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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

December 3, 2022

The annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) was proclaimed in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3. The observance of the day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of the gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

The complex and interconnected crises facing humanity today, including the shock resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and other countries and the tipping point in climate change, all pose humanitarian challenges of an unprecedented nature, as well as threats to the global economy.

Most often, in moments of crises, people in vulnerable situations such as persons with disabilities are the most excluded and left behind. In line with the central premise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to “leave no one behind,” it is crucial for governments and public and private

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HIV/AIDS Awareness Month

Universal Human Rights Month

Handwashing Awareness Week

National Identity Theft Prevention Awareness Month

Judge Issues Landmark Ruling to Increase Services and Supports for North Carolina's I/DD Community

On Nov. 2, 2022, Superior Court Judge R. Allen Baddour entered an injunctive relief order in *Samantha R., et al. v North Carolina and the NC Department of Health and Human Services*. The case challenged the lack of adequate home and community-based services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities ("I/DD").

In February 2020, the Court found that the state is violating the rights of people with I/DD to live in integrated settings if they choose. The judge gave the state time to develop a plan for correcting its violations. The state failed to show that it has a plan to address serious and persistent gaps in NC's I/DD system, or any specific measurable goals to fix those gaps, so Judge Baddour's most recent order sets out measurable outcomes for what the state must accomplish. It does not dictate how the state achieves the required outcomes.

Here is what the Order requires:

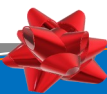
- **The Innovations Waiver waiting list must be eliminated in 10 years.**
There are currently over 16,000 people on the waiting list. The Order requires that these 16,000+ people, and those who qualify for the waiting list over the next 10 years, must be provided with the services they have been waiting for. The required reductions in the waiting list are designed to occur steadily over that 10-year period, although that pace may be accelerated by the state. We expect that steady reduction in the waiting list will mean steadily reducing wait times for a slot. It will also require significant expansion of access to services and providers.
- **The state must effectively resolve the shortage of Direct Support Professionals ("DSP") who provide community-based support.**
The Technical Assistance Collaborative ("TAC") has advised NC DHHS – and NC DHHS agrees – that the DSP issue can be remedied through better compensation and professionalizing the workforce. The Order requires the state to be accountable for solving workforce issues and closing the service gap. The parties will review available data and propose specific benchmarks for the Court to adopt.
- **The state must divert or transition 3000 people who want to leave or avoid institutional settings over the next 8 years, and cease new admissions after 6 years, except for respite or short-term stabilization.**
The Order sets an annual benchmark which the state can meet by employing programs and processes it has used in other contexts, such as In-Reach and diversion programs. Ultimately, the success of this effort will require creating a more robust community-based service system to serve people who want to live in the community.
- **The state must provide quarterly reports regarding each measure ordered by the Court, and post data to its website so that the disability community has access to timely information about the status of the state's progress.**
The state will report detailed information to DRNC (Disability Rights North Carolina) and the Court to allow for verification and tracking. The Order does not require closure of specific facilities. The lawsuit did not seek to close either specific institutions or categories of institutions. As we have seen in other states, over time, providers may start adjusting their practices to meet changing needs and desires. With proper planning, these adjustments can benefit everyone. For example, operators of private ICF (Intermediate Care Facilities) for people with I/DD can transition to community-based services and continue to operate profitably. In this way, people with I/DD who are currently housed in inappropriate settings that do not meet their needs can be served more appropriately. Another example is adult care homes, which are not designed to provide support and enrichment for people with I/DD but which often accept people with I/DD even when those settings limit options or quality of life.

The state has said for many years that it wants to, and intends to, reduce reliance on institutional settings and serve more people in the community. The Order holds the state accountable to do just that – provide community-based services for more people with I/DD.

The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities and Meet the Need NC issued a joint statement on the landmark decision to meet the needs of the I/DD community.

"This ruling reflects the work of so many disability advocates who have spent years advocating for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) on the waiting list and those who lack supports due to the Direct Support Professional workforce shortage. We will continue to raise awareness and work to ensure that all people with I/DD can live full and meaningful lives in their communities," said Talley Wells, executive director, NCCDD; and Beth Field, program director, Meet the Need NC.

