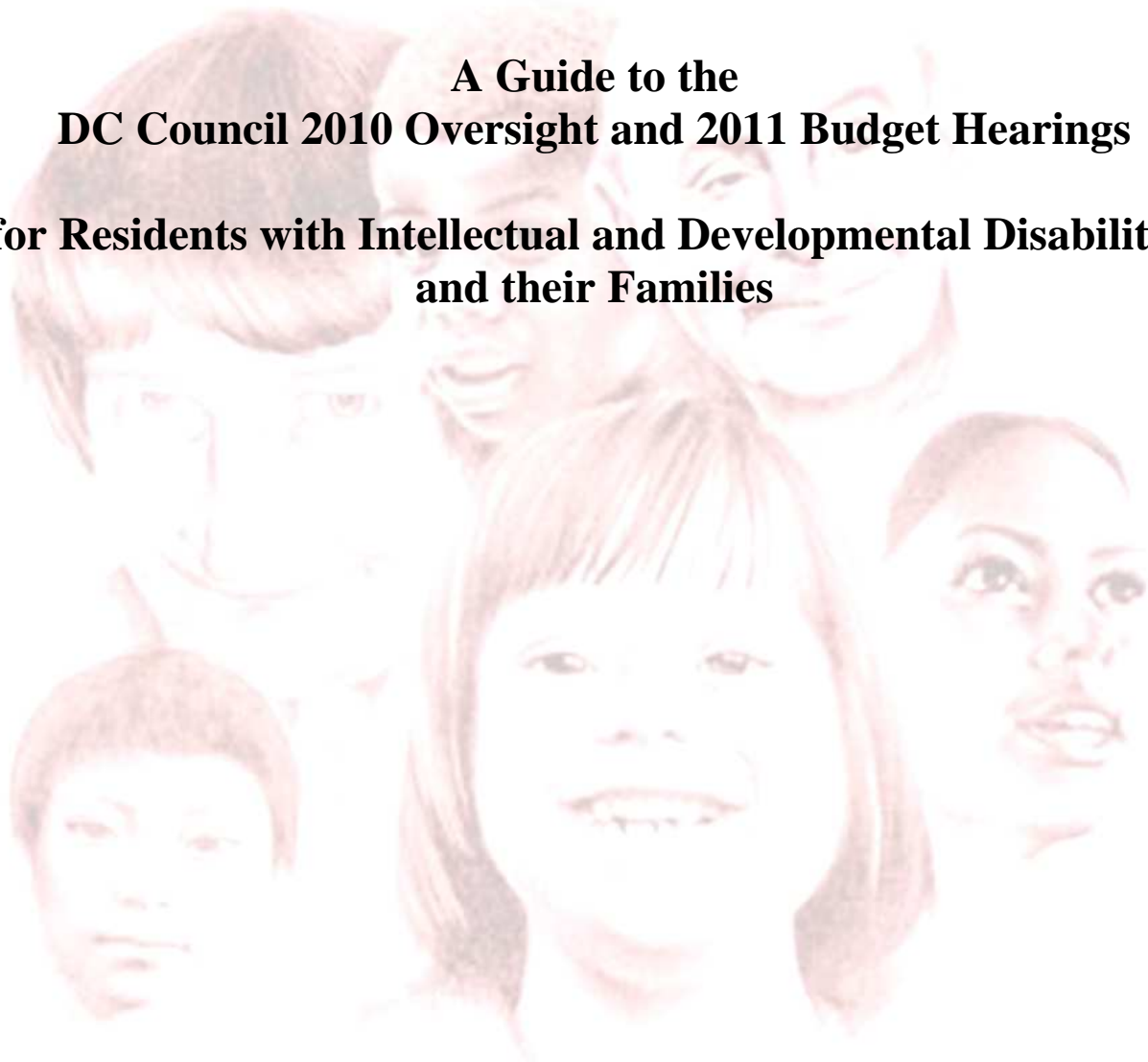


ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS:

**A Guide to the
DC Council 2010 Oversight and 2011 Budget Hearings
for Residents with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
and their Families**



The Arc of the District of Columbia
At the McCormick Pavilion
415 Michigan Avenue N.E.
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20017

**A Guide to the
DC Council 2010 Oversight and 2011 Budget Hearings
for Residents with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
and their Families**

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

February 2010

The Arc of the District of Columbia
At the McCormick Pavilion
415 Michigan Avenue, NE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20017
Phone (202) 636-2950
<http://www.arcdc.net>

A Note on Language

Across the United States, people with disabilities are calling on policy makers and the public to talk about people with disabilities in ways that show respect. Unfortunately, many words used in the past to describe people with disabilities are outdated, derogatory and offensive. The history of stigma and discrimination against people with disabilities makes respectful language an important tool to break down stereotypes and advance disability rights and awareness. For these reasons, throughout this guide The Arc of DC promotes modern, respectful language.

People First Respectful Language

The guide consistently uses “people first” language that puts people first and the disability second by using wording such as “people with disabilities,” as opposed to “the disabled.” This simple yet powerful way of showing respect was adopted locally in July 2006, when the DC Council approved a law requiring use of “people first” in all DC government laws, regulations, policies and official publications including web sites (*People First Respectful Language Modernization Act of 2006*; DC Law 16-169).

Modern Terminology

The guide consistently uses modern diagnostic terms, including “intellectual disability” and “developmental disability.” In 2009 The Arc of DC formally adopted “intellectual disability.” This change mirrors a national switch by professionals in the field to “intellectual disability” to reduce harm caused by more pejorative terms. As noted by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, “Society’s labels have consequences... But no label damages more than being called ‘mentally retarded.’” As a result of national changes, people formerly diagnosed with “mental retardation” now have a diagnosis of intellectual disability. The term is being used for health insurance, public benefits, and by professionals in the field.

Developmental Disability:

A severe, chronic disability of an individual that (i) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments; (ii) is manifested before the individual attains age 22; (iii) is likely to continue indefinitely; (iv) results in substantial functional limitations in 3 or more of the following areas of major life activity: (I) Self-care, (II) Receptive and expressive language, (III) Learning, (IV) Mobility, (V) Self-direction, (VI) Capacity for independent living. (VII) Economic self-sufficiency; and (v) reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

Source: *Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000*, P.L. 106-402, 114 STAT.

Intellectual Disability:

A disability characterized by significant limitations both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior, which covers many everyday social and practical skills. This disability originates before the age of 18.

Source: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
INTRODUCTION	3
<i>THE BUDGET PROCESS, AT A GLANCE</i>	11
<i>HOW TO GET INVOLVED</i>	12
<i>A GUIDE TO THE GUIDE</i>	13
OFFICE ON AGING	14
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY	15
OFFICE OF DISABILITY RIGHTS	17
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES	19
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES	25
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	27
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE FINANCE	29
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	31
OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS	32
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	33
<i>FAMILY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION</i>	34
<i>INCOME MAINTENANCE ADMINISTRATION (IMA)</i>	35
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH	36
OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION	37
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION	40
DC PUBLIC LIBRARY	42
DC PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS	43
DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS	44
OFFICE OF THE TENANT ADVOCATE	47
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES	48
APPENDIX A: DC COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION	49
APPENDIX B: EXECUTIVE BRANCH KEY CONTACT INFORMATION	50
APPENDIX C: ONLINE RESOURCES	51
REFERENCES	52

Introduction

The Arc of the District of Columbia, Inc. (“The Arc of DC”) is a nonprofit organization now celebrating its 60th year providing supports and advocacy to improve the quality of life of District of Columbia residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.¹

Over the years, The Arc of DC has seen many changes and improvements in the District’s services for residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Today the District faces unique challenges which highlight the need for the voices of people with disabilities, their families and supporters to be heard.

People with disabilities overwhelmingly want to live in the community and lead lives of independence and self-determination. The federal *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990* (ADA), the Supreme Court’s *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision, and the District’s *Human Rights Act of 1977* affirm these rights. Federal Medicaid dollars under home and community-based services (HCBS) waivers provide cost-effective funding to make this vision a reality. Waivers allow states to deliver a wide range of supports and services to people in their own homes, as opposed to institutions.

In 1991, the District became the second jurisdiction in the nation to close its large public institution for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (Forest Haven). While the District led the nation in deinstitutionalization, for decades it lagged behind other jurisdictions in developing a full array of HCBS waiver services to help people with disabilities live in their own homes. Fortunately, over the last several years the District has begun to make significant strides. HCBS waiver services are becoming the predominant service model, and people have increasing choices for their services, living arrangements, work and recreation.

Despite this progress, 2009 and 2010 have brought new, significant challenges. Like other jurisdictions, the District has experienced major drops in revenues and has been forced to cut agency budgets citywide. As a result, it is likely that for the first time in its history the District will start a formal waiting list for services for residents with intellectual disabilities. And while the budget shrinks, the District is under increasing pressure to show measurable improvements in quality and service outcomes.

The following discussion highlights new developments over the last year, ongoing issues and key budget challenges. We close the introductory discussion with a call to action for residents with intellectual disabilities, their families and supporters to continue to advocate strongly for adequate funding and quality services to support rights, inclusion and empowerment. The remainder of this book provides detailed information on how residents can access the DC Council’s budget process to help translate the call to action into reality.

¹ Throughout this guide The Arc of DC promotes modern language and terminology to show respect for people with disabilities. See “A Note on Language” for more information (page 14).

New Developments: 2009 - 2010

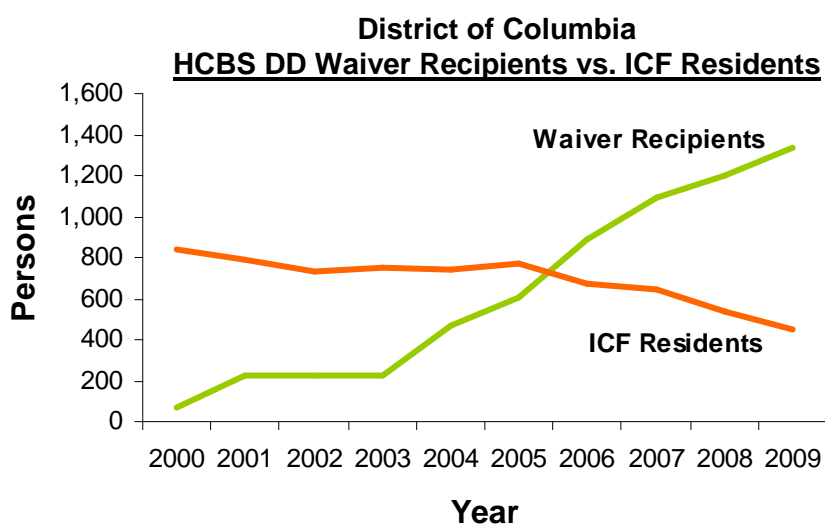
Over the last year, the District saw several significant developments affecting residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

In particular, as a result of the nationwide economic downturn the District has seen substantial revenue shortfalls in 2009 and 2010. More District-wide budget cuts are certain, and include a projected shortfall of at least \$240 million for FY 2010 and \$605 million for FY 2011.¹ As a result, all District agencies have reduced their budgets over the last year. Fortunately, the Department on Disability Services (DDS) Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) has avoided cutting direct services to currently enrolled individuals. However, it is likely that during 2010 DDA will be forced to start a waiting list for new enrollments – for the first time ever.

