



Quarterly Report

FY 2023, Quarter 2

Prepared for the
Mental Health Advisory Council (MHAC) Meeting
May 17, 2023

and

Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services (IPAS)
Commission Meeting
May 19, 2023

Equity Through Advocacy

The Protection and Advocacy System for the State of Indiana



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Executive Director's Report

Key Updates

- Bonnie Bomer received the Kirles/Byrnett Consumer Advocacy Award from INAPSE. This award recognizes outstanding community employment advocacy efforts in Indiana by and for individuals with disabilities.
- IDR RepPayee reviewers were recently commended by representatives of NDRN, who serve as IDR's liaison to SSA. It was reported that IDR reviewers' recent RepPayee case submissions have greatly improved in quality. More referrals have been provided and there has been a greater depth in explanation of issues and deficiencies.
- IDR has hired 2 summer interns, a Legal Intern and a Special Projects Intern. Both will begin in late May and serve IDR through the Governor's Summer Internship program.
- IDR mourns the passing of [Steve Estes](#) who served IDR as an advocate and investigator since 2016. Previously, Steve served the P&A network holding roles at Disability Rights Florida and Equip for Equality.

GOAL 1: IDR WILL COMPLY WITH ALL STATE AND FEDERAL REPORTING AND FINANCIAL PROCESSES.

- Please see the Fiscal Report for information on current grant balances and expenses.
- IDR completed all required federal and state quarterly reports. IDR meets regularly with all federal funding agencies.
- IDR timely completed requests from federal funders for information.
- IDR timely completed federal draws.
- IDR is working on the 2024 Rep Payee application to start a new 5-year cycle.

GOAL 2: IDR WILL LEVERAGE OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE ITS CAPACITY.

- IDR reviewed state and federal grant opportunities. There were no funding opportunities this quarter that fit within IDR's mission.
- IDR is working with partners to find additional opportunities to support our Disability Law Fellowship. IDR is currently accepting applications for this program.
- IDR is again utilizing the summer intern program to support the work that IDR is doing. IDR will host one undergraduate and one law student intern this summer.
- IDR is working with the state to address the state's compensation study results to better understand the full impact to IDR's budget.



GOAL 3: IDR WILL ENSURE ITS POLICIES AND PROCESSES ARE EQUITABLE, TRANSPARENT, AND ACCESSIBLE.

- IDR's website redesign is complete. IDR is now focusing on reviewing materials available on the website as well as developing a plan to enhance self-advocacy resources.
- The DCC Workgroup discussed the need for food inclusivity guidelines, which have been drafted.
- IDR participated in the state agency pulse survey that looks at employee satisfaction and engagement. IDR again ranked 3rd out of all state agencies with our staff reporting high satisfaction and engagement.
- IDR revised its all staff meeting to focus on small group discussion and collaboration.
- IDR's Executive Director, at staff request, resumed providing monthly all-staff updates and staff recognition.
- IDR's Executive Director responded to 3 appeals in Q2. None of the appeals requested Commission review.
- IDR's Executive Director met with the Governor's Office for Inclusion to discuss state employee climate survey results. IDR scored above average in all categories including flexibility, employee engagement, and diversity indices.
- IDR staff timely completed the state's employee performance review process as well as development of goals for 2023.

GOAL 4: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILL SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMISSION'S STRATEGIC PLAN AND AGENCY PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES.

- IDR's ED supports the staff, Commission, and MHAC through direct supervision and technical assistance, connections to community resources, and facilitating access to programmatic needs.
- Project-specific updates involving the ED are included in the Priorities and Objectives report.
- ED reviewed plan for FFY 2024 P&O process and start of planning for FFY 2025-2027 cycle. ED is working with DD Act partners to collaborate on gathering information for P&O development.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Report

GOAL 1: IDR WILL PROVIDE SERVICES TO MORE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FROM BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR.

- IDR ED joined the ISBA Diversity CLE committee.
- IDR staff are reviewing current connections to help inform the development of a DEI focused outreach plan.
- IDR ED connected with several neighborhood Community Centers to provide introductory information.
- IDR staff provided with DEI related training opportunities.
- PSP Team Staff are completing a four-part series through the Disability Employment TA Center, “Engaging Diverse Communities: Implications for Competitive, Integrated Employment.”

GOAL 2: IDR STAFF, THE IPAS COMMISSION, AND MHAC MEMBERSHIP WILL REFLECT THE BROAD DIVERSITY OF INDIANA.

- IDR is working with the Governor’s Office of Equity and Diversity to provide DEI related training opportunities for staff and Commission/MHAC members.
- IDR received several applications for Commission and MHAC membership.
- IDR does not currently have any staff openings.

