DC Public Schools should make transition services for youth with disabilities a high priority and should integrate transition planning into its work with youth starting at least 4 years prior to graduation.

Workforce Development. Front-line staff that assists people with DD must be equipped with both the skills and pay to deliver effective, quality services. Staffs at all levels need ongoing, appropriate training and supports. Low wages in the direct care field are a national issue that needs to be addressed locally. The District's *Way to Work Amendment Act of 2005* (D.C. Law 16-118; effective June 8, 2006) requires D.C. government contractors to pay staff at least \$11.75 per hour and specifically includes Medicaid-funded services for individuals with developmental disabilities. If implemented, this wage will provide much-needed support to staff and consumers. However, the FY 2007 budget included no funds to implement the living wage.

Recommendation: The District should include funds to ensure full implementation of the living wage provisions of the *Way to Work Amendment Act of 2005* in the FY 2007 and FY 2008 budgets for MAA and DDS. An estimated \$3 million to \$4 million in local funds will pay to implement the living wage in Medicaid-funded services.

Person-Centered Services. As the District increasingly serves people with disabilities in the community, the city will need to provide supports which address the unique needs of each person. Plans and services must be individualized throughout the lifespan, and services systems must prioritize choice and self-determination. Individualized, person-centered services are consistent with national practices and with funding through a Medicaid waiver to maximize access to federal dollars.

Recommendation: The District should act quickly to implement a fully functioning Medicaid waiver for individuals with DD.

Recommendation: The DDS should be able to implement current efforts to re-design the Individual Service Plan (ISP) process, which governs the types and intensity of services that consumers receive

Recommendation: The District should collaborate with individuals with disabilities and community stakeholders to establish standards and monitoring for person-centered planning across agencies.

Recommendation: The District should re-establish a citizen advocacy program to provide volunteer advocates to help ensure that the rights and desires of individuals with DD are respected.

Cultural Competence and Language Access. At least 654 Latinos with DD are estimated to live in the District, yet there is only one day program – Life Skills – with bilingual staff serving the needs of Latinos with DD.⁴ Similarly, individuals who are deaf have reported communication barriers to accessing DDS services. Culturally competent services for other groups with limited English proficiency appear to be missing entirely, despite requirements under the District’s Language Access Act that government agencies address this need.

Recommendation: The DDS should ensure full compliance with the *Language Access Act of 2004* at the agency and in contract services for individuals with limited English proficiency, and should also take immediate steps to increase access for the deaf.

Community Education. While U.S. Census data and national estimates suggest that between 5,505 and 16,516 D.C. residents are persons with a diagnosis of mental retardation,⁵ the District’s DDS only serves approximately 2,000 individuals each year.

Recommendation: DDS should engage in active outreach to increase awareness of services needed so that all District residents with DD and their families can access supports to help them reach their full potential.

Budget Transparency. Currently, District agency budgets do not clearly show how much money is set aside each year to assist people with disabilities and how those funds are spent. This lack of budget transparency makes it extremely difficult for individuals, family members, officials and the public to evaluate spending and performance.

Recommendation: Agencies should be able to describe their budgets and funding streams as they relate to services for people with disabilities, and should be required to share this information with the public.

Recommendation: Agencies should establish outcome-oriented performance measures which track services to residents with disabilities.

⁴ “Latinos with Mental Retardation in the District of Columbia” (October 25, 2005). Statement of Virginia Schofield before the D.C. Council Committee on Human Services.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Estimates Program, and “Introduction to Mental Retardation” (2004). The Arc of the U.S., <http://www.thearc.org/faqs/intromr.pdf>.

Getting Involved with the Budget

The Budget Process, At a Glance

The 2007 oversight and 2008 budget hearings are part of an annual process by which the District of Columbia develops its budget. The budget is a blueprint for the city's spending on services for residents, and is foremost a statement of the District's priorities for the coming year.

All District budgets cover a *fiscal year* (or "FY") which runs from October 1 to September 31. To prepare the budget, the District's Chief Financial Officer begins by working with the Mayor and District agencies in the Fall to determine how much it will cost to run the government for the following year and to compare costs with projected revenues. The Mayor also develops ideas about how to spend any extra money, or how to cut the budget if money is insufficient.

The DC Council will hold *oversight hearings* in February and March of 2007 to review agency performance during FY 2006 and in FY 2007 to date. The DC Council has ten standing committees. Each Committee will hold hearings on the agencies it oversees. At these hearings, Councilmembers will hear from the public and from DC government officials about each agency's performance in both the previous and current fiscal years.

The Mayor will present his proposed 2008 budget to the DC Council on March 23, 2007.

After the Mayor presents his proposed 2008 budget, the DC Council Committees will hold *budget hearings* in March and April. The Committees use these hearings to gather public input on spending priorities, and to ask DC government officials about the Mayor's proposed budget.

Each DC Council Committee will make changes to the Mayor's budget for the agencies it oversees during the first week of May. This is known as the *mark up* period.

The full DC Council will meet and approve a final 2008 budget that combines (and makes changes to) all of the Committees' work in mid-May. The Mayor can sign the budget and send it to the U.S. Congress for approval, or can veto the budget and return it to the DC Council.

A complete discussion of the budget process can be found at:

<http://www.dckids.org/documents/downloads/promise1/Budget%20Map%20-%200905.pdf>

FY 2007 Oversight & FY 2008 Budget Calendar

**February 7 –
March 9**

Agency performance oversight hearings for FY 2006 / FY 2007 budgets

**Friday,
March 23**

Introduction of the Mayor's proposed FY 2008 Budget

**Monday,
March 26**

Public Briefing on the Mayor's proposed FY 2008 Budget

**March 27 –
April 27**

Public Hearings on the Mayor's proposed FY 2008 Budget

**April 30 –
May 4**

Committee mark-ups of agency budgets

**Tuesday,
May 15**

Council consideration and vote on the FY 2008 Budget

Getting Involved with the Budget

How to Get Involved

The DC Council encourages public participation in each step of the budget process. Residents can voice their opinions via mail, fax, e-mail, telephone, or in person. Contact information for relevant committees can be found throughout this guide, and the contact information for individual Councilmembers can be found at the end in Appendix A.

At *oversight hearings*, witnesses can testify about any aspect of the agency's performance, including both positive services and areas for improvement. At *budget hearings*, witnesses are asked to testify in response to the Mayor's proposed budget.

Getting Information about the Budget

To obtain a copy of the Mayor's budget proposal after March 23, 2007, call (202) 727-6343. The DC Fiscal Policy Institute also publishes a budget tracking tool on its website at <http://www.dcfpi.org>. DC Council hearings are televised on DC Cable Channel 13 and can be viewed over the internet at <http://www.octt.dc.gov>.

Testifying at Hearings

Hearing dates, times and locations are subject to change and should be verified with the appropriate Committee clerk before attending or signing up to testify. Witnesses must sign up to testify in advance with the appropriate Committee clerk as noted in this guide. Signing up as soon as possible is recommended. Each witness is required to submit written testimony and is usually asked to bring 20 copies to hand in at the hearing. Generally, witnesses who sign up as a group have 5 minutes to testify (for the entire group) while individual witnesses have 3 minutes. After witnesses testify, the Councilmembers may ask questions of the witnesses.

Helpful Hints for Effective Testimony

- ❖ **Tell your story!** Your personal experiences are the most compelling reason for Councilmembers to change policies, programs and budgets. Explain how problems in policies or programs affect your ability to access needed services.

When testifying:

- ❖ Bring a pen to write down questions or note any information you are asked to provide after the hearing.
- ❖ Speak clearly and close to the microphone.
- ❖ If your organization or issue has buttons, wear one.
- ❖ Respect the time limits. Speakers often use their time to summarize longer written testimony.