The Arc of DC strongly opposes waiting lists and believes that people with intellectual disabilities should not have to wait to receive necessary services. If DDA is forced to start a waiting list, it is essential the District issue regulations that ensure transparency and clear criteria for waiting list placement and rank. DDA should provide individuals and their families with regular information about when they can expect to receive services. DDA should offer a fair, unbiased and timely process for appeals of waiting list placement and rank. And finally, DDA should ensure that all individuals receive services with reasonable promptness and that no person is on a waiting list for longer than 90 days.

Other new developments in 2009 and 2010 include the following:

- ✓ DDS continued to make progress in helping people with intellectual disabilities move into community settings. From 2008 to 2009, the number of people living in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) decreased by 16% while the number of people receiving HCBS waiver services rose by 11%.²



- ✓ The DC Council introduced new, comprehensive legislation to modernize the District's laws governing services and supports for residents with developmental disabilities and their families (Bill 18-501, the *Developmental Disabilities Reform Act of 2009* or "DDRA").
- ✓ The DC Council introduced new legislation to remove the "R Word" from all District laws, regulations and government publications (Bill 18-502, the *People First Respectful Language Conforming Amendment Act of 2009*) and to require use of the modern diagnosis, "intellectual disability," in all new government laws, regulations and publications (Section 401 of the DDRA).
- ✓ In the *Evans* lawsuit (a thirty-year-old lawsuit against the District on behalf of former Forest Haven residents) the special masters in the case approved a motion by plaintiffs to appoint a Special Administrator. The Special Administrator would report to the court and control most supports and services provided to *Evans* class members at DDS as well as at other DC government agencies. However, the District government has appealed this decision, delaying any implementation.
- ✓ The District government filed a motion to dismiss the entire *Evans* case, but in December the court stated that it would deny the District's motion.
- ✓ The DC Office of Disability Rights continued to develop a District-wide Olmstead Plan for the District to systematically end and prevent unnecessary institutionalization of people with disabilities.
- ✓ The DC Department of Health Care Finance continued to implement and expand its federal Medicaid grant (called "Money Follows the Person") to help people leave ICFs and move to community living.
- ✓ The DC Developmental Disabilities Council moved from the Department of Human Services to the Office of Disability Rights.
- ✓ In an effort to create greater inclusion of students with disabilities, the DC Public Schools expanded the pilot programs for inclusive education that began in the 2008-2009 school year. The Full Service School model is now operating in 11 middle schools and the Schoolwide Application Model (SAM) is now operating in 16 elementary schools. Additionally, in October 2009 DCPS opened Early Stages, a program for children 3-5 years old to identify developmental delays and provide services accordingly.

Ongoing Issues

While a number of new issues have arisen since the last *Guide*, many have also continued from year to year. Challenges often reach across multiple District agencies and address overlapping needs. Key ongoing, overarching issues and recommendations by The Arc of DC are as follows:

Individual and Family Involvement. The District government has in the past often set policy without participation by 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, including boards and commissions, should have formal guidelines for including individuals and their families in work groups and for actively seeking input on program and policy changes. DDS, ODR and other agencies that serve people with disabilities should host regular stakeholder meetings to encourage dialogue.

New Laws, New Choices. The District’s law governing supports and services for residents with intellectual disabilities was written thirty years ago (DC Law 2-137, the *Mentally Retarded Citizens Constitutional Rights and Dignity Act of 1978*). At the time, the law was at the forefront of new thinking regarding the rights and abilities of people with disabilities. However, the last three decades produced many changes and created new kinds of services and opportunities.

For these reasons, over the summer of 2007 The Arc of DC and other community stakeholders, working with DDS and the DC Council, initiated an inclusive process for redesigning this key legislation. Based on the community’s input, in December 2007 the DC Council unanimously approved a resolution stating the values and principles that should guide the new legislation.

After two years’ work involving nearly 50 meetings, hundreds of participants, and multiple drafts, in October 2009 the DC Council introduced Bill 18-501, the *Developmental Disabilities Reform Act of 2009* (DDRA). The DDRA seeks to improve quality of life and outcomes for residents with developmental disabilities and their families and to align District services with modern best practices.

“There is a clear need for new legislation to reorganize and modernize District of Columbia law governing services and support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and for their families...the values and principles set forth in this resolution shall be reflected in new legislation introduced during the current Council session...”

-- Resolution 17-457, ***Sense of the Council Regarding Rights and Services for Residents with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Their Families Resolution of 2007.***

Recommendation: The DC Council should act quickly to approve the DDRA with the full involvement of individuals with disabilities, families and community advocates.

Recommendation: DDS should complete a comprehensive needs assessment to create a profile of District residents with developmental disabilities and their families, as required in

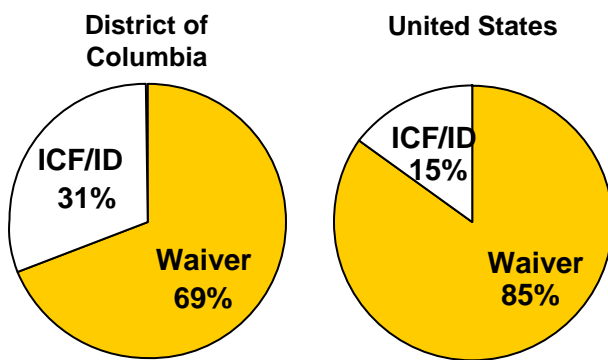
the *Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Support Act of 2009*. Needs assessment data will help inform legislative reform and program planning.

Civil Rights. The District’s laws, regulations, policies and programs should actively promote the civil rights of people with disabilities and must fully comply with relevant federal and local law.

The federal *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990* (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. 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.

Persons with ID Receiving Medicaid-funded Residential Services, 2008²



The District is one of the few jurisdictions that have failed to develop a plan to comply with the *Olmstead* decision as recommended by the Supreme Court and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Highlighting the need for an *Olmstead* Plan, the District has one of the highest rates of individuals with intellectual disabilities living in small institutions known as Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs).

Fortunately, in December 2006 the DC Council unanimously approved the *Disability Rights Protection Act of 2006* (DRPA; DC Law 16-239). As a result, the Office of Disability Rights opened for operations in November 2007 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. Under the DRPA, the District is working to create an annual *Olmstead* Plan coordinated by the Office of Disability Rights.

Recommendation: The Mayor should lend his fullest support to the work of the Office of Disability Rights, ensuring that the Office has the authority needed to work with agencies across the DC government in support of greater access for people with disabilities.

Recommendation: The FY 2011 budget should continue full funding for the Office of Disability Rights.

Recommendation: The District should develop policies to promote hiring people with disabilities across the government. For the FY 2010 budget larger agencies should be required to identify in their budgets funds set aside for employee accommodations.

Medicaid Waiver. Medicaid HCBS waivers help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live and thrive in the community, congruent with the ADA and *Olmstead*. Waivers are cost-effective because states draw down a federal match for every local dollar spent (in DC, typically

a 70% match). Waivers are central to most state efforts to help people with disabilities live in the community. During 2008 and 2009 the District took major steps to implement a fully-functioning HCBS waiver, leading to a significant increase in the proportion of residents with intellectual disabilities living in the community. Two years ago, the District also received approval for a federal Money Follows the Person (MFP) grant. MFP is a 5-year project that provides an enhanced Medicaid match to help people move from ICFs to HCBS waiver-funded community living.

Recommendation: The District should continue to make implementing the new developmental disabilities waiver a top priority.

Recommendation: The District should make implementing the District’s federal Money Follows the Person grant a top priority for 2010 and 2011.

Coordination. Many District agencies which could be working together to assist individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families instead operate separate, disjointed services. Individuals with disabilities and their families repeatedly report that confusing, divided service structures and multiple points of entry often prevent access to services. Effective case management and interagency partnerships can help ensure that people experience smooth transitions between service systems throughout their lives.

“...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

Recommendation: The District should establish within DDS a unified information and referral service for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Recommendation: The District’s school reform plans must include a strong focus on increasing the schools’ capacity to teach students with disabilities in inclusive classrooms. Both programmatic capacity as well as facility upgrades to make schools physically accessible will be key to this effort.

Recommendation: The District should continue to support the work of the Rehabilitation Services Administration’s Transition Unit, which helps youth with disabilities plan for work after high school. The DC Public Schools and Public Charter Schools should make transition services for youth with disabilities a high priority and should emphasize transition planning for youth with disabilities starting at least 4 years prior to graduation.

Person-Centered Services. As the District increasingly serves people with disabilities in the community, supports must address the unique needs of each person. Plans and services must be individualized throughout the lifespan, and service systems must prioritize choice and self-determination. 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 continue to strengthen its implementation of the Medicaid waiver for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Recommendation: The District should collaborate with individuals with disabilities and stakeholders to establish standards and monitoring for person-centered planning across agencies and to provide intense training on person-centered services to staff at all levels.

Recommendation: The District should re-establish a volunteer citizen advocacy program to help individuals with I/DD advocate for their rights and self-determination.

Cultural Competence and Language Access. At least 654 Latinos with intellectual disabilities are estimated to live in the District, yet only one day program – Life Skills – has bilingual staff serving the needs of the Latino community.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: 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 people who are deaf.

Community Education. While U.S. Census data and national estimates suggest that between 5,505 and 16,516 DC residents are persons with intellectual disabilities,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 I/DD and their families can access supports to help them reach their full potential.

Recommendation: DDS should implement an orientation program for all individuals entering the agency’s service system.

Recommendation: As noted on page 6, DDS should complete a comprehensive needs assessment to create a profile of District residents with developmental disabilities and their families, as required in the *Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Support Act of 2009*.