GOAL 3: IDR WILL STRENGTHEN ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH ADVOCATES AND ORGANIZATIONS LED BY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, PEOPLE FROM MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES, AND PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCES.

- IDR will utilize summer interns to assist with coordinating and organizing IDR’s outreach efforts for better reporting and strategic outreach efforts.
- Outcomes from IDR’s participation on various workgroups are discussed in the Priorities and Objectives report. A full list of workgroups is available in the appendix.



Client Demographics

Hispanic Ethnicity Demographics

	Q1 Count	Q1 Percent	Q2 Count	Q2 Percent	Q3 Count	Q3 Percent	Q4 Count	Q4 Percent	Total Count	Total Percent
Hispanic	7	4%	6	3%					13	3%
Not Hispanic	178	94%	197	92%					375	93%
Unknown	5	2%	10	5%					15	4%
Total	190		213						403	

Figure 1 – Client Hispanic Ethnicity Demographics

Gender/Sex Demographics

	Q1 Count	Q1 Percent	Q2 Count	Q2 Percent	Q3 Count	Q3 Percent	Q4 Count	Q4 Percent	Total Count	Total Percent
Female	79	42%	92	43%					171	42%
Male	107	56%	114	54%					221	55%
Other	0	0%	0	0%					0	0%
Unknown	0	0%	7	3%					7	2%
Blank	4	2%	0	0%					4	1%
Total	190		213						403	

Figure 2 – Client Gender/Sex Demographics



Race Demographics

	Q1 Count	Q1 Percent	Q2 Count	Q2 Percent	Q3 Count	Q3 Percent	Q4 Count	Q4 Percent	Total Count	Total Percent
Asian	2	1%	3	1%					5	1%
Black/African American	30	16%	33	15%					63	16%
Race Unknown	0	0%	0	0%					0	0%
White	143	75%	158	75%					301	75%
Blank	4	2%	8	4%					12	3%
Two or More Races	10	5%	8	4%					18	4%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific	0	0%	1	0%					1	0%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native/ Indigenous	0	0%	0	0%					0	0%
Unknown-Declined	1	1%	2	1%					3	1%
Total	190		213						403	

Figure 3 – Client Race Demographics

Age Demographics

	Q1 Count	Q1 Percent	Q2 Count	Q2 Percent	Q3 Count	Q3 Percent	Q4 Count	Q4 Percent	Total Count	Total Percent
1 to 3	2	1%	4	2%					6	1%
4 to 10	15	8%	21	10%					36	9%
11 to 21	46	24%	51	24%					97	24%
22 to 40	44	23%	51	24%					95	24%
41 to 65	62	33%	69	33%					131	33%
66 to 80	14	7%	11	5%					25	6%
81 and above	3	2%	3	1%					6	1%
Blank	4	2%	2	1%					6	1%
Data errors	0	0%	1	0%					1	0%
Total	190		213						403	

Figure 4 – Client Age Demographics



Priorities and Objectives Report

GOAL 1: PREVENTING, FINDING, AND STOPPING ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND EXPLOITATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN FACILITIES.

PRIORITIES TO ADDRESS:

1.1. Investigate facilities serving children with disabilities.

Educate

Know Your Rights (Presentations and Handbook)

- No presentations were completed during Q2.
- The Know Your Rights Handbook is currently being shared with youth for feedback prior to going to print. The feedback has been very positive.

Monitor and Investigate

Monitoring Project – PRTFs and PSFs

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Facilities visited	5	3			8
Reports filed with overseeing entities	1	0			1
Discharges assisted	1	0			1

Outcomes:

- Complaints related to the care and treatment of youth in residential facilities were reported to DCS including staff abuse, inappropriate restraints, group punishment, and lack of adequate staff.
- A facility changed ownership and licensure. All but 3 youth were discharged to family, foster care, or other facilities. The facility has since remained in ratio and terminated staff who are not compliant with policies. The new administration has been cooperative and communicative with IDR.

Advocate

No current advocacy initiatives tied to this project.

1.2. Investigate or monitor for suspected abuse, neglect, exploitation, and rights violations in facilities or by a service provider.

Educate

Presentations

Natasha Henry gave an overview of IDR's services to a total of 11 new staff members at the monthly ESH/EPCC New Staff Orientations.



Monitor and Investigate

Rep Payee – IDR presented 35 Rep Payee reviews to SSA which are now in end stages of review.