Getting Involved with the Budget

A Guide to the Guide

Each section of this guide identifies a District government department that offers services that may be of use to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and then discusses relevant programs within each department.

For each department, the guide identifies the following information:

Purpose: The department's mission, as stated in its Strategic Business Plan.

Contact Information: The department's address and main phone number.

Website: The department's internet address.

Director: The name of the department's director.

Deputy Mayor: The name of the Deputy Mayor who oversees the department. The District currently has four Deputy Mayors who report to a City Administrator. Each Deputy Mayor is responsible for overseeing a cluster of agencies.

FY2007 Agency Budget: The total budget for the department in FY 2007 (the current fiscal year) as submitted to the U.S. Congress.

DC Council Information: The name and contact information for the DC Council Committee which oversees the department.

Oversight Hearing Information: Hearing date, time, and room number, as well as the person to contact to sign up to testify.

Budget Hearing Information: Hearing date, time, and room number, as well as the person to contact to sign up to testify.

Importance: The department's relevance to people with DD and their families.

Each department section is followed by information on programs or offices within the department that provide services that may be of interest to individuals with DD and their families. For each program, the guide provides information on the program's purpose, relevant services, and the FY2007 budget. When applicable, the guide also provides information on the appropriate oversight or budget hearings and/or provides a brief discussion of the program's importance DC residents with DD.

Finally, for each department and/or program the guide suggests relevant questions and issues that DC residents, family members, advocates, public officials and any other interested individuals may wish to track during the hearing process.

Office on Aging

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To provide advocacy, health, education, employment, and social services to District residents aged 60 and older so they can live longer and maintain independence, dignity and choice.

Contact Information: 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 900 / Washington, DC 20001

Phone: (202) 724-5622

Website: www.dcoa.dc.gov

Director: Sam A. Gawad (Interim)

Budget (FY2007): \$23,469,875

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Workforce Development and Government Operations

Committee Chair: Carol Schwartz

Committee Members: Marion Barry, Kwame R. Brown, Harry Thomas, Jr., Mary M. Cheh

Committee Contact: Lee Smith, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 111
(202) 724-8131 / lsmith@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Monday, March 5, 2007	Wednesday, March 28, 2007
Time:	1:30 p.m.- 2:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Location:	Room 412	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Aretha Harvey, (202) 724-8105, aharvey@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

People with DD who are aging deserve the same services as all senior citizens. Assisting people with DD in programs that also serve older adults without DD is a desirable policy goal that is consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. However, many community programs are unequipped to meet the needs of older adults with disabilities. As a result, many older individuals with DD are currently assisted in specialized programs. Ultimately, the services provided by the Office on Aging should be able to accommodate the needs of all senior citizens, including older adults with DD.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How many individuals with DD do Office on Aging programs currently serve?
- ✓ What additional resources – such as interagency collaborations, new revenues, education and training – might allow the Office on Aging to expand its existing services for this population?

Child and Family Services Agency

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To provide child protection, foster care, adoption and supportive community-based services to promote safety, permanency and well-being of children and families in the District of Columbia.

Contact Information: 400 6th Street, SW / Washington, DC 20024
Phone: (202) 442-6000

Website: www.cfsa.dc.gov

Director: Uma Ahluwalia, Interim Director

Budget (FY2007): \$257,405,798

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Human Services

Committee Chair: Tommy Wells

Committee Members: Marion Barry, Carol Schwartz, Phil Mendelson, Harry Thomas, Jr.

Committee Contact: Adam Maier, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 117
(202) 724-8072 / amaier@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Thursday, February 15, 2007	Wednesday, April 18, 2007
Time:	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Location:	Room 500	Room 412
Contact for Testimony:	Adam Maier, (202) 724-8072 amaier@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

CFSA provides adoption, child protective services, foster care and community services to meet the developmental needs of children, prevent abuse, provide family-life experiences through temporary or permanent placement, and preserve families.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How does CFSA identify children and youth with disabilities? How many children and youth with disabilities did CFSA assist in 2006?
- ✓ How does CFSA assist foster and adoptive families of children with disabilities?
- ✓ How does CFSA assist parents with DD who come into the CFSA system?
- ✓ How does CFSA collaborate with early intervention and special education?
- ✓ How does CFSA coordinate its services with the Department of Disability Services and the Rehabilitation Services Administration to assist children who exit the foster care system?
- ✓ What barriers do children with disabilities face in accessing health care under the DC Kids Medicaid program?
- ✓ What additional resources and collaborations could assist CFSA in serving children and youth with disabilities?

Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

Office of the Tenant Advocate

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To focus on a wide range of consumer protection topics and issues including consumer education and outreach and to assist individuals impacted by unfair trade practices, seeking damages on behalf of individual residents, and orders of restitution, rescission, repair and/or replacement, as well as providing mediation services.

Contact Information: 941 North Capitol Street, NE Suite 9500 / Washington, DC 20002
Phone: (202) 442-4400

Website: www.dkra.dc.gov

Chief Tenant Advocate: Johanna Shreve

Program Budget (FY2007): \$750,000

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Public Service and Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair: Mary M. Cheh

Committee Members: Jim Graham, Marion Barry, Kwame R. Brown, Tommy Wells

Committee Contact: Jason Juffras, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 006
(202) 724-4902 / jjuffras@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Thursday, March 1, 2007	Friday, April 20, 2007
Time:	1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location:	Room 500	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Aukima Benjamin, (202) 724-4902, abenjamin@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

For people with DD to live in the most inclusive setting as required under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, they must be afforded the same rights and protections as any District resident. The District is currently working to implement a Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver to help people with DD live in the community rather than in group homes. As people with DD live independently in apartments in greater numbers, safeguarding their rights as tenants will become increasingly important. The new Office of the Tenant Advocate can be a wonderful resource for people with DD and their families.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ What specific measures does the Office of the Tenant Advocate plan to take to protect the rights of people with DD and other disabilities as tenants?
- ✓ How will the Office of the Tenant Advocate work with the Department of Disability Services (DDS) and the Office on Human Rights on disability rights-related tenant issues?
- ✓ Are there opportunities for the Office of the Tenant Advocate to collaborate with people with DD and their families, DDS, advocates, service providers and landlords to:
 - ensure that people with DD know their rights as tenants?
 - ensure that landlords know their responsibilities with regard to people with disabilities?

Office of Disability Rights

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To advance the civil rights of District residents with disabilities by coordinating the District's ADA Compliance Program and by ensuring and overseeing District-wide compliance with the ADA and related disability-rights laws.

Program Administrator: TBD

Program Budget (FY2007): TBD

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Workforce Development and Government Operations

Committee Chair: Carol Schwartz

Committee Members: Marion Barry, Kwame R. Brown, Harry Thomas, Jr., Mary M. Cheh

Committee Contact: Lee Smith, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 111
(202) 724-8131 / lsmith@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	N/A	TBD
Time:	N/A	
Location:	N/A	
Contact for Testimony:		

IMPORTANCE

In December, 2006 the D.C. Council unanimously approved the *Disability Rights Protection Act of 2006*, which is slated to become law on March 9, 2007. This new law will create a cabinet-level Office of Disability Rights to provide training, technical assistance, monitoring and information and referral to support the District government's compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and related disability rights laws. By October 1, 2008 the Mayor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities will move into the Office of Disability Rights (the Committee is currently housed at the Department of Human Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration). Finally, the law will also require the District to create an annual Olmstead Compliance Plan to describe how the District will serve people with disabilities in the most inclusive, community setting as required under the ADA.