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 as they relate to services for people with disabilities and should be required to share this information with the public. The Mayor should require large agencies to include an activity line item in their budget showing funds earmarked for ADA coordination and accommodations.

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

Call to Action

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 fifth annual *Guide to the DC Council Oversight and Budget Hearings* is a tool to help people participate in upcoming DC Council hearings, which provide 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 DC Councilmembers as well as the Mayor, public officials, the media and the general public (all hearings are televised).

The *Guide to the DC Council 2010 Oversight and 2011 Budget Hearings* provides information on a broad range of key District agencies that must work together if people with intellectual and 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 DC 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 intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Getting Involved with the Budget

The Budget Process, At a Glance

The 2010 oversight and 2011 budget hearings are part of an annual process by which the District of Columbia develops its budget. The budget is a blueprint for the District'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 2010 to review agency performance during FY 2009 and in FY 2010 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 2011 budget to the DC Council on April 1, 2010.

After the Mayor presents his proposed 2011 budget, the DC Council Committees will hold *budget hearings* in 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 2011 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/BudgetMap-1106.pdf>

FY2010 Oversight & FY2011 Budget Calendar

**February 17 –
March 19**

Agency performance
oversight hearings for
FY 2009 / FY 2010

**Thursday,
April 1**

Introduction of the Mayor's
proposed
FY 2011 Budget

**Monday,
April 12**

Public Briefing on the
Mayor's proposed
FY 2011 Budget

**April 13 –
May 7**

Public hearings on the
Mayor's proposed
FY 2011 Budget

**May 11 –
May 13**

Committee mark-ups of
agency budgets

**Tuesday,
May 25**

Council vote on the
FY 2011 Budget
Request Act

Getting Involved with the Budget

How to Get Involved

The DC Council encourages public participation in every step of the budget process. Residents can voice their opinions by 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 B.

Getting Information about the Budget

To obtain a copy of the Mayor's budget proposal after April 1, 2010 call (202) 727-6343 or visit <http://cfo.dc.gov>. 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://octt.dc.gov>.

Testifying at Hearings

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. **Hearing dates, times and locations are subject to change.** It's always best to check with the appropriate committee clerk before attending or signing up to testify. To sign up, contact the committee clerk that covers the agency for which you want to testify. Signing up as soon as possible is recommended.

Helpful Hints for Preparing your 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.
- ❖ Each witness is required to submit written testimony and is usually asked to bring 20 copies to hand in at the hearing. Individual witnesses typically have 3 minutes. Time limits for panels vary and should be verified with the Committee clerk.

When testifying:

- ❖ After witnesses testify, the Councilmembers may ask questions. Bring a pen to write down questions or note 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 summarize a longer written testimony.

Questions or need help preparing testimony? Contact The Arc of DC at (202) 636-2963.

Getting Involved with the Budget

A Guide to the Guide

Each section of this guide identifies a District government agency that offers services that may be of use to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families and then discusses relevant programs within each agency.

For each agency, the guide identifies the following information:

Purpose: The agency's mission, as stated in its FY 2010 Performance Plan.

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

Website: The agency's internet address.

Director: The name of the agency's Director or head.

FY2010 Agency Budget: The agency budget as identified in the District of Columbia's September 28, 2009 budget submission to Congress

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

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 agency's relevance to people with I/DD and their families.

Each agency section is followed by information on programs or offices within the agency that provide services that may be of interest to individuals with I/DD and their families. For each program, the guide provides information on the program's purpose, relevant services, and the FY 2009 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 to DC residents with I/DD.

Finally, for each agency 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 promote longevity, independence, dignity, and choice for District of Columbia residents who are age 60 and older.

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

Phone: (202) 724-5622

Website: <http://dcoa.dc.gov>

Executive Director: Clarence Brown, PhD

Budget (FY2010): \$23,003,914

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Aging and Community Affairs

Committee Chair: Yvette Alexander

Committee Members: Jim Graham, Mary M. Cheh, Harry Thomas, Jr., Michael A. Brown

Committee Contact: Victor A. Bonett, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 17
(202) 741-2112 / ybonett@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Wednesday, February 24, 2010	Thursday, May 6, 2010
Time:	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Location:	Room 412	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Ed Fisher, (202) 741-2110, efisher@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

People with I/DD who are aging should be able to access the same services as all senior citizens. Assisting people with I/DD in programs that also serve older adults without I/DD is a desirable policy goal that is consistent with the federal *Americans with Disabilities Act*. The Office on Aging's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), which opened in 2008, is a major step toward greater coordination and integration of aging and disability services. However, many community programs remain unequipped to meet the needs of older adults with I/DD. As a result, many older individuals with I/DD primarily participate in specialized day programs operated by the Department on Disability Services, Developmental Disabilities Administration.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How many individuals with I/DD does the Office on Aging programs currently serve?
- ✓ How does the Office on Aging coordinate its services with the DDS?
- ✓ What additional resources – such as enhanced interagency collaborations, new revenues, education and training – might allow the Office on Aging to expand its services for older residents with I/DD?

Child and Family Services Agency

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To ensure the safety, permanence, and well-being of abused and neglected children and to strengthen troubled families in the District of Columbia.

Contact Information: 400 6th Street, SW, 5th Floor / Washington, DC 20024
Phone: (202) 442-6000

Website: <http://cfsa.dc.gov>

Director: Roque R. Gerald, Psy.D

Budget (FY2010): \$269,961,583

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Human Services

Committee Chair: Tommy Wells

Committee Members: Muriel Bowser, Phil Mendelson, Marion Barry, Michael Brown.

Committee Contact: Adam Maier, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 408
(202) 724-8035 / amaier@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Thursday, March 11, 2010	Thursday, April 22, 2010
Time:	1:00 p.m. - End	1:00 p.m. - End
Location:	Room 500	Room 412
Contact for Testimony:	Vivian McCarter, (202) 724-8191, vmccarter@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. Although CFSA already serves many children with disabilities, the need for expanded capacity is widely recognized. According to CFSA's 2009 Annual Progress Report, there are 35 available beds with family-based caretakers for children identified as medically fragile or developmentally delayed. Outside of this, CFSA contracts 51 congregate care slots for children who have needs that cannot be addressed by family-based caretakers. Enhanced capacity to serve children and youth with disabilities is needed both within the CFSA system and in the area of transition for youth who are exiting or aging out of the system.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How does CFSA identify and assess children and youth with disabilities?
- ✓ How many children and youth with disabilities did CFSA assist in 2009?
- ✓ How does CFSA support foster and adoptive families of children with disabilities?
- ✓ How does CFSA work with parents with I/DD who come into the CFSA system?

QUESTIONS & ISSUES (continued)

- ✓ How does CFSA collaborate with early intervention and special education?
- ✓ How does CFSA coordinate with DDS to assist youth with disabilities who are aging out of the foster care system?
- ✓ What is the capacity of the CFSA Independent Living Program (for current and former foster youth age 16 to 21) to assist youth with disabilities?
- ✓ What barriers do children and youth with disabilities face in accessing the DC KIDS health care program?
- ✓ What additional resources and collaborations could assist CFSA in serving children and youth with disabilities?

Office of Disability Rights

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To ensure that every program, service, benefit, and activity operated or funded by the District of Columbia is fully accessible to, and usable by, people with disabilities.

Contact Information: 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 729N / Washington, DC 20001

Phone: (202) 724-5055

Website: <http://odr.dc.gov>

Interim Director: Derek Orr

Program Budget (FY2010): \$1,135,262

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Government Operations and the Environment

Committee Chair: Mary M. Cheh

Committee Members: David A. Catania, Kwame R. Brown, Harry Thomas, Jr., Tommy Wells

Committee Contact: Jeremy Faust, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 108
(202) 724-4902 / jfaust@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Wednesday, March 17, 2010	Friday, May 7, 2010
Time:	10:00 a.m. - End	10:00 a.m. - End
Location:	Room 412	Room 412
Contact for Testimony:	Aukima Benjamin, 202-724-8062, abenjamin@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

The Office of Disability Rights (ODR) was established in November 2007 in accordance with the *Disability Rights Protection Act of 2006* (DC Law 16-239; effective March 8, 2007). The ODR provides training, technical assistance, monitoring and information and referral to support the District government's compliance with the federal *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990* (ADA) and related disability rights laws. The *Disability Rights Protection Act* also requires the District to create an annual Olmstead Plan to describe how the District will serve people with disabilities in the most inclusive community setting as required under the ADA. The ODR is responsible for coordinating the development of the Olmstead Plan. The ODR also houses the District of Columbia Commission on Persons with Disabilities and, new in 2009, the District of Columbia Developmental Disabilities Council.

Highlights from the ODR's second year of operations include:

- ♦ Improvements to the DC government's ability to communicate with residents with disabilities – including enhanced accessibility features on DC.GOV, a new District-wide policy on auxiliary aids, and a pilot project to centralize dispatch and payment of sign language interpreters.

- ◆ Continued work to develop a District-wide Olmstead Plan for the District to help people with disabilities live in the community as opposed to institutions.
- ◆ Collaboration with the DC Taxicab Commission to bring wheelchair accessible taxicabs to the District.
- ◆ New policies and support for accommodations for District government employees with disabilities.
- ◆ Movement of the DC Developmental Disabilities Council from the Department of Human Services to the ODR.

While the ODR has made significant accomplishments over the last year, unfortunately the agency has taken a disproportionate share of District-wide budget cuts. Since 2009, the ODR has sustained a 28% budget cut (from \$1,567,851 in the District's initial FY 2009 Congressional budget submission to \$1,135,262 in the current FY 2010 budget). Due to budget reductions, the agency has lost 2 full-time staff positions, out of a total initial planned staff of 11. In 2009 an ADA specialist position was eliminated with the resignation of the incumbent, and a planned position (for a full-time sign language interpreter) was eliminated before ever being filled. Additionally, the position of Deputy Director is vacant.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ Will the FY 2011 budget support full staffing for the ODR? Are current staffing levels (a Director and 7 full-time staff) sufficient for the ODR's work load?
- ✓ What kinds of individual complaints does ODR receive, and how does the ODR resolve different categories of complaints?
- ✓ What kinds of requests for technical assistance does the ODR receive from DC government agencies, and how does the ODR resolve those requests?
- ✓ What initiatives does the ODR see as its top priorities for 2010 and 2011?
- ✓ As the ODR helps DC government agencies assess their current levels of accessibility and plans for greater accessibility, how should the ODR and agencies best address key needs including:
 - Facilities accessibility prioritization and funding?
 - Sign language interpretation?
 - Employee accommodations?
- ✓ What commitments are agencies making in support of the Olmstead Plan, and will these commitments be tracked using CapSTAT?
- ✓ In what ways is ODR involving people with disabilities in its work?
- ✓ What mechanisms are currently and potentially available to the ODR to help ensure change if ODR identifies accessibility problems during the course of its monitoring and related activities?
- ✓ What is the status of the development of the various reports (e.g., ADA assessments, annual reports etc.) required under the *Disability Rights Protection Act*?
- ✓ What new policies would the ODR recommend to encourage the DC government to hire people with disabilities?