Investigations

- 15 investigations were opened or still open
- 4 investigations conducted; 1 referral for additional action

Investigations in FY2023	Q1 Opened	Q1 Closed	Q2 Opened	Q2 Closed	Q3 Opened	Q3 Closed	Q4 Opened	Q4 Closed	YTD Open	YTD Closed
Client-to-Client Abuse	0	0	0	0					0	0
Death of Patient	0	0	0	2					0	2
Environmental & Facility Safety	0	1	1	0					1	1
Medication Errors	0	0	1	1					1	1
Neglect	2	0	2	2					4	2
Physical Abuse	1	1	0	1					1	2
Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0					0	0
Unnecessary Restraint	0	0	0	0					0	0
Other Abuse	0	0	0	0					0	0
TOTAL	3	2	4	6					7	8

Monitoring – IDR conducted 28 monitoring visits at 8 facilities.

- **Outcome:** IDR learned of a student in a children’s rehabilitation facility who was not permitted to attend school in a general education setting due to removing her tracheotomy. IDR successfully advocated for the school to receive tracheotomy training and the child returned to general education.
- **Outcome:** IDR successfully advocated for a child to transition from using a ventilator full-time to using one only at night. IDR also successfully advocated for this child to return to a general education setting.



- **Outcome:** During a monitoring visit at a state psychiatric facility, an IDR advocate worked with a resident and the facility to resolve a miscommunication. The resident had been in pain due to what she understood to be a boil; she actually had an ovarian cyst. Because the advocate dedicated 1:1 time to the individual, the resident was able to understand the situation and make an informed decision to be treated for the cyst.

Monitoring Project – CRMNF Marion

- Environmental concerns, especially access to personal belongings, continues to be a concern.
- Staffing shortages continue to be at a critically low level, including inadequate staffing to cover the 1:1 level of supervision and general supervision of the units. A complaint was filed by IDR with the facility administrators, ResCare corporate staff, IDOH, CMS, BDDS, and the DD Ombudsman.
 - **Outcome:** IDR’s complaint resulted in increased scrutiny from overseeing agencies including IDOH, and DDRS. The DD Ombudsman made an unannounced visit to the facility with Adult Protective Services. ResCare provided a written response to the complaint.

Monitoring Project – Corrections Monitoring

- IDR concluded their contact to administrators and people currently incarcerated in each adult and juvenile correctional facility in Indiana.
- Feedback on next steps was gathered from IDR Staff, the IPAS Commission, and the MAHC.
- The Project Team presented recommendations to agency leadership on future work in this area.

Advocate

Individual Representation

Referenced in 2.1

Individual Representation Outcome

An individual in a long-term care facility experienced frequent falls, including 7 falls in 2 months. IDR met with the client and facility several times and advocated for fall interventions to be implemented. Client’s occurrence of falls has substantially decreased.

Systemic Outcome

IDR was contacted by a former staff member of a waiver service provider. Upon investigation, IDR noted several systemic issues present, including unlocked medicine cabinets, cleanliness concerns, and an expired fire extinguisher. Because of IDR’s advocacy, fire safety, home cleanliness, safety, and medication storage compliance improved.



Systemic Litigation

Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services Commission et al v. Commissioner, Indiana Department of Correction (1:08-cv-01317-TWP-MJD; Southern District of Indiana)

IDR continues to monitor the settlement agreement. As part of that ongoing monitoring, this quarter, IDR toured the mental health units at New Castle Correctional Facility and Pendleton Correctional Facility. Based on the results of those tours, the court-ordered monitoring period will end in Q3.

Community Connection

Tina Frayer because attending meeting of the Indiana Council Against Senior Exploitation (IN-CASE). The connection allowed IDR to be featured in an [IN-CASE Facebook](#) post in February.

Success Story – Goal 1:

During a monitoring visit at a state psychiatric facility, IDR discovered that two residents were experiencing delays in receiving their annual commitment hearings. IDR confirmed the facility had filed the hearing request then contacted the court and learned there was a system glitch preventing the judge for both cases from receiving the filing. Moving forward, the facility will file all commitment hearings with that court in paper form to avoid delays.



GOAL 2: BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO ENSURE RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED AND SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY.

PRIORITIES TO ADDRESS:

2.1. Advocate on behalf of individuals with disabilities in the areas of abuse and neglect, civil rights, discharge from institutions, education, employment, health care, justice, self-determination, and voting.

Educate

Presentations

- Zaida Maldonado-Prather and Bonnie Bomer presented on “Maintaining Rights and Relationships in the Workplace” to 28 Job Coaches, Job Specialists, and VR counselors at the INAPSE Conference.
- Sam Adams participated in a panel discussion regarding alternatives to arrest and incarceration to 8 law students put on by the Indiana University McKinney School of Law Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

Events

Bonnie Bomer assisted with 3 Disability Talent Showcases through Work to Include.

Monitor and Investigate

Monitoring Project – SOF Discharge for ID/DD and SMI

- No discharge activities were conducted during Q2.