The law will not take effect, however, until the District provides funds for implementation. Mayor Fenty has committed to funding the new office with a Director and 3 staff members for FY 2007 and with a Director and 9 staff members for FY 2008.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How will funds be identified so that the new Office of Disability Rights will start in FY 2007 and continue in FY 2007?
- ✓ Where will the new Office of Disability Rights be located?
- ✓ How does Mayor Fenty plan to recruit a Director for the new office?

Department of Disability Services

(formerly, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Administration)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: Promoting the well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities throughout their life spans, through the delivery of individualized, high-quality, safe services and supports.

Relevant Services: Health, Medical, & Rehabilitation Services, Disability Services, Case Management, Housing/Residential Services, Quality Assurance

Program Administrator: Kathy Sawyer

Program Budget (FY2007): \$59,781,070 (approved Congressional budget)

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Human Services

Committee Chair: Tommy Wells

Committee Members: Marion Barry, Carol Schwartz, Phil Mendelson, Harry Thomas, Jr.

Committee Contact: Adam Maier, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 117
(202) 724-8072 / amaier@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Wednesday, February 21, 2007	Monday, April 23, 2007
Time:	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location:	Room 412	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Adam Maier, (202) 724-8191, amaier@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

DDS is the primary District agency assisting residents with DD and their families. As noted earlier, DDS currently faces significant challenges including involvement with long-standing class action litigation. In June of 2006 the plaintiffs in the *Evans* law suit filed a petition for DDS to be placed under court-ordered receivership; the petition is currently pending.

Additionally, the failure of the District to implement a fully-functioning Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver prevents consumers from living in the community. It also has forced DDS to spend significant local dollars providing services that could otherwise be funded mostly using federal dollars. In fact, in December, 2006 DDS received a \$29 million emergency infusion of local funds to address FY 2007 budget shortfalls.

The current DDS Director has undertaken a Systems Improvement Plan to create management, financing and quality assurance structures within the agency. Once these basic systems are in place, DDS should have the foundation needed to support efficient, quality services over the long term.

DDS serves approximately 2,000 individuals per year. Yet as noted earlier, national data suggest that there may be between 5,505 and 16,516 D.C. residents with intellectual disabilities, and an even larger population with other developmental disabilities. While the District does not operate a formal waiting list, it is clear that many individuals who might benefit from community services are

currently unserved or underserved. Ultimately, DDS must strive to assist *all* District residents with DD and to offer meaningful choices in both services and living arrangements. In collaboration with the District's Medical Assistance Administration, DDS is currently leading efforts to redesign the HCBS waiver which could help make this a reality.

Finally, individuals and families have repeatedly reported their struggles accessing services across District agencies. As a new cabinet-level agency, DDS is charged with "Leading the reform of the District's mental retardation and developmental disabilities system by coordinating the collaborative efforts of government agencies..."¹ DDS can and should play a critical role in creating effective interagency coordination and providing consumers and families with information, referral and entry into services.

RELEVANT QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ What key issues does DDS face in promoting quality of life and community inclusion for individuals with DD and their families?
- ✓ While U.S. Census data and national estimates suggest that between 5,505 and 16,516 DC residents are persons with intellectual disabilities,² DDS only served approximately 2,000 individuals in 2006. What barriers prevent DDS from serving all District residents with DD?
- ✓ How does DDS offer individuals choices in services and living arrangements? How does DDS balance responsiveness to individual and family needs with regulatory and court order compliance?
- ✓ The Medicaid Home and Community-Based Waiver is a federal funding stream to help individuals with DD live in the community:
 - What barriers prevent implementation of the waiver and transitioning individuals from group homes into the community?
 - How is DDS working with the Medical Assistance Administration to redesign and fully implement the waiver? What barriers to this goal exist?
 - Under the waiver, people with DD will increasingly need affordable, accessible housing in the community. What resources and interagency collaborations could help facilitate access to housing?
- ✓ How does DDS coordinate with other human service agencies that have primary responsibility for supporting families, children and youth, as well as the Department of Employment Services and the DC Public Schools?
- ✓ What barriers do individuals with DD face in receiving timely, appropriate health care?
- ✓ With regard to family supports:
 - What services does DDS provide for families of children with disabilities? How do DDS'S family services compare with those of other jurisdictions?
 - How does DDS provide respite services for families with children and adults with DD? What is the current funding for respite, and how many families accessed respite services in 2006?
 - How do individuals and families learn about DDS services?
 - How does DDS involve individuals and families in policymaking?
- ✓ How does DDS reach out to and serve individuals and families with limited English proficiency?

RELEVANT QUESTIONS & ISSUES (DDS; continued)

- ✓ With regard to individuals who are dually diagnosed with DD and mental illness:
 - How does DDS coordinate its services with the Department of Mental Health?
Is there adequate staff training and education to aid service delivery?
 - What coordination activities are underway with the Department of Mental Health to expand federal grant funding opportunities?
- ✓ What is the status of the new DDS basic assurances initiative to promote quality services?
- ✓ What is the status of DDS internal restructuring and efforts to ensure quality case management and program operations?

Department of Employment Services

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To plan, develop, and deliver employment-related services to residents of the Washington, DC metropolitan area so they can achieve workplace security and economic stability.

Contact Information: 64 New York Avenue, N.E., 3rd Floor / Washington, DC 20002

Phone: (202) 671-1900

Website: www.does.dc.gov

Director: Susan O. Gilbert (Interim Director)

Budget (FY2007): \$99,015,984

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Workforce Development and Government Operations

Committee Chair: Carol Schwartz

Committee Members: Marion Barry, Kwame R. Brown, Harry Thomas, Jr., Mary M. Cheh

Committee Contact: Lee Smith, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 111
(202) 724-8131 / lsmith@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Monday, February 16, 2007	Wednesday, April 18, 2007
Time:	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location:	Room 500	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Aretha Harvey, (202) 724-8105, aharvey@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

DOES is the District's lead agency providing work-related services. DOES is primarily funded under the federal *Workforce Investment Act*, with modest local funding. DOES programs include employer services, job seeker services, senior services, job training and education, unemployment services, worker protections including workers' compensation, and youth services.

DOES also administers the District's laws for wages and hours. In this capacity, DOES has been tasked with issuing regulations to implement District's new *Way to Work Amendment Act*. This new law took effect on June 8, 2006 and requires all DC government contractors and grantees which receive more than \$100,000 annually to pay their employees a minimum of \$11.75 per hour. Both nationally and locally, direct care staff in the developmental disabilities field often earn significantly lower wages. For residents with DD, the ability to pay direct care staff a living wage is an essential step in reducing staff turnover and raising the quality of services.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ When will DOES issue regulations for the *Way to Work Amendment Act of 2005* (D.C. Law 16-118; effective June 8, 2006), to provide government agencies, contractors, grantees and employees with guidance on requirements to provide a living wage of a minimum of \$11.75 per hour?

Department of Employment Services

Workforce Development

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To provide employment related services for unemployed or underemployed persons so they can achieve economic security.

Relevant Services: Senior Services, One-Stop Operations (recruitment, referral, and placement assistance)

Program Budget (FY2007): \$45,723,000

IMPORTANCE

DOES operates eight One Stop Centers across the District which are designed to provide residents with services and skills to enhance their employment opportunities. One Stop Centers are intended to work jointly with the District's Vocational Rehabilitation ("VR") program housed in the Department of Human Services' Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). The VR program is the primary federally-funded program providing employment services for people with disabilities.