Department on Disability Services

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To provide innovative high quality services that enable people with disabilities to lead meaningful and productive lives as vital members of their families, schools, workplaces and communities in every neighborhood in the District of Columbia.

Contact Information: 1125 15th Street, NW / Washington, DC 20005

Phone: (202) 730-1700

Website: <http://dds.dc.gov>

Director: Judith E. Heumann

Program Budget (FY2010): \$95,129,832

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Human Services

Committee Chair: Tommy Wells

Committee Members: Muriel Bowser, Phil Mendelson, Marion Barry, Michael Brown

Committee Contact: Adam Maier, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 408
(202) 724-8035 / amaier@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Thursday, March 11, 2010	Thursday, April 22, 2010
Time:	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Location:	Room 500	Room 412
Contact for Testimony:	Vivian McCarter, (202) 724-8191, vmccarter@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

DDS is the lead District agency assisting residents with disabilities, including people with I/DD and their families. DDS was created in 2007 by DC Law 16-264, the *Developmental Disabilities Services Management Reform Amendment Act of 2006*. The law charges DDS with “Leading the reform of the District’s mental retardation and developmental disabilities system by coordinating the collaborative efforts of government agencies...”⁶

DDS has two administrations: the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). In 2007, Mayor Fenty recruited nationally-recognized disability experts to serve in top DDS management positions. After spending much of 2007 finalizing and implementing a new organizational structure and management system, in 2008 and 2009 DDS leadership continued to work on key reforms. Goals for 2010 include:⁷

- ◆ Increasing employment, with a focus on persons with the most significant disabilities. RSA plans to increase the number of people employed for 90 days or more from 394 in FY 2009 (target) to 600 in FY 2010 (target).
- ◆ Improving the efficiency of RSA services, customer service, and service capacity.

- ♦ Strengthening and expanding collaboration and coordination of transition service to improve opportunities for youth transitioning from school to work. RSA plans to increase transition referrals from 450 in FY 2009 (target) to 525 in FY 2010 (target) and to ensure that 50% of all transition-aged youth in their junior year or later have an Individual Plan for Employment (IPE).
- ♦ Enhancing DDA participant access through outreach, timely service planning and timely service delivery. In FY 2010, DDA plans to meet intake timeline requirements 50% of the time, to meet prior authorization timeline requirements 80% of the time, to complete individual service plans on-time 90% of the time, to resolve issues on-time 50% of the time, and to deliver health and clinical services within appropriate timelines 75% of the time.
- ♦ Recruiting and retaining qualified DDA providers and removing poorly performing providers. In FY 2010 DDA plans to identify and make available 5 new health service providers.
- ♦ Improving the performance of DDA and providers to meet all health, safety and welfare requirements. In FY 2010 DDA plans to train 90% of DDA staff on psychotropic medication and medical monitoring skills, and to institute a range of improvements in monitoring and investigations.
- ♦ Improving the timely assessment of health care decision making and subsequent guardianship proceedings. In FY 2010 DDA plans to increase timeliness of filing guardianship packages from 20% to 75% filed within DDA/OAG policy guidelines.
- ♦ Increasing the number of individuals who achieve quality of life outcomes in the areas of health, work, relationships and community inclusion. In FY 2010, DDA plans to decrease the percent of individuals living in ICFs from 23% (FY09 year-to-date) to 21% and to provide supported employment to 120 people.

Department on Disability Services

Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To ensure that residents with developmental disabilities receive the services and supports they need to lead self-determined and valued lives in the community.

Relevant Services: DDA Service Planning and Coordination, Quality Assurance, DDA Consumer Resource OPNS, DDA Incident Management & Enforcement, Medicaid Waiver eligibility and enrollment

Deputy Director: Laura Nuss

Program Budget (FY2010): \$50,685,498

IMPORTANCE

DDA is the District's lead agency providing and coordinating supports and services for residents with I/DD and their families. DDA serves approximately 2,000 individuals per year. Yet, national data suggest that there may be between 5,505 and 16,516 DC residents with intellectual disabilities, and an even larger population with related developmental disabilities. Many individuals who might benefit from community services are currently unserved or underserved. Similar needs exist in the area of family supports. Ultimately, DDA must strive to assist *all* District residents with I/DD and to offer meaningful choices in both services and living arrangements.

As noted in the *New Developments* section (p. 5), DDA currently faces significant challenges including involvement with the *Evans* class action law suit, as well as budget reductions which may force DDA to start a waiting list for the first time in the District's history.

Positive developments for DDA include significantly enhanced HCBS waiver services which include new, flexible services such as host home (where a individual lives in a "host home" which provides basic supports) and companion care (where a "companion" lives with an individual and provides basic supports). DDA has also made progress under the federal Money Follows the Person (MFP) grant: from the MFP grant's inception through 2009, the project has helped 53 people transition from Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) to community living under the HCBS waiver.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ What key issues does DDA face in promoting quality of life and community inclusion for individuals with I/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 DDA only served approximately 2,000 individuals in 2009. What barriers prevent DDA from serving all District residents with I/DD?
- ✓ How does DDA offer people choices in services and living arrangements? How does DDA balance responsiveness to individual and family needs with regulatory and court order compliance?
- ✓ Will DDA be forced to start a waiting list for services in FY10? If so, when will DDA propose regulations to implement the waiting list?
- ✓ What is the status of the needs assessment of residents with developmental disabilities, which is due September 2010 as required by the *Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Support Act*?

QUESTIONS & ISSUES (continued)

- ✓ The Medicaid HCBS Waiver is a federal funding stream to help people with I/DD live in the community:
 - What barriers prevent implementation of the waiver and transitioning individuals from group homes into the community?
 - How is DDA working with the Department of Health Care Finance on implementation of the revised waiver? Is DDA, as required under D.C. Official Code § 7-761.07 (a), directing “policy development and design of services and supports?”
 - Under the waiver, people with I/DD will increasingly need affordable, accessible housing in the community. What resources and interagency collaborations could help facilitate access to housing?
- ✓ How does DDA 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 I/DD face in receiving timely, appropriate health care?
- ✓ With regard to family supports:
 - How do DDA’s family support services compare with other jurisdictions’?
 - How do families learn about DDA services?
- ✓ How does DDA involve individuals and families in policymaking?
- ✓ How does DDA reach out to and serve individuals and families with limited English proficiency and individuals who are deaf?
- ✓ How do people who are new to DDA learn about how the DDA service system works, their rights within the service system, and how to resolve problems?
- ✓ With regard to individuals who are dually diagnosed with I/DD and mental illness:
 - How does DDA 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 DDA internal restructuring and efforts to ensure quality case management and program operations?
- ✓ How does DDA plan to help residents with I/DD who have been sent to out-of-state programs return to the District?
- ✓ How does DDA plan to offer people a way to pursue grievances and resolve problems with services and challenges to their rights?

Department on Disability Services

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To provide comprehensive vocational and independent living services to persons with disabilities to promote their opportunities for employment, economic self-sufficiency and independence.

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

Deputy Director: Roy Albert

Program Budget (FY2010): \$28,702,139

IMPORTANCE

People with I/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 I/DD. Nationally, only 7 to 23 percent of adults with intellectual disabilities work full-time, and an additional 9 to 20 percent work part-time.⁸ Training and employment services can help people with I/DD find work and succeed in rewarding jobs.

RSA vocational rehabilitation services are federally-funded supports to help people with disabilities, including individuals with I/DD, find and retain jobs. 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 DDA: people who wish to receive employment services under the DDA HCBS waiver must in effect be referred through RSA.

Federally-mandated RSA transition services can play a key role in helping youth with disabilities prepare to graduate from or exit the public schools, but 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. Approximately 46% of public school students with I/DD graduate with a certificate rather than a diploma, which makes finding a job more difficult.⁹ In FY 2007, the DC Council's Committee on Human Services provided RSA with \$250,000 to hire staff to provide transition services in the public schools. This was the first time a local appropriation was directed to RSA to facilitate this work. Fortunately, local funding for transition services has continued for the past two fiscal years.

Additionally, in January 2010 the Office of the State Superintendent of Education published its new Secondary Transition policy. For the first time ever, OSSE is requiring all local education agencies to invite an RSA representative to transition planning team meetings for students receiving special education services. This highly beneficial development will facilitate earlier linkages to RSA for students in need of RSA services.

QUESTION & ISSUES

- ✓ How many individuals with I/DD used RSA services in 2009? Which RSA services were accessed?
- ✓ For RSA participants with I/DD:
 - What is the average employment rate?
 - What is the average employment retention rate?
 - What is the average wage?

QUESTION & ISSUES (continued)

- ✓ With regard to transition from school to work or post-secondary education:
 - How many referrals did RSA receive in 2009 from the DC Public Schools (DCPS) and Public Charter Schools (PCS)? How does this compare with the number of youth receiving special education services?
 - How does RSA coordinate with DCPS and PCS to ensure transition planning to prepare all youth with disabilities for post-secondary opportunities including vocational rehabilitation services? What barriers prevent effective collaboration with DCPS and PCS?
 - How is RSA using the \$250,000 in local funds to enhance its transition services?
 - Does RSA have sufficient resources to address the transition needs of DCPS and PCS youth in future years?
 - How can RSA partner with employers to understand the value of a certificate?
 - How can RSA work with students to provide vocational opportunities to youth while they are still in school?
 - How is RSA working with students in nonpublic placements to ensure they have post-secondary opportunities when they come back into the District?
 - How will RSA track referrals under the new OSSE Secondary Transition policy?
- ✓ With regard to systems coordination:
 - What formal structures has RSA put in place for coordination of service delivery between Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Employment Services' 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 DDA?
 - Beyond eligibility determination, how else does RSA coordinate its services and funding streams with those of DDA?
 - For individuals who are diagnosed with both I/DD and mental illness, how does RSA coordinate its services with those of DDA and the Department of Mental Health?
 - How does RSA collaborate with the Income Maintenance Administration, the District's child care programs, Medicaid, and community agencies to identify appropriate and/or alternative benefits for individuals?