Advocate

Individual Advocacy Case Data

Individual Advocacy in FY2023	Q1 Opened	Q1 Closed	Q2 Opened	Q2 Closed	Q3 Opened	Q3 Closed	Q4 Opened	Q4 Closed	YTD Open	YTD Closed
AND Advocacy/Discharge	9	7	7	14					16	21
Civil Rights	14	16	15	19					29	35
Education	16	7	26	20					42	27
Employment	9	11	10	12					19	23
Health Care	7	4	9	8					16	12
Self-Determination	4	4	11	2					15	6
TOTAL	59	49	78	75					137	124



Individual Representation Select Outcomes

Deidra – Civil Rights

After “Deidra’s” emotional support animal allegedly bit a maintenance person while in her apartment, her landlord required her to remove the dog from the property. She contacted IDR who negotiated with the landlord for the dog’s return as long as it was kept in a crate or behind a closed door when personnel were in the apartment. The landlord also agreed to try to give at least two hours’ notice prior to entering her apartment.

Ezra – Civil Rights

When “Ezra” was denied paratransit services and the company refused to allow him to appeal, he contacted IDR. Because of IDR’s advocacy, the company recognized their error and re-evaluated Ezra’s application, granting him conditional paratransit services.

Gloria – Employment

“Gloria” disclosed her disability and accommodation requests during the hiring process and was offered a part-time teaching position with her local school system. After meeting with HR, though, the school rescinded the employment offer. After attempting to resolve the issue with informal advocacy, IDR helped Gloria file a complaint with the EEOC who did not make a determination. IDR then filed a Title I lawsuit under the ADA and the case settled with the client receiving monetary damages.

Grayson – Education

“Grayson,” was disciplined at school for behaviors related to his Tourette’s Syndrome by being placed in restraints in a self-contained classroom. IDR advocated for him to be returned to a less restrictive setting, his IEP to include more academic services, and for Grayson to be able to type long assignments.

Jack – Civil Rights

“Jack” requested an ASL interpreter for parole meetings and classes when he was released from prison. When his request was denied and he was told to pay for his own interpreter, he contacted IDR. Through advocacy, IDOC agreed to provide video remote interpreting (VRI) for Jack during 1:1 parole meetings and excuse him from group activities.

Jason – Education

“Jason,” a 13-year-old wheelchair user found it difficult to make it the distance to his bus stop and the school refused to come farther into his apartment complex. IDR helped Jason’s parent formally request an accommodation and it was successfully granted.



Jayden – Education

Kindergartener “Jayden” was suspended 8 times this school year due to disability-related behaviors. IDR successfully advocated for Jayden to return to full-time school with a behavior plan and more appropriate services.

Samuel – Employment

“Samuel,” an individual with an intellectual disability, had worked as a custodian for a fast food restaurant for several years. When he felt he was not being offered advancement opportunities, he contacted IDR who partnered with Samuel’s Employment Specialist. Together, they worked with Samuel to help him advocate to receive a promotion, including a raise to his hourly salary.

Trina – Health Care

After a phlebotomist asked “Trina” multiple questions about her service dog and suggested she not bring it back to the facility, she contacted IDR. Through fact-finding, it appeared the health care facility’s service animal policy was comprehensive and compliant with applicable laws but the phlebotomist was not following the policy. IDR advocated for the phlebotomist to receive additional training regarding the policy.

Systemic Litigation

Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services Commission v. Indiana Family and Social Services Administration et al (1:22-cv-00906-JRS-TAB; Southern District of Indiana)

Plaintiff appealed the court’s denial of a motion for preliminary injunction. Defendants provided updated data showing significant decrease in wait times for competency restoration services. The parties dismissed the appeal in order to conduct additional discovery on reduced wait times and discuss settlement.

Policy Advocacy

Legislative Advocacy

- On January 25, 2023, IDR submitted written testimony about SB 1, a bill about mental health matters including the Behavioral Health Commission, to members of the Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services.
- On February 7, 2023, IDR submitted written testimony regarding HB 1172, which would have required children to be given counsel in Children in Need of Service legal proceedings. IDR’s testimony was provided to the House Judiciary Committee.
- On March 21, 2023, IDR submitted written testimony and testified regarding HB 1006 involving changes to Indiana’s emergency detention process.



Advocacy Projects

- Diversity in Hiring
 - Data collection for a study examining the impact of ethnicity/national origin and disability on hiring is completed.
 - The data is being analyzed and report/research paper on project has been completed.
- Twice Exceptional Students Project
 - Research was conducted to learn best practices for twice exceptional K-12 students.
 - Information will be used to develop a law review and/or journal article that will discuss how this process could best work in the state of Indiana.