According to a 2005 survey of DOES One Stop Centers by the Inclusion Research Institute, 66% of One Stop customers with disabilities were unemployed and 42% were looking for work.² The Arc of the United States points out that these figures exist despite the ability, desire, and willingness of individuals with DD to engage in meaningful work in the community. Nationally, only 7 to 23 percent of adults with DD are employed full-time, and an additional 9 to 20 percent are employed part-time.³ Relatively few individuals with DD have had the opportunity to earn a livable wage, acquire benefits, advance their careers, or plan for retirement.

The DOES One Stop Centers have the potential to be a key resource providing access to the kinds of specialized career development, job training, and supportive services that can help individuals with DD enjoy the benefits of employment.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How many customers with DD does DOES assist each year? What are the employment outcomes of these individuals?
- ✓ What measures is DOES taking to overcome the barriers to One Stop services that face people with disabilities, including those identified in the Inclusion Research Institute report (i.e. accessibility and accommodation, staff attitudes and misperceptions, staff inexperience in working with people with disabilities, awareness of available services, and service coordination among partners)?
- ✓ How many representatives of the disability community sit on the Workforce Investment Council, which oversees the One Stop Centers and coordinates the District's Workforce Investment plan?
- ✓ How does DOES coordinate One Stop services with Vocational Rehabilitation?
- ✓ How does DOES reach out to the disability community regarding services of the One Stop Career Center?
- ✓ How does DOES promote awareness among employers regarding the benefits of hiring people with disabilities and the rights of employees with disabilities?

Department of Health

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To promote and protect the health, safety and quality of life of residents, visitors and those doing business in the District of Columbia.

Contact Information: 825 North Capitol Street, NE / Washington, DC 20002

Phone: (202) 671-5000

Website: www.doh.dc.gov

Director: Dr. Gregg A. Pane

Budget (FY2007): \$1,884,579,949

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Health

Committee Chair: David Catania

Committee Members: Phil Mendelson, Jim Graham, Marion Barry, Harry Thomas, Jr.

Committee Contact: Jordan Hutchinson, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 115
(202) 724-8170 / jhutchinson@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Thursday, February 22, 2007	Friday, March 30, 2007
Time:	10:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Location:	Room 412	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Paul Dionne, (202) 724-8170, pdionne@dccouncil.us	

See individual program listings for additional information.

IMPORTANCE

People with DD need dependable, high quality health care in the community as well as affordable, comprehensive health insurance. Unfortunately, people with DD have an increased risk of obesity, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, seizures, mental illness and behavior disorders, hearing and vision problems, and poor conditioning and fitness.⁴ Despite their health needs, people with DD often face numerous barriers to accessing timely, quality health care.

DOH programs, and in particular the Medicaid program, address many of the major issues and challenges confronting people with DD. Medicaid-funded supports include residential living in group homes and in people's own homes so that families can stay together, as well as employment and related support services. Medicaid-funded health care for mothers, infants and children can also have significant positive effects on the development and severity of a disability.

On January 17, 2007 DOH announced a major reorganization to "create a new focus on performance accountability and community visibility."⁵ DOH reduced its Administrations from 11 to 7: Health Regulation and Licensing; Maternal and Primary Care; Emergency Preparedness and Response; Medical Assistance and Alliance; Center for Policy, Planning and Epidemiology; Grants Management and Procurement; HIV/AIDS; and Addiction Prevention and Recovery. **As a result, the FY 2006 and FY 2007 budgets for DOH will have different budget categories.**

Department of Health
Medical Assistance and Alliance Administration
(formerly, Medical Assistance Administration)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To develop a comprehensive plan for financing health care for the District's uninsured and indigent residents, in support of the health care goals set by the Mayor and the Department of Health, to develop eligibility, service coverage, service delivery, and reimbursement policies for the District's health care financing programs that ensure improved access and efficient delivery of service, and to administer the District's Medical Assistance Program, Medical Charities Program, and other health care financing initiatives.

Relevant Services: Children & Families, Managed Care, Disability & Aging, Mental Health Medicaid

Phone: (202) 442-5988

Program Administrator: Robert Maruca

Program Budget (FY2007): \$1,543,713,935

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Wednesday, February 28, 2007	Tuesday, April 24, 2007
Time:	10:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Location:	Room 412	Room 412
Contact for Testimony:	Paul Dionne, (202) 727-8170, pdionne@dccouncil.us	

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ The Medicaid MR/DD Home and Community-Based Waiver is a federal funding stream to help individuals with DD live in the community:
 - How is MAA working with the Department of Disability Services (DDS) to fully implement the waiver?
 - For each of the 24 waiver services, how many individuals are currently:
 - a) approved for the service; and
 - b) receiving the service?
 - What is the status of MAA's work with DDS to redesign the waiver to permit full implementation of the waiver?
 - What is the status of the redesigned MOU between MAA and DDS?
 - What is the status of MAA's response to concerns raised by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the fall of 2006, which had resulted in a moratorium on new enrollments into the waiver?
- ✓ What is the status of efforts to create a new Medicaid waiver to provide services for children and adults with autism?
- ✓ When does MAA plan to issue final regulations to increase home visits for residents of Medicaid-funded group homes (ICFs/MR)?

QUESTIONS & ISSUES (continued)

- ✓ What performance measures will MAA track for FY 2008 related to the MR/DD Waiver?
- ✓ For FY 2008, District agencies were asked to take an 8% across-the-board cut. However, healthcare costs are rising.⁶ Will the 2008 Medicaid budget be sufficient to meet rising costs?
- ✓ What is the status of the District's application for the federal Money Follows the Person grant opportunity, which would help residents with disabilities leave institutions including Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Mental Retardation (ICFs/MR)?
- ✓ Has MAA applied for all federal grant opportunities that could improve services for residents with DD during FY 2006?
- ✓ The DC Council is considering a bill to move all functions of MAA and the District's Health Care Safety Net into a new cabinet-level department (Bill 17-76, *Department of Health Care Finance Establishment Act of 2005*). How will this bill improve MAA's ability to maximize the use of Medicaid revenues to assist residents with disabilities?
- ✓ How does MAA's current staffing support its workload related to managing and monitoring multiple Medicaid waivers? Are additional staff required?

Department of Health
Maternal and Primary Care Administration
(formerly, Maternal and Family Health Administration)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To plan, promote, and coordinate comprehensive health services in the District of Columbia for women and their families, including children, adolescents, and those with special health care needs.

Relevant Services: Perinatal and Infant Care Services, Child Health Services, School and Adolescent Health Services

Contact Information: 825 North Capitol Street, NE / Washington DC 20002

Phone: (202) 442-5925

Program Administrator: Dr. Carlos Cano

Program Budget (FY2007): \$38,935,240

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Thursday, February 22, 2007	Friday, March 30, 2007
Time:	10:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Location:	Room 412	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Paul Dionne, (202) 727-8170, pdionne@dccouncil.us	

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ What is the status of the District's efforts to ensure that all children receive the full array of Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) services?
- ✓ How does the Maternal and Family Care Administration track and use newborn screening data to identify prevention strategies and future service needs of children with disabilities?
- ✓ In completing the Child Health Certificate, what, if any, measures are taken to identify potential developmental disabilities?
- ✓ What formal structures has the Maternal and Family Care Administration put in place for coordination with the Department of Human Service's Early Care and Education Administration?
- ✓ With regard to school-based health clinics:
 - How many children were served in school-based health clinics in 2005?
 - What role do the clinics serve in screening and providing supports for children with disabilities?
 - Do school-based health clinics have sufficient resources to meet the need?
 - What possibilities exist for partnerships with the public schools to increase capacity?

Department of Housing and Community Development

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To be a catalyst in neighborhood revitalization by strategically leveraging public funds with private and non-profit partners for low-to-moderate income DC residents.