Department of Employment Services

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To foster and promote the welfare of job seekers and wage earners by improving their working conditions, advancing opportunities for employment, helping employers find workers, and tracking changes in employment and other national economic measurements impacting the District of Columbia.

Contact Information: 64 New York Ave. NE, Suite 3000 / Washington, DC 20002

Phone: (202) 724-7000

Website: <http://does.dc.gov>

Acting Director: Joseph Walsh

Budget (FY2010): \$141,439,167

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Housing and Workforce Development

Committee Chair: Marion Barry

Committee Members: Phil Mendelson, Jim Graham, Harry Thomas, Jr., Michael A. Brown

Committee Contact: Drew Hubbard, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 112
(202) 727-8230 / dhubbard@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Friday, March 5, 2010	Thursday, April 15, 2010
Time:	10:00 a.m. - End	2:00 p.m. - End
Location:	Room 500	Room 412
Contact for Testimony:	Drew Hubbard, (202) 727-8230 or dhubbard@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

DOES is the District's lead employment agency. 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 wage laws. In this capacity, DOES was tasked with issuing regulations to implement the *DC Way to Work Amendment Act of 2006* (DC Law 16-118; effective June 8, 2006). The law requires all DC government contractors receiving over \$100,000 annually to pay at least \$11.75 per hour. Nationally and locally, direct care workers often earn at or near the minimum wage. The ability to pay a living wage is essential to reducing direct care staff turnover and raising the quality of services. Fortunately, the Medicaid waiver for persons with I/DD supports the living wage – and was the first Medicaid program in DC to do so. However, many other services of interest to residents with I/DD are still awaiting implementation of the living wage.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ When will DOES issue final regulations for the *Way to Work Amendment Act*?
- ✓ When will the DC budget fund the living wage across all government agencies?

Department of Employment Services

Workforce Development

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

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

Program Budget (FY2010): \$71,651,671

IMPORTANCE

DOES operates 2 full-service and 7 satellite One Stop Career Centers across the District to provide residents with services and skills to enhance their employment opportunities. According to DOES, the full-service centers have received disability accessibility enhancements and all centers offer TTY, closed-captioning, and enhanced computer screens for people with low vision.¹⁰ An on-site representative from the DDS Rehabilitation Services Administration serves as a Disability Resource Specialist at both full-service centers.

A 2005 survey of DOES One Stop Centers by the Inclusion Research Institute, found that 66% of One Stop customers with disabilities were unemployed and 42% were looking for work.¹¹ These figures exist despite the ability and eagerness of individuals with disabilities to engage in meaningful work in the community. Nationally, approximately 32% of people with an intellectual disability are employed.¹² As a result, relatively few individuals with I/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 stepping stone to the kinds of career development, job training, and supportive services that can help individuals with I/DD work. One Stop services could complement, in a cost-efficient manner, the more intensive and targeted job training and placement services offered through DDS. However, currently the capacity of the One Stop Centers to serve people with I/DD is limited. For example, the One Stops generally gear their training services for individuals with at least a 6th to 8th grade reading level. This precludes many individuals with intellectual disabilities (and other residents with low literacy) from services.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How many people with I/DD does DOES assist annually, with what outcomes?
- ✓ How does DOES coordinate with the public schools to help exiting youth?
- ✓ What measures is DOES taking to overcome barriers to One Stop services that face people with disabilities?
- ✓ What measures is DOES taking to incorporate training providers who can assist individuals who read below an 8th grade level into the One Stop System?
- ✓ How is the disability community represented on the Workforce Investment Council, which oversees the One Stop Centers?
- ✓ How does DOES coordinate One Stop services with Medicaid waiver employment services operated by the Developmental Disabilities Administration?
- ✓ How does DOES publicize its One Stop services among people with disabilities?
- ✓ How does DOES educate employers about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities and the rights of employees with disabilities?
- ✓ How does DOES work with RSA to help individuals with disabilities find work?

Department of Health

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To promote healthy lifestyles, prevent illness, protect the public from threats to their health, and provide equal access to quality healthcare services for all in the District of Columbia.

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

Phone: (202) 442-5955

Website: <http://doh.dc.gov>

Director: Pierre Vigilance

Budget (FY2010): \$249,846,193

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Health

Committee Chair: David A. Catania

Committee Members: Yvette Alexander, Mary Cheh, Marion Barry, Tommy Wells

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

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Thursday, March 18, 2010	Wednesday, April 21, 2010
Time:	10:00 a.m. - End	10:00 a.m. - End
Location:	Room 500	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Jennifer Barry, (202) 724-8170, jbarry@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

People with I/DD need dependable, high quality health care in the community as well as affordable, comprehensive health insurance. Unfortunately, people with intellectual disabilities in particular have a higher risk of obesity, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, seizures, mental illness and behavior disorders, hearing and vision problems, and poor coordination and fitness.¹³ Despite this, people with I/DD often face numerous barriers to accessing timely, quality health care.

DOH programs address many of the major needs and challenges confronting people with I/DD. Core services include community health services; addiction and recovery services; health regulation and licensing, HIV/AIDS services, immunization, nutrition, and professional licensing.

Department of Health

Community Health Administration (CHA)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To improve health outcomes for targeted populations by promoting coordination within the health care system, by enhancing access to prevention, medical care and support services, and by fostering public participation in the design and implementation of programs for District of Columbia women, infants, children (including children with special health care needs) and other family members.

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

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

Phone: (202) 442-5925

Senior Deputy Director: Carlos Cano

Program Budget (FY2010): \$70,558,737

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ What is the status of the District's efforts to ensure that all children receive the full array of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) services?
- ✓ How does the Community Health Administration track and use newborn screening data to identify prevention strategies and 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 Community Health Administration put in place for coordination with the early intervention services?
- ✓ With regard to school-based health clinics:
 - How many children were served in school-based health clinics in 2009?
 - 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 partnerships exist with the public schools to increase capacity?
- ✓ How can DOH partner with DDS to recruit and support existing and new health professionals to work with people with I/DD?

Department of Health Care Finance

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To improve health outcomes by providing access to comprehensive, cost-effective and quality healthcare services for residents of the District of Columbia.

Contact Information: 825 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 500 / Washington, DC 20002

Phone: (202) 442-5988

Website: <http://doh.dc.gov>

Director: Julie Hudman

Budget (FY2010): \$2,075,214,343

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Health

Committee Chair: David A. Catania

Committee Members: Yvette Alexander, Mary Cheh, Marion Barry, Tommy Wells

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

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Thursday, March 4, 2010	Thursday, April 29, 2010
Time:	10:00 a.m. - End	10:00 a.m. - End
Location:	Room 500	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Jennifer Barry, (202) 724-8170, jbarry@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

Medicaid is the District’s primary funding source for supports and services for residents with I/DD and their families. As of October 1, 2008 responsibility for the District’s Medicaid program was transferred from the Department of Health to the newly-formed Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF). During FY 2009, the DHCF initiated major reorganization and hiring to direct staffing and resources to priority areas.

DHCF and the DDS Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) work closely together to coordinate services for residents with I/DD. Under local law, DDA is charged with directing “policy development and design of services and supports” for Medicaid-funded services to residents with I/DD (D.C. Official Code § 7-761.07 (a)). Past gaps in communication between the two agencies often led to serious problems for people served by DDA. Fortunately, during 2009 DHCF greatly enhanced its ability to coordinate long-term care and community-based services with DDA through reorganization and hiring new staff with expertise in I/DD Medicaid services. As a result, coordination and collaboration between the two agencies have been greatly enhanced and are leading to improved service delivery systems.

During 2009, the District’s Medicaid program worked closely with DDA on a variety of initiatives, including:

- ◆ Implementation of the District’s Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services waiver for residents with I/DD; and
- ◆ Implementation of a 5-year federal Money Follows the Person (MFP) grant which provides enhanced federal matching funds to help District residents move from Medicaid-funded institutions to the community. Through 2009, the MFP program has transitioned 53 people with I/DD from ICFs to waiver services. For 2010, the MFP program will seek to transition another 60 people with I/DD.¹⁴

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ With regard to the HCBS Medicaid waiver for residents with I/DD:
 - How is DHCF working with DDS to fully implement the HCBS waiver?
 - For each waiver service, how many individuals are currently:
 - a) approved for the service; and
 - b) receiving the service?
 - For each waiver service, how many providers:
 - a) are currently providing the service;
 - b) were providing the service during FY 2009?
- ✓ What is the status of efforts to create a new Medicaid waiver to provide services for children and adults with autism?
- ✓ What is the status of the District’s Medicaid Money Follows the Person grant?
- ✓ What performance measures will DHCF track for FY 2011 related to the ID/DD HCBS Waiver?
- ✓ Did DHCF apply for all relevant federal grant opportunities that could improve services for residents with DD during FY 2009?
- ✓ How does DHCF’s current staffing support its workload related to managing and monitoring multiple Medicaid waivers? Is additional staff required?
- ✓ How will the federal stimulus package affect Medicaid revenues for FY 2010 and FY 2011?

Department of Housing and Community Development

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To create and preserve opportunities for affordable housing, promote economic development, and revitalize underserved communities in the District of Columbia.

Contact Information: 1800 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE / Washington, DC 20020

Phone: (202) 442-7200

Website: <http://dhcd.dc.gov>

Director: Leila Finucane Edmonds

Budget (FY2010): \$91,591,476

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Housing and Workforce Development

Committee Chair: Marion Barry

Committee Members: Harry Thomas Jr., Phil Mendelson, Jim Graham, Michael A. Brown

Committee Contact: Drew Hubbard, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 112
(202) 727-8230 / dhubbard@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Friday, March 19, 2010	Wednesday, May 5, 2010
Time:	10:00 a.m. - End	2:00 p.m. - End
Location:	Room 412	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Drew Hubbard, (202) 727-8230, dhubbard@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

The District is currently working to help people with I/DD live in the community. If successful, this effort will increase the need for affordable, accessible housing for individuals with I/DD. The District's ongoing affordable housing crisis will make finding housing for persons receiving services under the Medicaid Waiver for individuals with I/DD particularly challenging. For example, the District's 2010 Fair Market Rent for a one-bedroom apartment was \$1,318 per month, as established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; yet according to the Social Security Administration, the average Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment in the District in 2008 was only \$492.92 per month.

