

IOWA PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SERVICES, INC.

*defend and promote the rights of individuals with
developmental disabilities and people with mental illnesses"*

Mervin L. Roth
Executive Director

Iowa Legislative Council

PROJECT PROPOSAL

Purpose: To assist the Iowa Protection & Advocacy agency (P&A) in identifying those areas of the Iowa Code and the Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) that are creating problems for people with developmental disabilities (DD) and mental illnesses (MI) to access appropriate and entitled services/treatment in a safe, and non-abusive and least restrictive environment. Also, to fund a report for the legislature on the problems/issues identified by P&A, including recommended Code and policy changes needed to eliminate or reduce identified systemic problems.

Summary: To fund a twelve-month project with Iowa P&A that will:

1. Monitor the implementation in Iowa of OBRA, The Nursing Home Reform Act for people with MI and/or DD:
 - . to respond with information, referral and advocacy to requests from MI and DD health care facility residents, their families and from facility staff to identify and locate necessary and appropriate treatment, training and therapy services required under the law; and
 - . to identify and compile problems, needs and issues related to the lawful implementation of OBRA in Iowa in a written report to the legislature.
2. To assist Care Review Committees and MI and DD residents of health care and treatment facilities:
 - . by providing information and training regarding rights, procedures and appropriate practices to prevent unnecessary involuntary discharges;
 - . by responding to the information and advocacy requests of MI and DD residents who are being involuntarily discharged from health care and other treatment facilities; and

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- . by responding to complaints, reports or probable cause regarding abuse and neglect of MI and DD residents in health care and other treatment facilities through referral, monitoring or investigation.
3. To develop and submit a report for the legislature that includes:
- . statistics and activities of the project;
 - . the problems and issues of MI and DD residents that are identified; and
 - . recommendations for Code, rules and policy changes that are needed to eliminate or reduce the occurrence of the inappropriate care and treatment of persons with developmental disabilities and mental illnesses.

Funding.....\$35,000.00

Iowa Protection & Advocacy Services, Inc. requests funding in the amount of \$35,000.00 for this project. Funds will be used to provide staff and necessary clerical support to carry out the activities of the project, including telephone, travel, printed materials, etc. Funding will only be used for information and referral, training, investigation, negotiation, mediation and support of project clients in administrative appeals of problems; no funding will be used for litigation. All client services will be provided under Iowa P&A's services policy and within the resources of this project.