2.2. Advocate for ending sheltered workshops and increasing competitive integrated employment.

Educate

Materials – Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Initiative

- Fact sheet translation into American Sign Language (ASL) and Spanish are complete.
- IDR will make these resources publicly available on its website and YouTube channel in Q3.

Monitor and Investigate

Monitor DDRS Employment Systems Transformation Plan

IDR continues to work with the Center for Public Representation and DDRS on monitoring DDRS' implementation of its CIE transition plan.

Advocate

IDR staff met with representatives from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) as part of its audit of Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

2.3. Advocate for access to Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS).

Educate

No current education activities tied to this priority.

Monitor and Investigate

Agency Availability Survey

- IDR continues to survey home health agencies serving Marion County residents participating in the Aged & Disabled Waiver.
- Survey data will be evaluated to obtain quantitative information supporting client anecdotes about difficulty finding home health care.



Advocate

Policy Advocacy

Systems Outreach

- IDR submitted 3 letters to FSSA about the heightened scrutiny review of three assisted living facilities that are presumed institutional in nature pursuant to the federal HCBS Settings Rule.
- IDR's ED continued connecting with FSSA staff and contractors to better understand the processes for ensuring compliance with federal HCBS Settings Rule.
- IDR contacted representatives from federal agencies and national advocacy organizations regarding HCBS compliance monitoring initiatives.

Public Comment

- IDR submitted public comments regarding the heightened scrutiny review of the following settings monitored by the Division of Aging. The review process is mandated by the federal HCBS Settings Rule that went into effect on March 17, 2023.
 - Valparaiso Senior Village on January 18, 2023
 - Waters of Rushville on January 25, 2023
 - River Terrace on February 10, 2023
- IDR submitted public comments to CMS regarding Medicare's proposal to expand coverage for wheelchair seat elevators on March 10, 2023.

Legislative Advocacy

- On January 26, 2023, Emily Munson and IPAS Commission Chair Amber O'Haver met with Senator Rogers to discuss SB 310, a bill that would remove income and resource limits for the M.E.D. Works program. They also discussed the bill with Senator Crane on February 13, 2023.
- On January 31, 2023, IDR submitted written testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services regarding SB 474. That bill would eliminate the requirement that home health agencies drug test certain employees.
- On February 14, 2023, IDR submitted written testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services regarding SB 438, a bill that would set minimum reimbursement rates for home health services and require caregiver training.

Press

Emily Munson was [interviewed by WFYI](#) about [HB1342](#).

2.4. Advocate for the expansion of knowledge and use of supported decision-making/less restrictive alternatives to guardianship.

Educate

Presentation

- Tash Crespo presented on "Options for Supporting Self-Determination and Decision-Making in Adulthood" to 5 parents of the Crown Point School System.



Technical Assistance

- IDR provided consultation or technical assistance to over 28 organizations or entities regarding guardianship and self-determination.
- IDR provided technical assistance and resources to the Office of Senator Mike Braun and Senator Bob Casey for their work on the Senate Committee on Aging in advance of a hearing about guardianship reform efforts.

Monitor and Investigate

Monitoring Project – Court Filings

IDR continues to review court cases of guardianships filed since the implementation of Indiana’s SDM bill. Initial data were analyzed.

Advocate

Individual Representation Select Outcome

Hadley – Self-Determination

After “Hadley,” an adult with disabilities, moved out of her father’s house, he filed for guardianship in an attempt to make her return to his home. IDR swiftly acted to provide successful representation to Hadley in defending against the unnecessary guardianship. IDR also helped Hadley connect with BDSS to apply for permanent housing and disability-related supports. IDR also assisted Hadley in understanding her options for supporting her decision-making, including helping her identify someone she wished to appoint as her Health Care Representative.

Mark – Self Determination

In 2017, “Mark” was financially exploited and had his identity stolen by individuals he believed to be his friends. He was then placed under a plenary guardianship after he and his parents visited a local attorney for advice on how to address the situation and were told it was their only option. Over time, Mark and his parents recognized that what he needed was guidance and support with decision-making rather than someone to manage his affairs on his behalf. Ultimately, IDR represented Mark in the agreed termination of his guardianship, and helped Mark establish agency agreements that permit him to continue to receiving assistance from his parents in managing his healthcare and finances to the degree he desires.

Rory – Self-Determination

“Rory” contacted IDR seeking to terminate her guardianship in favor of less restrictive alternatives. IDR represented Rory in a successful termination and assisted her in becoming the first person her county Trustee’s office will serve as Rep Payee for. Following termination, Rory set up a Health Care Representative and moved to independent housing.