Contact Information: 801 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 8000
Washington, DC 20002

Phone: (202) 442-7200

Website: www.dhcd.dc.gov

Director: Victor Selman (Interim Director)

Budget (FY2007): \$108,712,021

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs

Committee Chair: Marion Barry

Committee Members: Phil Mendelson, Tommy Wells, Ward 4 & Ward 7 Councilmembers (vacant)

Committee Contact: Drew Hubbard, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 112
(202) 724-8230 / dhubbard@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Wednesday, February 21, 2007	Wednesday, April 19, 2007
Time:	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Location:	Room 500	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Drew Hubbard, (202) 724-8230, dhubbard@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

The District is currently working to transition individuals with DD out of group homes and into the community. If successful, this effort will increase the need for affordable, accessible housing for individuals with DD. The District's ongoing affordable housing crisis will make finding housing for persons receiving services under the Waiver particularly challenging. Not only are rents continuing to rise in the District, but also the number of housing units affordable to moderate and low income households is declining.⁷ The District's 2006 Fair Market Rent for a one-bedroom apartment was \$1,134 per month, as established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; yet, the average SSI payment in the District was only \$603 per month.⁸ Furthermore, much of the District's housing stock is not accessible to people with physical disabilities.

Department of Housing and Community Development

Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To ensure fair housing and equal opportunity in housing and compliance of federal fair housing and equal opportunity laws, rules, and regulations by community non-profit organizations, housing developers, and individual residents who receive program and project funding through DHCD and to educate city residents—particularly underserved populations such as the immigrant communities, people with disabilities, and the elderly—about their fair housing rights in rental, sales, financing or home insurance transactions.

Relevant Services: Education & Outreach, Compliance Enforcement

Phone: (202) 442-7200

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ What activities does the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity program carry out to ensure the housing rights of persons with disabilities?
- ✓ What types of disability-related housing compliance issues does the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity program work with most frequently, and what are the trends in this area?
- ✓ How much training per year does the program conduct for people with disabilities, including people with DD?
- ✓ Does the program have adequate resources to carry out its responsibilities with regard to all of the one in five District residents who have a disability?
- ✓ What additional services could the Fair Housing and Equality Opportunity program provide if more resources were available?

Department of Housing and Community Development

Housing Production Trust Fund

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To provide financial assistance to nonprofit and commercial developers to plan and build low to moderate-income housing and related facilities.

Phone: (202) 442-7200

Program Budget (FY2006): \$120,418,200

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ The District's 2006 Comprehensive Plan was approved by the DC Council in 2006 and is currently pending federal review. Policy H-4.2.4 in the Plan commits the District to "Work toward a target of designing eight (8) percent of the new housing units added to the city's stock over the next 20 years to specifically to meet the accessibility needs of persons with physical disabilities." How does DHCD intend to use the Housing Production Trust Fund to help meet this goal?
- ✓ How can the Housing Production Trust Fund work with the DDS and housing developers to promote housing which is accessible to people with DD who have physical disabilities?

Office of Human Rights

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To seek to eradicate discrimination, increase equal opportunity, and protect human rights in the city, to enforce the DC Human Rights Act of 1977 and other laws and policies on nondiscrimination, and to advocate for the practice of good human relations and mutual understanding among the various racial ethnic and religious groups in the District of Columbia.

Contact Information: 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 570 North / Washington, DC 20001

Phone: (202) 727-4559

Website: www.ohr.dc.gov

Director: Gustavo Velasquez

Budget (FY2007): \$2,724,889

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Workforce Development and Government Operations

Committee Chair: Carol Schwartz

Committee Members: Marion Barry, Kwame R. Brown, Harry Thomas, Jr., Mary M. Cheh

Committee Contact: Lee Smith, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 111
(202) 724-8131 / lsmith@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Friday, March 2, 2007	Wednesday, March 28, 2007
Time:	2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Location:	Room 500	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Aretha Harvey, 724-8105, aharvey@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

Freedom from discrimination is an essential right for all District residents, including people with DD and other disabilities. People with disabilities have experienced a long history of prejudice and exclusion, and negative societal attitudes and discriminatory practices unfortunately continue to exist. The federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Fair Housing Act as amended in 1998, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the District's own Human Rights Act of 1977 guarantee the rights of individuals with disabilities in employment, housing, public services including public transportation, education, private services, and telecommunications. The Office on Human Rights is the District's primary agency charged with investigating complaints related to violations of the District's Human Rights Act and educating residents about their human rights under law.

Office of Human Rights

Equal Justice Program

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To provide intake, investigations, adjudication, and compliance services to people who live, work or do business in the District so that they may have timely resolution of discrimination complaints.

Relevant Services: Intake, Mediation, Investigations, Adjudication, Fair Housing Program, Research and Compliance, Public Education, Public Information

Phone: (202) 727-4559

Program Budget (FY2007): \$2,185,745

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How many disability rights related cases did District residents file with OHR in 2006?
- ✓ How many disability rights related cases have been filed against the District and/or its agencies since OHR's inception?
- ✓ What are the most frequent types of disability rights related cases filed with OHR?
- ✓ What, if any, additional legislative, regulatory, administrative or budgetary steps would OHR recommend the District take to safeguard the rights of individuals with disabilities?

Department of Human Services

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To “up-lift lives” by providing quality-of-life support services to individuals and families within the District that promote maximum self-reliance through community-based services and partnerships with other organizations.

Contact Information: 64 New York Avenue, 6th Floor / Washington, DC 20002

Phone: (202) 671-4200

Fax: (202) 671-4326

Website: www.dhs.dc.gov

Director: Brian L. Wilbon (Interim Director)

Budget (FY2007): \$452,321,580

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Human Services

Committee Chair: Tommy Wells

Committee Members: Marion Barry, Carol Schwartz, Phil Mendelson, Harry Thomas, Jr.

Committee Contact: Adam Maier, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 117
(202) 724-8072 / amaier@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION (DHS Agency Management)

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Wednesday, February 21, 2007	Monday, April 23, 2007
Time:	3:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
Location:	Room 412	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Adam Maier, (202) 724-8072, amaier@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is the one of District’s lead agencies charged with providing support services for District residents with disabilities. Virtually all DHS services affect people with DD in one way or another. Ensuring that the various DHS programs operate in a coordinated, accessible, effective, and inclusive manner is essential so that people with disabilities can receive the services and supports needed to live, work and prosper in the community.

In December, 2006 the District enacted legislation restructuring its service system for residents with developmental disabilities.⁹ Under this new law, the former Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Administration (MRDDA) moved from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to the new, cabinet-level Department of Disability Services. By June 30, 2007 the Rehabilitation Services Administration will also move from DHS to the new DDS. The D.C. Developmental Disabilities Council – a federally-mandated and federally-funded education and advocacy entity – remains at DHS.

Department of Human Services

Early Care and Education Administration

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To provide funds and facilitate quality early child care and education services for children from birth through 12 years of age, and to age 19 for those with disabilities, so that the children, with the assistance of their families, are able to reach their highest potential.