Furthermore, much of the District's housing stock is inaccessible to people with physical disabilities. Recognizing this, both the District's Comprehensive Plan (Policy H-4.2.4) and the District's Comprehensive Housing Strategy Taskforce (Recommendation 4.8) establish a goal that 8% of the District's housing will be accessible to persons with physical disabilities.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How is DHCD working with DDA to promote affordable, accessible housing for people with DD?
- ✓ What steps is DHCD taking to help realize the goal of 8% accessible housing?

Office of Human Rights

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To eradicate discrimination, increase equal opportunity, and protect human rights in the city.

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

Phone: (202) 727-4559

Website: <http://ohr.dc.gov>

Director: Gustavo F. Velasquez

Budget (FY2010): \$2,934,813

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Aging and Community Affairs

Committee Chair: Yvette M. Alexander

Committee Members: Jim Graham; Mary M. Cheh; Harry Thomas, Jr.; Michael A. Brown

Committee Contact: Victor A. Bonett, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 17
(202) 741-2112 / ybonett@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Wednesday, February 24, 2010	Wednesday, April 21, 2010
Time:	1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Location:	Room 412	Room 412
Contact for Testimony:	Victor Bonett, (202) 741-2112, vbonett@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

The Office of Human Rights (OHR) is the District's lead agency charged with investigating complaints of unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations (such as restaurants, banks, hospitals etc.), and educational institutions. Under the District's *Human Rights Act*, OHR investigates many kinds of discrimination, including discrimination against people with disabilities. OHR's services include a mandatory mediation program for all complaints. OHR can also refer complaints for legal action to the DC Office of the Attorney General.

Under the *Disability Rights Protection Act of 2006*, OHR can receive cases from the new DC Office of Disability Rights. In 2009, disability was one of the top bases for OHR's enforcement actions (24% of employment cases and 32% of public accommodation cases) and was the #1 basis for fair housing complaints filed with OHR (making up 41% of all fair housing complaints).¹⁵

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ What trends does OHR expect to see in disability-related enforcement and complaints during 2010 and 2011?
- ✓ How are disability rights cases where OHR finds probable cause of discrimination by the District government enforced?
- ✓ How does OHR work with the Office of Disability Rights?

Department of Human Services

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To coordinate and provide a range of services that collectively create the enabling conditions for economically and socially challenged residents of the District of Columbia to enhance their quality of life and achieve greater degrees of self-sufficiency.

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

Phone: (202) 671-4200

Website: <http://dhs.dc.gov>

Director: Clarence H. Carter

Budget (FY2010): \$334,525,465

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Human Services

Committee Chair: Tommy Wells

Committee Members: Muriel Bowser, Phil Mendelson, Marion Barry, Michael A. Brown

Committee Contact: Adam Maier, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 117
(202) 724-8035 / amaier@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Wednesday, February 17, 2010	Monday, April 19, 2010
Time:	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location:	Room 500	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Vivian McCarter, (202) 724-8191, vmccarter@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

During 2007 both the Rehabilitation Services Administration and the Developmental Disabilities Administration moved from the Department on Human Services (DHS) to the Department on Disability Services (DDS). During 2009, the Developmental Disabilities Council (a federally-mandated council charged with advocating with and on behalf of residents with developmental disabilities) moved from DHS to the Office of Disability Rights.

Despite this shift, DHS remains a key agency for residents with I/DD. As one of the District's lead social service agencies, virtually all DHS services affect people with I/DD and their families in one way or another.

Ensuring that the various DHS programs operate in a comprehensive, 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. Coordination with DDS, the District's Medicaid program, and other agencies which serve residents with I/DD will also be increasingly important in 2011 as government agencies continue to restructure their programs.

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, Adult Protective Services
Program Administrator:	Fred Swan
Program Budget (FY2010):	\$103,817,531

IMPORTANCE

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

Unfortunately, the District's shelter accessibility is woefully inadequate. In 2007 the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) launched a first-in-the-nation investigation of accessibility in DC homeless shelters. Of the District's 36 shelters, not a single one was found to be fully accessible. In December 2008, DOJ and the District reached a settlement which set clear guidelines for improving physical access at shelters and providing training and technical assistance to help shelter staff better assist people with disabilities.

While training and program accessibility have improved since the settlement, the District still faces enormous challenges. For example, no shelters for individuals, or severe weather family shelters, are apartment-style. Shared living space can worsen the health of residents with immune-suppression disorders or disorders in which a sterile environment is necessary. Also, the year-round family shelter inventory is unable to adequately serve families with mobility impairments. Currently, families using wheelchairs and families who need non-communal shelter are told that they can either go to D.C. General (which is not wheelchair accessible) or receive no shelter at all.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How often do shelters encounter children and adults with disabilities, and what kinds of disabilities – including I/DD – are most common?
- ✓ What trainings do shelter staff and street outreach staff receive on working with individuals with I/DD and on information and referral options?
- ✓ What additional interagency partnerships and resources might enhance FSA's ability to serve children and adults with I/DD who are homeless?
- ✓ What capital spending does FSA anticipate to make shelters ADA compliant in accordance with the DOJ settlement?
- ✓ What steps is FSA taking to make all shelters fully accessible and to grant reasonable accommodation requests immediately when necessary to avoid "serious harm to an individual with a disability," as required by the DOJ settlement?

Department of Human Services

Income Maintenance Administration (IMA)

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

Interim Administrator: Deborah Carroll

Program Budget (FY2010): \$207,305,098

IMPORTANCE

IMA operates the District's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, which provides cash assistance to needy families with dependent children when available resources do not fully address the family's needs and while preparing program participants for independence through work. Parents of children with I/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.

IMA also conducts screening and makes eligibility determinations for most other District public benefits programs including Medicaid, the DC Health Care Alliance, Food Stamps, and Interim Disability Assistance. Timely access to benefits and smooth redeterminations are essential to ensuring that people with I/DD and their families receive essential assistance.

Finally, although IMA programs are predominantly federally-funded, IMA's few locally-funded programs have been hard-hit by the recent District budget woes. The Interim Disability Assistance (IDA) program, which provides local benefits to sustain residents with disabilities who are awaiting federal disability determinations, is a prime example. Due to funding shortfalls, last June IMA stopped providing benefits for new IDA applicants, creating a waiting list of over 1,000 residents with disabilities.¹⁶ As a result, residents with disabilities who cannot work currently are at immediate risk of homelessness and health emergencies.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How does IMA screen TANF applicants for potential disabilities, including I/DD?
- ✓ How does IMA ensure that the employment and healthcare provisions of TANF provide flexibility to support working parents of children with disabilities?
- ✓ How does IMA ensure that determinations, redeterminations, and appeals for its public benefits programs are fully accessible to individuals with I/DD?
- ✓ How will IMA ensure timely access to essential programs by residents with disabilities, including Interim Disability Assistance?

Department of Mental Health

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To support prevention, resiliency and recovery for District residents in need of public mental health services.

Contact Information: 64 New York Avenue, NE, 4th Floor / Washington, DC 20002

Phone: (202) 673-7440 or 1-888-7-WE HELP

Website: <http://dmh.dc.gov>

Director: Stephen T. Baron

Budget (FY2010): \$206,575,758

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Health

Committee Chair: David A. Catania

Committee Members: Marion Barry, Tommy Wells, Mary M. Cheh, Yvette Alexander

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

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Wednesday, March 10, 2010	Monday, April 26, 2010
Time:	10:00 a.m. - End	10:00 a.m. - End
Location:	Room 412	Room 412
Contact for Testimony:	Jennifer Barry, (202) 724-8170, jbarry@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

Estimates of the prevalence of mental illness among adult U.S. residents with intellectual disabilities vary from 10% to 39%.¹⁷ In general, adults with intellectual disabilities appear more likely to have certain types of mental disorders, including anxiety and psychotic disorders.¹⁸ As residents with I/DD increasingly live in the community, they will need to be able to access DMH community-based programs. In particular, DMH's Assertive Community Treatment teams, which provide intensive mobile clinical services including crisis assessment and intervention, could play a major support role when needed, and/or serve as a model for the interagency development of additional services and supports.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How many residents does DMH estimate have a dual diagnosis of mental illness and I/DD? How does DMH track the numbers of individuals with I/DD served each year?
- ✓ What formal structures are in place for coordination with DDS, regardless of which agency a person first seeks services from?
- ✓ What DMH programs currently serve residents with I/DD? Are more programs and resources needed to be able to effectively serve this population?
- ✓ How can DMH partner with DDS to recruit and support existing and new mental health professionals who want to work with people with I/DD?

Office of the State Superintendent of Education

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To set high expectations, provide resources and support, and exercise accountability to ensure that all residents receive an excellent education.

Contact Information: 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 350N / Washington, DC 20001

Phone: (202) 727-6436

Website: <http://www.osse.dc.gov>

State Superintendent: Kerry L. Briggs, Ph.D

Budget (FY2010): \$465,144,407

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 402
(202) 724-8032 / cmurray@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Friday, March 5, 2010	Tuesday, April 27, 2010
Time:	10:00 a.m. - End	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location:	Room 412	Room 412
Contact for Testimony:	Aretha Latta, (202) 724-8196, alatta@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) serves as the state education agency (SEA) overseeing all public education in the District, including: Public Charter Schools, District of Columbia Public Schools, and nonpublic placements as well as early care and education, early intervention, adult and family education, higher education financial services, and education licensing and accreditation. The DC State Board of Education is responsible for advising the State Superintendent of Education on educational matters. OSSE and the State Board of Education were created by the *Public Education Reform Act of 2007* (DC Law 17-9, effective June 12, 2007).

As a new agency, OSSE can and should take the lead in making sure that students with disabilities are receiving the highest quality education in the least restrictive setting. OSSE has the responsibility to ensure compliance of local education agencies (LEA) with the federal special education law, *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA). In 2009, OSSE implemented the Special Education Data System (SEDS), which aims to improve the quality of special education data for stakeholders and schools. The ability to manage and share data is paramount in making sure policies and procedure best support the needs of students, and monitoring systems will help OSSE in benchmarking its current levels and planning for the future. With the help of the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs, OSSE implemented the Continuous Improvement Monitoring System in 2009 and plans to continue engaging all LEAs in using this monitoring tool. Because of noncompliance with federal regulations and reporting requirements in the past, OSSE is

currently considered a “high risk grantee” for some of its federal grants by the US Department of Education. Additionally, OSSE has faced staffing shortages, particularly in the areas of special education. Ultimately, OSSE has oversight power to be able to set state level policies and regulations that LEAs must follow when educating all students, especially students with disabilities.

The following chart provides budget information relating to special education. The funds come from a variety of different programs and activities, so it is difficult to determine the exact budget of the Office of Special Education Programs, which houses early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities birth to three as well as school and transition supports.