Advocacy Projects

- CYVYC Transition-Aged Youth – IDR continued to work with youth ambassadors on their individual projects as well as projects to benefit the state plan. IDR met with representatives from Quillo to learn more about the platform as a way to disseminate information to parents and families. IDR was also asked to present with CYVYC leadership at a conference on HCBS. IDR is supporting one of our youth ambassadors to participate.
- Advanced Directives for People with ID/DD – IDR conducted both an in-person and virtual advanced directive clinic. In Q2, IDR partnered with 4 external pro bono attorneys and the Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation to provide advanced directive services to 10 families.

Policy Advocacy

Legislative Advocacy

- On February 7, 2023, IDR submitted written testimony about HB 1591, a bill that would require discussion of supported decision-making at case conference committee meetings, to the House Education Committee. IDR submitted additional written testimony about the bill on March 7, 2023, to members of the Senate Education and Career Development Committee. The bill passed and was signed into law.
- On March 23, 2023, IDR submitted written testimony regarding the need for guardianship reform to the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging.
- IDR provided comments on SB 287. Because of IDR’s advocacy, language was included to expressly allow people under guardianship to seek access to their records if they are being denied.
- IDR provided comments and outreach to stakeholders regarding the Guardianship Bill of Rights proposed by Senator Bob Casey.

Press

Justin Schrock and two IDR clients, Nick Clouse and Sara Abbott, were featured in Bloomberg Law’s [five-part series](#), “In the Name of Protection.”

- [In the Name of Protection: Part 1: The Profiteers](#) (featuring IDR Staff Attorney Justin Schrock & client Nick Clouse)
- [In the Name of Protection: Part 2: The Judges](#)
- [In the Name of Protection: Part 3: The Guardians](#)
- [In the Name of Protection: Part 4: The Lawyers](#) (featuring IDR client Sara Abbott)
- [In the Name of Protection: Part 5: A Solution](#) (featuring IDR Staff Attorney Justin Schrock & clients Nick Clouse and Sara Abbott)

2.5. Advocate to ensure elections are accessible to voters with disabilities.

Educate

Presentation

Kristin Dulaney presented on “Election Accessibility” to 65 County Clerks and their staff at the Northern District Clerk’s Association Spring Conference.



Digital Media – Hoosiers Vote

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Percent of website visits to a voting-related webpage	90%	25%		
Percent of website visits to single most frequented voting-related webpage	75%	16%		
Single most frequented voting-related webpage	Vote Early	Voter Registration		

Monitor and Investigate

Monitoring – Polling Place Accessibility Surveys

13 community partners were trained to survey early voting sites.

Advocate

Systemic Litigation

American Council of the Blind of Indiana et al. v. Indiana Election Commission et al. (1:20-cv-03118-JMS-MJD; U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana)

The parties reached a settlement in which the Defendants agreed to provide voters with print disabilities a remote accessible vote by mail tool with email return beginning with the May 2023 primary election. By agreement, the district court also extended the preliminary injunction making use of the traveling board permissive rather than mandatory for the November 2023 primary election. The settlement also requires Defendants to provide data about the use of the RAVBM tool following subsequent elections. Defendants agreed to pay attorneys’ fees to Plaintiffs’ attorneys with IDR and Disability Rights Advocates.

Press

ACBI – The above settlement featured in several publications, including:

- [Settlement will allow for independent absentee voting options for Hoosiers with print disabilities](#); The Indiana Lawyer
- [Settlement expands voting access to Hoosiers with print disabilities](#); Indiana Public Media
- [Indiana agrees to lift barriers for blind voters after 'historic' lawsuit](#); Indy Star

Success Story – Goal 2:

The Bloomberg Law series, detailed on page 19, resulted in a [follow-up article about client Sara Abbott](#) and a Bloomberg’s [“The Big Take”](#) podcast interview with Justin Schrock.



GOAL 3: SERVING AS A PARTNER IN RIGHTS ISSUES BY SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS LED BY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, THOSE FROM MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES, AND PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCES.

PRIORITIES TO ADDRESS:

3.1. Provide easily accessible and equitable paths for the public to contact IDR for advocacy needs and to find information, referrals, and resources.

Educate

I/R and Website

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Intake Requests	643	852			1,495
Information & Referrals	17	13			30
Website Sessions	186,566	8,456			195,022

Presentations

Presentation topics are noted throughout this report.

	Q1	Q2	Q2	Q4	Total
Presentations	14	6			18
Attendees	722	157			831

Communication Plan

- IDR relaunched its newsletter. [Subscribe](#) to receive occasional news about press, fact sheets, and ways to engage with IDR’s work.

Website Redesign

- See “Success Story – Goal 3” on page 22.

Monitor and Investigate

No monitoring/investigating activities tied to this priority.

Advocate

No current advocacy initiatives tied to this project.