Relevant Services: Eligibility Re-Determination Services, Childcare, Child Development Provider Services, Early Intervention Services, Case Management

Program Administrator: Barbara Kamara

Program Budget (FY2007): \$103,413,791

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Wednesday, February 21, 2007	Monday, April 23, 2007
Time:	3:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
Location:	Room 412	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Adam Maier, (202) 724-8191, amaier@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

The Early Care and Education Administration provides several essential services for children with disabilities and their families. Early intervention increases children’s developmental and educational gains and improves family functioning. Children who receive early intervention often need fewer special education and services later in life, and multiple studies have found that early intervention services produce long-term savings for states.¹⁰ Child care programs provide additional opportunities for child development as well as much-needed supports for working families.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How many children with disabilities were served by the early intervention program in 2006? Does the early intervention program have capacity to meet current needs? Why does the District provide no local funds for early intervention?
- ✓ How does the definition of “developmental delay” affect children’s eligibility for early intervention? How would a broader definition improve ECEA’s ability to serve children with disabilities?
- ✓ How does ECEA ensure smooth transitions from early intervention to school?
- ✓ How does ECEA coordinate early intervention services with Head Start?
- ✓ What is the capacity of child care providers to serve children with DD? Do vouchers cover the cost of child care for children with disabilities? How could additional funds increase provider capacity? What other barriers limit capacity?
- ✓ How are parents of children with disabilities educated about childcare vouchers?
- ✓ How are child care providers trained on working with children with disabilities?
- ✓ What screening measures and/or trainings are in place to help child care providers identify the presence of disabilities?

Department of Human Services

Family Services Administration

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To help homeless individuals and families, low-income people, adults at-risk for abuse or neglect, teenage parents, troubled families, and refugees to gradually become stable and fully self-sufficient through an array of social services, assessments, and case-management and crisis-intervention services.

Relevant Services: Homeless Services

Program Administrator: George L. Shepard (Acting)

Program Budget (FY2007): \$55,192,000

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Wednesday, February 21, 2007	Thursday, March 30, 2006
Time:	3:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.
Location:	Room 412	5th Floor Council Chamber
Contact for Testimony:	Adam Maier, (202) 724-8191, amaier@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

The Family Services Administration operates the District's shelter and transitional housing programs for individuals and families who are homeless. Estimates by groups such as The National Healthcare for the Homeless Council suggest that at least 30% of the homeless population has a disability, with an undocumented proportion having developmental disabilities. Although the exact numbers of people with developmental disabilities who are homeless are unknown, shelter providers report periodically encountering individuals who appear to have cognitive disabilities. Often, shelter providers report that they lack the knowledge and skills to work with adults with developmental disabilities. Similarly, many homeless families have children with disabilities and need specific services to support them in finding and maintaining permanent housing.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How often do shelters encounter children with disabilities and adults with DD?
- ✓ What trainings do shelter staff and street outreach staff receive on working with individuals with DD?
- ✓ What information do homeless service providers have on available District services and referral processes?
- ✓ What additional interagency partnerships and resources might enhance FSA's ability to serve children and adults with DD who are homeless?

Department of Human Services

Income Maintenance Administration

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To determine the eligibility of recipients for Federal and District-funded assisted programs and to help head of household receiving TANF benefits to become employed and financially independent.

Relevant Services: Income Assistance, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Case Management Services

Program Administrator: Sharon Cooper-DeLoatch

Program Budget (FY2007): \$175,312,424

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Wednesday, February 21, 2007	Monday, April 23, 2007
Time:	3:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
Location:	Room 412	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Adam Maier, (202) 724-8191, amaier@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

Parents of children with DD who are eligible for Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) need access to appropriate childcare and should have requirements that are realistic and reflect their responsibilities as parents of children with disabilities. Parents with disabilities who apply for TANF should receive appropriate screening and referral services.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How does IMA screen TANF applicants for potential disabilities, including DD?
- ✓ How does IMA ensure that the employment and healthcare provisions of TANF provide flexibility to support working parents of children with disabilities?
- ✓ How will federal TANF reauthorization affect the District's ability to assist parents of children with disabilities?

Department of Human Services

Rehabilitation Services

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To assist persons with disabilities with employment and independent living in the home and the community and to provide an array of vocational preparation services for entrance into the labor markets, including counseling and guidance, assessment services, physical restoration, vocational training, job search and placement, as well as job retention services.

Relevant Services: Health, Medical and Rehabilitation Services, Disability Services, Employment Readiness and Placement Services, Case Management, Eligibility Determination Services

Program Administrator: Elizabeth Parker

Program Budget (FY2007): \$31,609,128

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Wednesday, February 21, 2007	Monday, April 23, 2007
Time:	3:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
Location:	Room 412	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Adam Maier, (202) 724-8191, amaier@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

People with DD face many barriers to work, including lack of training and experience while in high school, lack of post-secondary educational opportunities, lack of supports, and employers' lack of knowledge and stereotypes about DD. Nationally, only 7 to 23 percent of adults with DD are employed full-time, and an additional 9 to 20 percent are employed part-time.¹¹ Training and employment services can help people with DD find work and succeed in rewarding jobs.

Vocational rehabilitation services offered by RSA are federally-funded supports to help people with disabilities, including individuals with DD, find and retain jobs.¹² RSA services are intended to work in coordination with the Department of Employment Services' One Stop Career Centers. RSA must also coordinate its employment activities with DDS: individuals who wish to receive employment services under the DDS Home and Community-Based Services waiver must be referred through RSA.

Transition services provided by RSA can play a key role in helping youth with disabilities prepare to graduate from the public schools. While each public school has a transition coordinator, youth and families report that transition services have not been a priority for the schools. Often, students with disabilities graduate with little or no preparation for adult life and little information about options such as work and job training. In FY 2007 the D.C. Council's Committee on Human Services provided \$250,000 to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to hire staff to provide transition services in the public schools. This was the first time that a local appropriation had been directed to RSA to facilitate this work.

QUESTION & ISSUES

- ✓ How many individuals with DD used RSA services in 2006? Which RSA services were accessed?
- ✓ For RSA participants with DD:
 - What is the average employment rate?
 - What is the average employment retention rate?
 - What is the average wage?
- ✓ With regard to transition from school to work:
 - How many referrals did RSA receive in 2006 from DC Public Schools? How does this compare with the number of children receiving special education services?
 - How does RSA coordinate with the DC Public Schools to ensure transition planning to prepare youth with disabilities for post-secondary opportunities including vocational rehabilitation services? What barriers prevent effective collaboration with the public schools?
 - How is RSA using the \$250,000 in local funds for FY 2007 to enhance its transition services?
 - Does RSA have sufficient resources to address the transition needs of DCPS youth in future years?
- ✓ With regard to systems coordination:
 - What formal structures has RSA put in place for coordination of service delivery between Vocational Rehabilitation and the One Stop system?
 - How fast does an RSA consumer usually receive information on eligibility determination? How does this affect referral to employment services provided through the Department of Disability Services (DDS)?
 - Beyond eligibility determination, how else does RSA coordinate its services and funding streams with those of DDS?
 - For individuals who are diagnosed with both DD and mental illness, how does RSA coordinate its services with those of DDS and the Department of Mental Health?
 - How does RSA collaborate with the Income Maintenance Administration, the Office of Early Childhood Development, the Medicaid Assistance Administration, and community agencies to identify appropriate and/or alternative benefits for individuals?

Department of Mental Health

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To develop, support, and oversee a comprehensive, community-based, consumer-driven, culturally competent, quality mental health system that is responsive and accessible to children, youths, adults, and their families and to leverage continuous positive change through its ability to learn and to partner ensuring that all providers deliver services that are accountable to consumers.