Programs and Activities Relating to Special Education	2010 Budget
Special Ed Reform-Blackman Jones (Superintendent Office)	\$17,800,000
Early Care & Education Administration (Teaching & Learning)	\$81,647,000
Special Education (Teaching & Learning)	\$27,619,000
Special Education Compliance & Monitoring (Teaching & Learning)	\$128,000
Special Education State Complaints (Teaching & Learning)	\$0
Special Education Training & Technical Assistance (Teaching & Learning)	\$627,000
Special Education Attorney Fees (Teaching & Learning)	\$8,091,000
Student Hearing Office (Compliance)	\$3,358,000
TOTAL	\$139,270,000

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ How does OSSE ensure compliance by LEAs with the federal *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA)?
- ✓ How is OSSE working toward more compliant federal monitoring and reporting requirements?
- ✓ What are the ramifications of LEAs not following OSSE’s policies?
- ✓ How is OSSE working to keep students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment?
- ✓ Does OSSE have the resources to support a full staff within the agency?
- ✓ How does OSSE support DCPS and PCS in serving students with disabilities?
- ✓ What training, technical assistance, and professional development opportunities are available for teachers, principals, administrators, and related service providers for teaching and supporting students with disabilities?
- ✓ What authority does OSSE have over Public Charter Schools?
- ✓ What authority does OSSE have over nonpublic placement schools?
- ✓ With regard to early intervention services:
 - How many infants and toddlers with disabilities did the early intervention program serve in 2009?
 - Does the early intervention program have the capacity to meet current needs?
 - Why is there no state/local funding for early intervention services?
 - How does the definition of “developmental delay” affect eligibility for early intervention? How would a broader definition improve the Early Intervention Program’s (EIP) ability to serve children with disabilities?
 - How does EIP ensure smooth transitions from early intervention to school?

QUESTIONS & ISSUES (continued)

- ✓ With regard to early intervention services (continued):
 - How does EIP coordinate early intervention services with Head Start?
 - How does EIP track the developmental gains of infants and toddlers with disabilities while receiving early intervention services and beyond?
- ✓ With regard to the Early Care and Education Administration:
 - How many inclusive childcare and after-school programs are in the District, and what is the capacity of each center and/or family child care?
 - How are childcare providers trained on working with children with disabilities?
 - How does the current reimbursement rate prohibit centers and family childcare providers from providing services to children and youth with disabilities?
 - How do parents of children with disabilities learn about childcare vouchers?
 - What screening measures and/or trainings are in place to help child care providers identify the presence of disabilities?

Department of Parks & Recreation

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To enhance the quality of life and wellness of DC residents and visitors by providing equal access to affordable and quality recreational services, by organizing programs, activities and events, and by building and maintaining safe and beautiful open spaces and recreational amenities.

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

Phone: (202) 673-7647

Website: <http://dpr.dc.gov>

Interim Director: Jesús Aguirre

Budget (FY2010): \$48,095,331

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation

Committee Chair: Harry Thomas, Jr.

Committee Members: Yvette Alexander, David A. Catania, Phil Mendelson, Kwame Brown

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

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Tuesday, February 23, 2010	Tuesday, April 13, 2010
Time:	10:00 a.m. - End	10:00 a.m. - End
Location:	Room 500	Room 412
Contact for Testimony:	Susan Nix, (202) 724-8107, snix@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

All people deserve the opportunity for a full life in the community where they can live, learn, work, and enjoy recreational opportunities 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 I/DD, recreation and physical fitness can also play an important role in maintaining health. Several studies have shown that people with I/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.¹⁹ The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) operates the DC Center for Therapeutic Recreation, which runs programs for people with a variety of disabilities. These programs include leisure life skills development, adaptive sports and aquatics, community inclusion activities, arts and crafts, and cultural activities.

In the FY 2010 budget, funding for DPR-operated Early Childhood and Out of School Time programs was eliminated, resulting in private take over of these programs and a decrease in the amount of slots available for children with disabilities.

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 (FY2010): \$26,611,423

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ On average, how many individuals with I/DD (children, youth and adults) does DPR estimate serving annually in each of its recreation services?
- ✓ How does DPR accommodate the individual needs of children and adults with I/DD who wish to participate in its programs?
 - Are DPR's programs accessible to children with I/DD?
 - What training does DPR staff receive on working with individuals with I/DD?
 - What resources are currently available to DPR to assist people with I/DD?
 - Are current resources sufficient?
- ✓ Are there opportunities for interagency or community collaborations to ensure access to DPR services for individuals with I/DD? For example:
 - How does DPR coordinate with public schools to provide a range of recreation and sports activities for children with I/DD?
 - Is there collaboration with the Special Olympics for the purposes of planning and expansion?
- ✓ How is DPR's transition to a fee-for-service model affecting the ability of individuals with disabilities, particularly individuals with fixed incomes, to access DPR programs?
- ✓ What measures is DPR taking to enhance and maintain accessibility features at recreation centers?
- ✓ What measures is DPR taking to inform the community, including individuals with I/DD and their families, about programs and activities?
- ✓ How does DPR seek feedback from families and individuals with I/DD on its programs?
- ✓ Does DPR plan to make up for the decrease in slots for children with disabilities in early childhood and out of school time programs in 2010?

DC Public Library

Adaptive Services Division

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To help the deaf community, visually impaired, older adults, veterans and injured service people better use the library.

Contact Information: 901 G Street, NW / Washington, DC 20001

Phone: (202) 727-2142

Website: <http://dclibrary.org>

Adaptive Services Chief: Venetia Demson

Budget (FY2010): \$1,125,000

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation

Committee Chair: Harry Thomas, Jr.

Committee Members: Yvette Alexander, David A. Catania, Phil Mendelson, Kwame Brown

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

HEARING INFORMATION (for DC PUBLIC LIBRARY)

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Thursday, February 25, 2010	Monday, May 3, 2010
Time:	10:00 a.m. - End	10:00 a.m. - End
Location:	Room 412	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Susan Nix, (202) 724-8107, snix@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

The DC Public Library, Adaptive Services Division (ASD) operates several key programs for residents with disabilities. The Adaptive Technology Program helps people with disabilities use library materials and resources. The DC Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides books, magazines, newspapers and other materials in accessible formats. Library Service to the Deaf Community offers free American Sign Language classes and Deaf culture programs, as well as resources by and about the Deaf community. Homebound Services helps DC residents who are homebound on a temporary or permanent basis because of age or physical disability or illness access library materials. Older Adult Services reaches residents of DC's retirement homes, nursing homes, and senior wellness and recreation centers with special library programs and services.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ What, if any, additional resources would help the ASD enhance its outreach and services to residents with disabilities?

DC Public Charter Schools

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To provide quality public school options for DC students, families, and communities through a comprehensive application review process, effective oversight, meaningful support, and active engagement of its stakeholders.

Contact Information: 3333 14th Street, NW, Suite 210 / Washington, DC 20010

Phone: (202) 328-2660

Website: <http://www.dcpubliccharter.com>

Executive Director: Josephine Baker

Budget (FY2010): \$405,957,822

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 402
(202) 724-8032 / cmurray@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Thursday, March 11, 2010	Wednesday, April 14, 2010
Time:	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Location:	Room 412	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Aretha Latta, (202) 724-8196, alatta@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

Charter schools are independently-operated public schools and serve as their own local education agency (LEA), unless a charter school chooses DCPS to be its LEA. The DC Public Charter School Board oversees all charter schools. Like students in other public schools, students with I/DD in charter schools must receive a free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment, in accordance with the federal *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA). Students with disabilities should learn in inclusive settings with same-age peers, and receive individualized services to promote quality education and post-graduation opportunities. In the 2008-2009 school year, 11% of DC public charter school students received special education services.²⁰

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ Do students with disabilities have full access to public charter schools?
- ✓ What supports do public charter schools need to be able to meet the needs of students with disabilities?
- ✓ Where do public charter schools send students serving long-term suspensions?
- ✓ If charter schools close, what plans are in place to ensure a seamless transition for students to another school?
- ✓ How can funding streams for special education services for charter schools be strengthened to better support students with disabilities?

DC Public Schools

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To educate all children in the District of Columbia, providing the knowledge and skills they need to achieve academic success and choose a rewarding professional path.

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

Phone: (202) 442-5885

Website: www.k12.dc.us

Chancellor: Michelle Rhee

Budget (FY2010): \$779,574,349

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 402
(202) 724-8032 / cmurray@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Monday, March 15, 2010	Thursday, April 22, 2010
Time:	10:00 a.m. - End	10:00 a.m. - End
Location:	Room 500	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Aretha Latta, (202) 724-8196, alatta@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 youth with disabilities and their families. As envisioned in IDEA, public schools should educate students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment with peers of the same age and should provide the necessary supplementary supports and aids to promote quality education and post-graduation opportunities. Students with disabilities should be included in general education classrooms and taught by trained educators and support personnel with an appropriate staff-to-student ratio.

Unfortunately, DCPS has a demonstrated, ongoing inability to assist children with disabilities within the public school system. For School Year (SY) 2008/2009, DCPS is currently serving 13,606 students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). This represents 25 percent of the total DCPS enrollment. Of students with disabilities, approximately 43 percent have learning disabilities, 17 percent have emotional disabilities and 10 percent have an intellectual disability. Also during SY 2008/2009, 18 percent of DCPS' special education students – more than 2,400 – were placed in nonpublic schools because public schools were unable to meet their needs.²¹

Whether youth exit the schools with a diploma or a certificate, all youth with disabilities can benefit from transition planning as required under IDEA. Unfortunately, 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, services, or educational opportunities. Furthermore, many students with disabilities do not graduate.

During 2007, Mayor Fenty and the DC Council placed a high priority on school reform, enacting landmark legislation to transfer control of the schools from the DC School Board to the Mayor (*Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007*; DC Law 17-9; effective June 12, 2007). In November 2008, Mayor Fenty announced a comprehensive school consolidation and reorganization plan. According to the Mayor's press release, inclusion and integration of special education is a major component of this proposal and will be achieved through "the development of lab schools that model instructional excellence and serve as professional development centers to improve teacher practice."²²

For SY 2009/2010, DCPS expanded the Schoolwide Application Model (SAM) program to foster inclusion through differentiated instruction and is now operating in 13 elementary schools and 3 multi-grad specialized schools. DCPS also expanded full-service school models in 11 of its middle schools to help provide students with wraparound services and support their socio-emotional needs. DCPS hopes that these reforms will help decrease the need for students to attend non-public schools.