Community Connection

- Tash Crespo hosted a table at the Midwest Public Interest Law Career Conference.
- Melissa Keyes connected with the Hawthorne Community Center. IDR connected the organization to information about disability resources.



3.2. Support the legislative and policy work and meaningful inclusion of people with disabilities, those from marginalized communities, and people with lived experiences on issues that align with IDR's mission, vision, and values.

Educate

Presentation

Emily Munson and Natalie Miller of the Marion County Prosecutor's Office co-presented on disability cultural competency to 40 legal staff of the Prosecutor's Office.

Monitor and Investigate

No monitoring/investigating activities tied to this priority.

Advocate

Policy Advocacy

As noted under Goal 2.3, Emily Munson and Tash Crespo, as well as Amber O'Haver, participated in several workgroups regarding Indiana's efforts to expand self-directed services to more Medicaid waiver participants. Emily and Amber are the only participants who currently use self-directed personal care.

Also noted under Goal 2.3, Amber O'Haver and Emily Munson spoke with Senators Rogers and Crane to discuss potential reform of the M.E.D. Works program at the beginning of the quarter. The explained how the program's outdated income and resource limits maintain barriers to employment for people with disabilities.

Legislative Advocacy

- On January 12, 2023, IDR submitted written testimony regarding HB 1198, a bill that would decriminalize HIV, to members of the House Committee on Courts and the Criminal Code.
- On January 31, 2023, IDR submitted written testimony about SB 4, a bill about public health, noting that the absence of people with disabilities on pandemic advisory groups led to chaos and unmet needs. This testimony was provided to the Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services.
- IDR ED connected with several federal and state legislators about IDR generally.

Success Story – Goal 3:

After working with IOT, IDR debuted a redesigned website navigation layout. Each Team has a webpage with commonly asked questions, hopefully making it easier for clients to find the information they seek. New webpages were also created for the [MHAC](#) and [IPAS Commission](#).



Active Workgroups

Workgroup	Goal
Diversity Roundtable of Indianapolis	DEI Goal 3
Indiana State Bar Association Diversity Committee	DEI Goal 3
ISBA Diversity CLE Committee	DEI Goal 3
Ivy Tech Diversity Workgroup	DEI Goal 3
BQIS Incident Reporting Process Workgroup Collaborative Workgroup	P&O 1.2
Facility-Based Human Rights Committees	P&O 1.2
Mortality Review Committee (MRC)	P&O 1.2
NDRN Residential Facilities Community of Practice	P&O 1.2
ResCare Marion Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) Transition Meeting	P&O 1.2
ADA-Indiana Steering Committee	P&O 2.1
Back Home in Indiana Alliance Steering Committee	P&O 2.1
Carmel Advisory Committee on Disability	P&O 2.1
Department of Justice Civil Rights Roundtable	P&O 2.1
Disability Employment Technical Assistance Center (DETAC) Grantee Advisory Workgroup	P&O 2.1
Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) Advisory Council	P&O 2.1
Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana Board of Directors	P&O 2.1
Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability	P&O 2.1
Indiana Association of People Supporting Employment First (INAPSE) Public Policy Committee	P&O 2.1
Indiana Council Against Senior Exploitation (IN-CASE)	P&O 2.1
Indiana Counsel for Kids Coalition	P&O 2.1
Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Community Advisory Working Group	P&O 2.1
Indiana Educational Equity Coalition	P&O 2.1
Indianapolis Mayor's Advisory Council on Disability (MAC-D)	P&O 2.1
Institutional Modernization Workgroup	P&O 2.1
Medicaid All Hands	P&O 2.1
National Board of Directors for Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)	P&O 2.1
Paratransit Next Steps Taskforce	P&O 2.1
REV UP Advisory Committee	P&O 2.5
RISE Peer Mentor	P&O 2.1



Waiver re-design workgroups	P&O 2.1
DDRS Advisory Council CIE Workgroups	P&O 2.2
Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Commission	P&O 2.2
Work to INclude Advisory Committee	P&O 2.2
Work to INclude Coalition	P&O 2.2
Center for Youth and Adults with Conditions of Childhood (CYACC) Advisory Board	P&O 2.3
CMS Stakeholders	P&O 2.3
Health Care Justice Coalition	P&O 2.3
LifeCourse Ambassador Group	P&O 2.3
LifeCourse Partners in Transformation Chapter Group	P&O 2.3
Long-Term Care Coalition	P&O 2.3
National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems' Self-Directed Learning Collaborative	P&O 2.3
Indiana Adult Guardianship State Taskforce (WINGS)	P&O 2.4
Indiana Supported Decision-Making Coalition	P&O 2.4
Indiana Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board	P&O 2.4
National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel	P&O 2.4
Uniform Guardianship Act Subcommittee for Probate Review Committee	P&O 2.4
Indiana Voting Coalition	P&O 2.5
PANDA Improvement Workgroup	P&O 3.1
TASC Advisory Group (TAG) Advocacy Working Group	P&O 3.1
Governor's Council for People with Disabilities	P&O 3.2
HIVMM Coalition	P&O 3.2
Indiana Advisory Committee to the US Commission on Civil Rights	P&O 3.2
Indiana Disability Advisory Group- State of Indiana Office Chief Equity, Inclusion and Opportunity	P&O 3.2
International Initiative for Disability Leadership	P&O 3.2
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)-Indiana Public Policy Committee	P&O 3.2
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) – CEO Meetings, Legal Director Meetings	P&O 3.2
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) Technical Assistance Advisory Committee	P&O 3.2
Self-Advocate Innovation Collaborative	P&O 3.2
Transition Partners of Northeast Indiana	P&O 3.2
United States Attorney's Office (USAO) Disability Rights Roundtable	P&O 3.2