Contact Information: 64 New York Avenue, NE, 4th Floor / Washington, DC 20002
 Phone: (202) 673-7440 or 1-888-7-WE HELP
 Website: www.dmh.dc.gov
 Director: Stephen T. Baron
 Budget (FY2007): \$220,862,873

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Health
 Committee Chair: David Catania
 Committee Members: Phil Mendelson, Jim Graham, Marion Barry, Harry Thomas, Jr.
 Committee Contact: Jordan Hutchinson, Committee Clerk
 John A. Wilson Building, Suite 115
 (202) 724-8170 / jhutchinson@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Monday, February 26, 2007	Thursday, April 5, 2007
Time:	10:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Location:	Room 500	Room 412
Contact for Testimony:	Paul Dionne, (202) 724-8170, pdionne@dccouncil.us	

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How many District residents with DD does DMH estimate have a dual diagnosis with a mental illness? How does DMH track the numbers of individuals with DD served each year?
- ✓ What formal structures are in place for coordination with the Department of Disability Services (DDS) for the purposes of staff referral and recognition of dual diagnosis services, regardless of the point of entry?
- ✓ How does DMH address the needs of non-Medicaid eligible consumers who require mental health services?

Department of Parks & Recreation

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To present quality leisure services to District residents and visitors of the District of Columbia, to supervise and maintain area parks, community facilities, and neighborhood recreation centers and to provide adaptive programs and facilities for challenged customers.

Contact Information: 3149 16th Street NW / Washington, DC 20010

Phone: (202) 673-7665

Fax: (202) 673-2087

Website: www.dpr.dc.gov

Director: Wanda S. Durden

Budget (FY2007): \$52,302,329

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation

Committee Chair: Harry Thomas, Jr.

Committee Members: Kwame R. Brown, Mary M. Cheh, Ward 4 & 7 Councilmembers (vacant)

Committee Contact: Neil Rodgers, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 113
(202) 724-8204 / nrodders@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Friday, February 12, 2007	Tuesday, March 27, 2007
Time:	10:00 a.m. - End	10:00 a.m. - End
Location:	Room 500	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Angela Hicks, (202) 724-8107, ahicks@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

All people deserve the opportunity for a full life in their community where they can live, learn, work, and play alongside each other through all stages of life. People of all ages with disabilities should be able to enjoy recreational and leisure activities which promote social interaction and friendships. For people with DD, recreation and physical fitness can also play an important role in maintaining health. Several studies have shown that people with DD have significantly lower fitness levels than the general population, and some experts consider physical inactivity a major health risk among people with developmental disabilities.¹³

Department of Parks & Recreation

Recreational Programs

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To provide specialized recreation, outreach, education, and cultural arts programs to District residents and visitors, from early childhood to senior citizen so that they have access to new learning opportunities, enhanced physical and mental well-being, and participation with the community.

Relevant Services: Senior Services, Therapeutic Recreation, Childcare Program, SCORE Program

Program Budget (FY2007): \$29,463,000

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ On average, how many individuals with DD (children, youth and adults) does DPR serve annually in each of its recreation services?
- ✓ How does DPR accommodate the individual needs of children and adults with DD who wish to participate in its programs?
 - Are DPR's before- and after-school programs accessible to children with DD?
 - What training does staff receive on working with individuals with DD?
 - What resources are currently available to DPR to assist people with DD?
 - Are current resources sufficient?
- ✓ Are there opportunities for interagency or community collaborations to ensure access to DPR services for individuals with DD? For example:
 - How does DPR coordinate with the public school system to provide a spectrum of recreation and sports activities for children with DD?
 - Is there collaboration with the Special Olympics for the purposes of planning and expansion?
- ✓ How will DPR's transition to a fee-for-service model affect the ability of individuals with disabilities, particularly individuals with fixed incomes, to access DPR programs?
- ✓ What measures is DPR taking to inform the community, including individuals with DD and their families, about programs and activities?
- ✓ How does DPR seek out feedback from families and individuals with DD on its programs?

DC Public Charter Schools

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To provide an alternative free education for students who reside in the District of Columbia.
Relevant Services: Special Education
Contact Information: 3333 14th Street, NW, Suite 210 / Washington, DC 20010
Phone: (202) 328-2660
Website: www.dcpubliccharter.com
Director: Josephine Baker
Budget (FY2007): \$226,065,572

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee of the Whole (all Councilmembers)
Committee Chair: Vincent C. Gray
Committee Contact: Christopher Murray, Committee Clerk
 John A. Wilson Building, Suite 410
 (202) 724-8196 / cmurray@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Wednesday, February 7, 2007	Thursday, April 5, 2007
Time:	10:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Location:	Room 500	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Aretha Latta, (202) 724-8196, allata@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

Charter schools are independently-operated public schools. Like their counterparts in other public schools, students with DD in public charter schools must be educated in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Students with disabilities should learn in inclusive settings with peers of the same age, and should receive individualized supports to promote quality education and post-graduation opportunities. Students with DD should be taught by trained educators and support personnel with an appropriate staff-to-student ratio.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

See "Questions & Issues" following "DC Public Schools," "Special Education" program, next section.

DC Public Schools

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To develop inspired learners who excel academically and socially in dynamic schools that instill confidence and generate enthusiasm through the District's many diverse communities and make DC Public Schools the first choice of parents, youth, and families.

Contact Information: 825 North Capitol Street, NE / Washington, DC, 20002

Phone: (202) 724-4222

Website: www.k12.dc.us

Superintendent: Dr. Clifford B. Janey

Budget (FY2007): \$1,031,338,773

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee of the Whole (all Councilmembers)

Committee Chair: Vincent C. Gray

Committee Contact: Christopher Murray, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 410
(202) 724-8196 / cmurray@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Wednesday, February 7, 2007	Thursday, April 5, 2007
Time:	10:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Location:	Room 500	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Aretha Latta, (202) 724-8196, allata@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires states to protect the rights of, meet the individual needs of, and improve the educational results of infants, toddlers, children and youths with disabilities and their families. As envisioned in IDEA, public schools should educate students with DD in inclusive settings with peers of the same age, and should provide individualized supports to promote quality education and post-graduation opportunities. Students with DD should be taught by trained educators and support personnel with an appropriate staff-to-student ratio.

DCPS has a demonstrated, ongoing inability to assist children with disabilities within the public school system. Currently, DCPS serves approximate 12,135 students with disabilities per year. DCPS pays for approximately 2,000 students with disabilities to attend private schools because public schools are unable to meet their learning needs.¹⁴ Furthermore, far too many students graduate without a high school diploma. In 2003-2004, 1,049 students with disabilities graduated the District's public schools, but only 215 or 20% did so with a diploma; the remainder received a certificate but not a degree. In the same year, nationally approximately 55% of students with disabilities graduated with diplomas.¹⁵

Furthermore, transition services for students with disabilities have not been a high priority. As a result, many students graduate without a plan for work or post-graduation training and services.

DC Public Schools

Office of Special Education

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To provide special education and related services in accordance with local and federal law for students with disabilities.

Relevant Services: Special Education Local School Delivery

Program Manager: Marla Oakes, Ph.D., Executive Director, Office of Special Education

Program Budget (FY2007): \$96,188,321

QUESTIONS & ISSUES (for both DCPS and DCPCS)

- ✓ What is the status of current efforts to teach children with and without disabilities in integrated classrooms in the public schools?
- ✓ What accountability measures are in place to encourage schools to provide special education services within regular classrooms?
- ✓ How are assistant superintendents, principals, and special education coordinators held responsible for bringing students with disabilities into classrooms with their peers who do not have disabilities?
- ✓ What barriers exist to educating students with and without disabilities in the same classroom, and how can the public schools address these barriers?
- ✓ With regard to transition services:
 - What services are available for children transitioning from early intervention (birth to three years) to the public schools?
 - What services are available for students with disabilities transitioning between elementary and middle school?
 - What transition services are available for high school students with disabilities? How do the schools coordinate with the Rehabilitation Services Administration to ensure transition planning for post-secondary vocational rehabilitation services?
 - How many students receiving special education services receive diplomas as opposed to certificates upon graduation? How do certificates affect students' work and other postsecondary opportunities?
- ✓ How do parents of children with disabilities learn about available services, the educational planning (IEP) process, and their rights?
- ✓ What measures are taken to individualize plans, including transition plans?
- ✓ How do the schools train staff to accurately identify possible DD? Is there staff training to ensure that the appropriate school personnel are familiar with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act?
- ✓ How many students with disabilities do the public charter schools currently serve? How many of these students are taught in integrated classrooms?
- ✓ How do the public schools help students with disabilities access physical therapy, speech and language therapy, and other supports? What competency standards do the public schools apply to these related service providers?
- ✓ What arrangements are being made to ensure highest quality of transportation service and personnel for children with disabilities?

Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To improve public safety and give court-involved youths the opportunity to become more productive citizens by building on the strengths of youths and their families in the least restrictive, most homelike environment consistent with public safety.

Contact Information: 1000 Mt. Olivet Road NE / Washington, DC 20002

Phone: (202) 576-8175

Website: www.dyrs.dc.gov

Director: Vincent N. Schiraldi

Budget (FY2007): \$68,583,786

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Human Services

Committee Chair: Tommy Wells

Committee Members: Marion Barry, Phil Mendelson, Harry Thomas, Jr., Carol Schwartz

Committee Contact: Adam Maier, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 117
(202) 727-8072 / amaier@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Friday, March 2, 2007	Wednesday, April 25, 2007
Time:	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location:	Room 412	Room 412
Contact for Testimony:	Adam Maier, (202) 727-8072 amaier@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

DYRS provides community services – including mentoring, substance abuse treatment, after-school enrichment, home-based counseling, and individual counseling – for youth committed to the community’s care and/or custody. The DYRS Intensive Supervision Services Program provides a concentrated level of home detention supervision for youth permitted to remain at home while pending trial or disposition. DYRS also operates two secure facilities for committed youth (Oak Hill and the Youth Services Center) and the Trudie Wallace Pre-Release House.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How many youth with disabilities did DYRS serve in FY 2006?
- ✓ How does DYRS screen and accommodate youth with disabilities?
- ✓ What supports does DYRS provide to youth with disabilities to assist with transition planning? How does DYRS collaborate with the Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Department of Employment Services, the Department of Disability Services, and the Department of Mental Health to ensure that youth leaving the DYRS system will have training and supports?

APPENDIX A:
DC Council Contact Information

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Washington, DC 20004
www.dccouncil.us

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VACANT

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VACANT

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Marion Barry

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Kwame R. Brown

At Large
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Fax: (202) 724-8156
kbrown@dccouncil.us

APPENDIX B:
Relevant City Administrator
and Deputy Mayor Contact Information

Dan Tangherlini

City Administrator

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 310
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 727-6053
www.oca.dc.gov

Neil Albert

Deputy Mayor for Economic Development

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 727-6365
Fax: (202) 727-6703
www.dcbiz.dc.gov

APPENDIX C: Online Resources

Americans with Disabilities Act

www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm and <http://www.adawatch.org/>

The Arc of the District of Columbia

www.arcdc.net

The Arc of the United States

www.thearc.org

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Home and Community Based Services Waivers

www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidStWaivProgDemoPGI/

Council of the District of Columbia

www.dccouncil.us

Government of the District of Columbia

www.dc.gov

DC Action for Children

www.dckids.org

DC Fiscal Policy Institute

www.dcfpi.org

Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development

University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

gucchd.georgetown.edu/programs/ucedd/index.html

A Guide to Disability Rights Law, U.S. Department of Justice

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/cguide.htm>

The New Freedom Initiative

www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/newfreedom/

Olmstead v. L.C.

<http://www.olmsteadcommunity.org/>

REFERENCES

District of Columbia Budget and Strategic Business Plan Data

“FY 2007 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan” (June, 2006). Government of the District of Columbia.

Fenty e-Transition

Fenty e-Transition, Human Services Team, Developmental Disabilities Work Group, report available at http://lauriec.typepad.com/human_services/.

Background on the Needs of District of Columbia Residents with Disabilities

The Arc of the United States, selected *Position Statements*, www.thearc.org/info-mr.html.

“Building a Comprehensive System of Supports for People with Disabilities and their Families in our Nation’s Capitol” (February, 2000). DC Developmental Disabilities State Planning Council, Washington, DC.

“Parent Summit: Services and Supports for Individuals with Disabilities” (June, 2004). Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Washington, DC.

“Sharing Opportunity in a time of Prosperity: A Fair Budget for all DC Tax Payers” (2005). Fair Budget Coalition.

Endnotes

¹ *Department of Disability Services Establishment Act of 2006*, Act 16-620, projected D.C. Law date March 12, 2007.

² “District of Columbia One Stop Career Centers: An Analysis of Knowledge and Utilization by People with Disabilities” (July, 2005). Washington, DC: Inclusion Research Institute.

³ “Employment of People with Mental Retardation.” The Arc of the U.S. <http://www.thearc.org/faqs/emqa.html>.

⁴ Statement of David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, on the Special Hearing on Promoting Health for People with Mental Retardation before the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, Anchorage, AK, March 5, 2001.

⁵ “DOH Announces Major Agency Realignment.” Department of Health Press Release, January 17, 2007.

⁶ Kaiser Family Foundation, *Trends and Indicators in the Changing Health Care Marketplace*, at <http://www.kff.org/insurance/7031/index.cfm>.

⁷ “New Census Data Show DC’s Affordable Housing Crisis is Worsening” (September, 2005). Angie Rodgers, DC Fiscal Policy Institute.

⁸ *Out of Reach 2006*, National Low Income Housing Coalition, available at <http://www.nlihc.org>.

⁹ *Developmental Disabilities Services Management Reform Emergency Amendment Act of 2006*, Act 16-672, effective December 28, 2006; and *Department of Disability Services Establishment Act of 2005*, Act 16-620, projected D.C. Law date March 12, 2007.

¹⁰ “What Is Early Intervention?” <http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content/early.intervention.html#contents>.

¹¹ “Employment of People with Mental Retardation.” The Arc of the U.S., <http://www.thearc.org/faqs/emqa.html>.

¹² “Vocational Rehabilitation & You” (2004). University Legal Services, Washington, DC.

¹³ “Physical Fitness in People With Mental Retardation” (1996). James H. Rimmer, Ph.D., Northern Illinois University & The University of Illinois at Chicago. <http://www.thearc.org/faqs/fitness.html>.

¹⁴ “Some Parents Push for Alternative to D.C.’s Special-Ed.” (June 12, 2005). Henri E. Cauvin, *Washington Post*, C13.

¹⁵ Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B Annual Report Data, Table 4-1. Students age 14 through 21 with disabilities served under IDEA, Part B, who exited school, by exit reason and state: 2003-04. <http://www.IDEAdata.org>.

About the Arc of the District of Columbia

The Arc of the District of Columbia, Inc., (“The Arc of DC”) is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) membership organization serving persons with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities and their families in the District of Columbia. The Arc of DC provides support services to more than 300 persons annually. The Arc of DC has been in the forefront of advocacy and service delivery in Washington, DC since its founding in 1950. The Arc of DC is a state chapter of The Arc of the United States.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to improve the quality of life of all persons with mental retardation and their families through supports and advocacy.

OUR VISION

We envision a society in which individuals with mental retardation exercise their rights and are afforded a full set of opportunities and choices that enable them to contribute and have impact in the community.

Recognition and Thanks

The Arc of DC recognizes T.J. Sutcliffe, M.S.W., Director of Advocacy and Public Policy, and Amy Pugh, M.S.W. Advocacy and Public Policy Intern, for their work in preparing this guide.

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