In 2009, DCPS opened Early Stages, a program for children 3-5 years old to identify developmental delays and coordinate services appropriately. The new center is allowing DCPS to expand their outreach efforts, identify more children with delays, and provide more comprehensive services to children and families.

Achieving meaningful, quality inclusion of students with disabilities will not be easy. It will require both significant programmatic changes as well as steps to make school buildings fully accessible for students with disabilities. Currently many schools lack accessible entrances, classrooms, restrooms and other areas. Facilities need to be modernized to be able to accommodate all students, especially students with disabilities, and should also incorporate facilities design to support inclusion such as larger classroom space to allow for co-teaching and breakout space. School modernizations, specifically the Masters Facilities Plan, must include provisions for making schools accessible and supportive of inclusion.

DC Public Schools

Office of Special Education

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To work with schools to ensure that students with disabilities have the services and support they need to achieve success.

Deputy Chancellor: Richard Nyankori, PhD

Program Budget (FY2010): \$140,124,846

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ What is the status of current efforts to provide inclusive education opportunities for students with disabilities to be educated with their peers without disabilities?
 - What are the key principles for inclusion from the DCPS' perspective, and what does inclusion mean?
 - What is the timeframe for full inclusion?
 - Are any separate special education centers going to exist?
 - Is there going to be additional training and credentialing in place for general education teachers to be able to best teach students with disabilities?
 - Will there be training for teachers, administrators, principals, and related service providers around effective inclusion and what it means?
 - How will DCPS get buy in from parents and students who do not support inclusion because of unsafe conditions in general education environments?
 - How are facilities and facilities modernizations taking into account inclusion?
 - What barriers exist to increasing the schools' capacity for inclusive education?
- ✓ 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?
 - How do the schools coordinate with the Rehabilitation Services Administration to ensure transition planning for post-secondary educational and vocational rehabilitation services?
 - What training/opportunities are in place while students are in school to help them prepare for post-secondary educational or vocational opportunities?
 - 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 Individualized Education Program (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 is familiar with the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*?
- ✓ 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?

Office of the Tenant Advocate

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To advocate for, educate, and provide outreach for tenants in the District of Columbia.

Contact Information: 1250 U Street, NW, 4th Floor / Washington, DC 20009
Phone: (202) 719-6560

Website: <http://ota.dc.gov>

Director: Johanna Shreve

Program Budget (FY2010): \$3,566,788

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair: Muriel Bowser

Committee Members: Mary M. Cheh; Jim Graham; Harry Thomas, Jr.; Michael A. Brown

Committee Contact: Spencer A. Maguire, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 6
(202) 741-0921 / smaguire@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Friday, March 12, 2010	Monday, May 3, 2010
Time:	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location:	Room 412	Room 412
Contact for Testimony:	Davida Crockett, 202-741-0898, dcrockett@dccouncil.us	

IMPORTANCE

For people with I/DD to live in the most inclusive community setting as required under the federal *Americans with Disabilities Act* and the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision, they must be afforded the same rights and protections as all DC residents. As people with I/DD live independently in apartments in greater numbers, safeguarding their rights as tenants will become increasingly important.

QUESTIONS & ISSUES

- ✓ What steps is OTA taking to support the rights of tenants with DD and other disabilities?
- ✓ How does OTA work with the Department on Disability Services (DDS) and the Office of Disability Rights (ODR)?
- ✓ Are there opportunities for OTA to collaborate with DDS, ODR, and community partners to educate people with disabilities and landlords about the rights of tenants with disabilities?
- ✓ How are tenants with disabilities represented on the Tenant Advisory Council?
- ✓ How will OTA ensure access for people with disabilities to the Tenant Center?

Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: To improve public safety and give court-involved youth the opportunity to become more productive citizens by building on the strengths of youth 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: <http://dyrs.dc.gov>

Director: Vincent N. Schiraldi

Budget (FY2010): \$90,355,865

DC COUNCIL INFORMATION

Committee of Jurisdiction: Committee on Human Services

Committee Chair: Tommy Wells

Committee Members: Muriel Bowser, Phil Mendelson, Marion Barry, Michael A. Brown

Committee Contact: Adam Maier, Committee Clerk
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 408
(202) 724-8035 / amaier@dccouncil.us

HEARING INFORMATION

	OVERSIGHT	BUDGET
Date:	Monday, February 22, 2010	Monday, April 19, 2010
Time:	10:00 a.m. - End	3:00 p.m. - End
Location:	Room 412	Room 500
Contact for Testimony:	Vivian McCarter, (202) 724-8191, vmccarter@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 2009?
- ✓ 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 Department on Disability Services, the Department of Employment Services, the Department of Mental Health, and the DC Public Schools and Public Charter Schools to ensure that youth with disabilities leaving the DYRS system will have training and supports?

APPENDIX A: DC Council Contact Information

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Chairman Vincent C. Gray

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mbowser@dccouncil.us

Marion Barry

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Kwame R. Brown

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

APPENDIX B:
Executive Branch Key Contact Information

Adrian M. Fenty

Mayor

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 727-2980
Fax: (202) 727-0505
<http://dc.gov/mayor/index.shtm>

Neil Albert

City Administrator

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 521
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 478-9200
Fax: (202) 727-9878
<http://oca.dc.gov>

Valerie Santos

Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 317
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 727-6365
Fax: (202) 727-6703
<http://dcbiz.dc.gov>

Victor Reinoso

Deputy Mayor for Education

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 303
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 727-3636
<http://dme.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

Budget Information for the Public <http://budget.dc.gov>

Office of the Chief Financial Officer (proposed and approved budgets) <http://cfo.dc.gov>

CapStat (agency performance accountability system) <http://capstat.oca.dc.gov>

Agency Performance Plans <http://capstat.oca.dc.gov/PerformanceIndicators.aspx>

DC Fiscal Policy Institute

www.dcfpi.org

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

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

Olmstead v. L.C.

<http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/98-536.ZS.html>

REFERENCES

District of Columbia Agency Performance Plans

Available at <http://capstat.oca.dc.gov>.

Endnotes

¹ Correspondence, February 24, 2010. From Natwar M. Gandhi, Chief Financial Officer, Government of the District of Columbia, to The Honorable Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor of the District of Columbia and The Honorable Vincent C. Gray, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia.

http://www.cfo.dc.gov/cfo/frames.asp?doc=/cfo/lib/cfo/ora/02242010_revenue_estimate.pdf.

² Data for 2000 through 2008 from Table 3.8, “HCBS Recipients and Residents of Community ICF-MR by State,” in Research and Training Center on Community Living, Institute on Community Integration/UCEDD, College of Education and Human Development (2009). *Residential Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities: Status and Trends Through 2008*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota. Data for 2009 HCBS waiver enrollment from *Department of Health Care Finance, Monthly Enrollment Report for the Month of November, 2009 (As of 11/30/2009)*. Data for 2009 ICF residents from personal email with Michael Cheek, Office of Chronic & Long-Term Care, Department of Health Care Finance, February 1, 2010.

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

⁴ “Latinos with Mental Retardation in the District of Columbia” (October 25, 2005). Statement of Virginia Schofield before the DC 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>.

⁶ *Developmental Disabilities Services Management Reform Amendment Act of 2006*, DC Law 16-264, effective March 14, 2007.

⁷ *FY 2010 Performance Plan, Department on Disability Services*. Government of the District of Columbia. <http://capstat.oca.dc.gov/docs/fy10/DDS.pdf>

⁸ “Employment of People with Mental Retardation.” Fact Sheet, The Arc of the United States.

⁹ National Center for Learning Disabilities (2009). *District of Columbia Special Education Scorecard*.

¹⁰ DC Workforce Investment Council. (2009). *District of Columbia Strategic Workforce Investment Plan: Stand-Alone Modification for Title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and Wagner-Peyser Act for the Period of July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010*. http://does.dc.gov/does/frames.asp?doc=/does/lib/does/info/State_Plan_Mod_2009_-_2010.pdf.

¹¹ Inclusion Research Institute (2005). *District of Columbia One Stop Career Centers: An Analysis of Knowledge and Utilization by People with Disabilities*. Washington, DC.

¹² Kaye, H.S. (2001), *Disability Watch, Volume 2: The status of people with disabilities in the United States*. Oakland: Disability Rights Advocates.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ Data from personal email with Leyla Sarigol, MSW, MA, Project Director, Money Follows the Person, Office of Chronic & Long-Term Care, Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF), February 23, 2010.

¹⁵ *Office of Human Rights Annual Highlights – FY09*. Released December 23, 2009.

http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx?agency=ohr§ion=2&release=18875&year=2009&file=file.aspx%2frelease%2f18875%2f08_Lang_comp_rpt_2.pdf.

¹⁶ Kerstetter, K. *Budget Cuts Threaten Benefits for Disabled Residents*. Blog post February 18th, 2010, “The District’s Dime,” a blog of the DC Fiscal Policy Institute.

¹⁷ Kerker, B.D.; Owens, P.L.; Zigler, E. and Horwitz, S.M. (2004). Mental health disorders among individuals with mental retardation: Challenges to accurate prevalence estimates. *Public Health Reports*, Vol. 119, pp. 409 – 417.

¹⁸ *Ibid*.

¹⁹ Rimmer, J.H. (1996). *Physical Fitness in People with Mental Retardation*. Chicago, IL: Northern Illinois University & The University of Illinois at Chicago. <http://www.thearc.org/faqs/fitness.html>.

²⁰ District of Columbia Public Charter School Board, *Annual Report 2009: Race to the Top, Setting the Pace for Education Reform in D.C.* PCSB Attendance Management System.

²¹ Testimony of Richard Nyankori, Deputy Chancellor for Special Education, DC Council, Committee of the Whole Public Oversight Roundtable on the State of Special Education and the Strategy for Inclusion, 12/12/08.

²² District of Columbia Public Schools (2007). "Fenty, Rhee, Reinoso Introduce New School Initiatives to Renew, Revitalize and Reorganize DCPS." <http://www.k12.dc.us/media/PressReleases/DCPSNewProgramsAndConsolidations.pdf>.

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 celebrating its 60th year of serving persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in the District of Columbia. 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 intellectual disabilities and their families through supports and advocacy.

OUR VISION

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

Acknowledgements

The Arc of DC wishes to acknowledge T.J. Sutcliffe, M.S.W., Director of Advocacy and Public Policy, and Alison L. Whyte, M.S.W., M.P.P., Policy Specialist, for their commitment and diligent work in preparing this guide.

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