Acronyms

List of Common Acronyms

504 -	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973-504
ACF -	Administration for Children and Families
ACLU -	American Civil Liberties Union
ADA -	Americans with Disabilities Act
AIDD -	Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
APS -	Adult Protective Services
ARC -	State and local organizations for developmental disability advocacy
ARTICLE 7 -	Special Education Regulations (Indiana)
BDDS -	Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services
BQIS -	Bureau of Quality Improvement Services
CEO -	Chief Executive Officer
CIH Waiver -	Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver
CMS -	Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
CPR -	Center for Public Representation
CRMNF -	Comprehensive Rehabilitative Management Needs Facility
CYVYC	Center on Youth Voice/Youth Choice
DCC -	IDR Diversity and Cultural Competency Workgroup
DCS -	Department of Child Services
DD -	Developmental Disabilities
DD Act -	Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act
DD Council -	Developmental Disabilities Council
DDRS -	Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services
DMHA -	Division of Mental Health and Addictions
DOC -	Indiana Department of Correction
DOE -	Indiana Department of Education
EEOC -	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
FBA -	Functional Behavioral Assessment
GCPD -	Governor's Council for People with Disabilities
HAVA -	Help America Vote Act
HMM -	HIV Modernization Movement
HRSA -	Health Resources and Services Administration
I&R -	Information and Referral
ICF -	Intermediate Care Facility
ICRC -	Indiana Civil Rights Commission



ICLU -	Indiana Civil Liberties Union
ID -	Intellectual Disability
IDD -	Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities
IDR -	Indiana Disability Rights
IDEA -	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Federal)
IDOH -	Indiana Department of Health
IIDC/Institute -	The Indiana Institute on Disability and Community
IN*SOURCE -	Indiana's Parent Training Information Project
IPE -	Individual Plan for Employment
LD -	Learning Disability
MI -	Mental Illness
NDRN -	National Disability Rights Network
OCR -	Office of Civil Rights
OMB -	Office of Management and Budget
OMPP -	Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning
P&A -	Protection & Advocacy System
PPR -	Program Performance Report
PRTF -	Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility
PSF -	Private Secure Facility
PTSD -	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
RSA -	Rehabilitation Services Administration
RULE7 -	Part of Nursing Home Regulations (Indiana) concerning the facility's requirements for programming for MR residents used in QMRP-D Training
SAI -	Self-Advocates of Indiana
SAMHSA -	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
SDM -	Supported Decision-Making
SGL -	Supervised Group Living
SSA -	Social Security Administration
TA -	Technical Assistance
TASC -	Training and Advocacy Support Center
TBI -	Traumatic Brain Injury
UCEDD -	University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
USDOE -	United States Department of Education
VA -	Veterans Affairs
VR/Voc Rehab -	Vocational Rehabilitation Services



IDR Teams

- Abuse, Neglect, and Discharge (AND)
- Civil Rights
- Education
- Employment
- Health Care
- Policy and Special Projects (PSP)
- Self-Determination
- Representative Payee

IDR Staff

Please visit <https://www.in.gov/idr/staff/our-staff/> to view a current staff list.

Grant Programs

CAP -	Client Assistance Program
PAAT -	Protection & Advocacy for Obtaining Assistive Technology
PABSS -	Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security
PADD -	Protection & Advocacy for Persons with Developmental Disabilities
PAIMI -	Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness
PAIR -	Protection & Advocacy for Individual Rights
PATBI -	Protection & Advocacy for Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury
PAVA -	Protection & Advocacy for Voting Access

State Hospitals

LCH -	Larue Carter Hospital
LSH -	Logansport State Hospital
EPCC -	Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center
ESH -	Evansville State Hospital
MSH -	Madison State Hospital
RSH -	Richmond State Hospital