Source: <https://disabilityrightsncc.org/news/fact-sheet-faqs-samantha-r-v-north-carolina/>



WORLD AIDS DAY

ROCK THE RIBBON

1 DECEMBER 2022

National AIDS Trust works to stop new cases of HIV, secure the rights of people living with HIV, and fight HIV stigma and discrimination. This year's World AIDS Day campaign celebrates the diverse group of people who make up this community and the HIV allies who stand shoulder to shoulder with them and fight for HIV rights.

Help spread awareness far and wide this World AIDS Day with a virtual red ribbon. Download a virtual red ribbon at <https://www.worldaidsday.org/virtualribbon/> and add it to your email signature, profile picture, or social media page to show friends and family that you #rocktheribbon and stand alongside people living with HIV.

Hosting a fundraising event for National AIDS Trust is a great way to support a fantastic cause, raise HIV awareness and help champion the rights of people living with HIV. The National AIDS Trust provides a free fundraising pack with lots of ideas and tips for creating a fundraising event in your school, university, workplace, or community. For more information, visit <https://www.worldaidsday.org/fundraising/>.

World AIDS Day may be once a year, but you can support people living with HIV all year round. Sign up to National AIDS Trust's mailing list to stay up-to-date with new developments in HIV, and learn how you can get involved as an activist or as a volunteer.

Source: <https://www.worldaidsday.org/2022-campaign/>

NATIONAL HAND WASHING AWARENESS WEEK



The first week of December is National Hand Washing Awareness Week which is sponsored by *Henry the Hand Foundation* and reminds us to be vigilant about hand-washing, especially this time of year because it's cold and flu season!

Making a habit of good hand hygiene is an easy, effective way to prevent infections and sicknesses. Practicing the **4 Principles of Hand Awareness** can help prevent the spread of germs:

1. WASH your hands when they are dirty and BEFORE eating
2. DO NOT cough into your hands
3. DO NOT sneeze into your hands
4. DO NOT put your fingers into your eyes, nose, or mouth

Make it a point to wash your hands several times a day, and use #NationalHandWashingWeek to post on social media to spread the word (but not the germs)!

Source: <https://nationaldaycalendar.com> and <https://henrythehand.com>

International Volunteer Day



UN Volunteers (UNV) coordinates International Volunteer Day (IVD) on 5 December annually to recognize and promote the tireless work, not just of UN Volunteers, but of volunteers across the globe. On IVD 2022, we celebrate the theme **“Solidarity Through Volunteering.”** For the future of our planet, we must act together and we must act now. This is not an era to stand alone but together, as one, in solidarity with each other.

Volunteering is where compassion meets solidarity. Both share the same root values – supporting each other from a position of trust, humility, respect and equality. Rising inequalities throughout the world implore that we need to work together to find common solutions. Volunteers, drawn together by solidarity, develop solutions to urgent development challenges and for the common good.

In the lead up to #IVD2022, join UNV and volunteers around the globe to celebrate the spirit of volunteerism. We are proud of all volunteers who are role models in their communities by working together in solidarity and personifying inspiration in action.

Source: <https://www.unv.org/node/38236>



Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December — the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR is a milestone document, which proclaims the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, color, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Available in more than 500 languages, it is the most translated document in the world.

The 75th anniversary of the UDHR will be celebrated on 10 December 2023. This year's Human Rights Day on 10 December 2022, will launch a year-long campaign to showcase the UDHR by focusing on its legacy, relevance and activism. The theme is *"Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All"* and the call to action is **#StandUp4HumanRights**.

In the decades since the adoption of the UDHR, human rights have become more recognized and more guaranteed across the globe. It has since served as the foundation for an expanding system of human rights protection that today focuses also on vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and migrants.

The year-long campaign seeks to shift the needle of understanding and action towards greater knowledge of the universality of the UDHR and the activism associated with it.

Source: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>



MISSION STATEMENT

To establish,
expand, protect,
and enforce the
human and civil
rights of persons
with disabilities
through administrative,
legal, and other
appropriate remedies.



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PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES DAY

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sectors to collaboratively find innovative solutions for and with persons with disabilities to make the world a more accessible and equitable place.

The theme this year is *"Transformative Solutions for Inclusive Development: The Role of Innovation in Fueling an Accessible and Equitable World."* The main program of the observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at the UN Headquarters in New York will include the Opening, panel discussions and cultural events. Member States, civil society organizations and the private sector are welcome to organize their own events to celebrate the International Day to raise awareness and promote the rights and perspectives of persons with disabilities around the world.

Source: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities-3-december/international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities-idpd-3-december-2022.html>

