

P&A TIDBITS

LEGAL NEWS & other

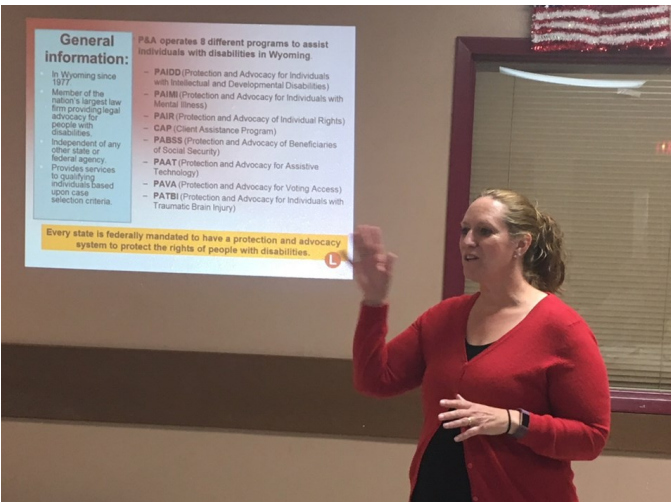
Disability-Related info

june 2018



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

During the first full week of May, P&A staff Lori Regnier and Bob Walters visited community programs in Northwestern Wyoming (Worland, Thermopolis and Cody) to provide a rights presentation and community forums on P&A's proposed FY 2018 priorities. Lori and Bob also had priorities forums with DVR and area case managers. The rights presentation is a type of outreach intended to educate persons with disabilities regarding their rights, including those related to education, recreation, independence, decision-making, privacy and freedom from abuse or neglect.



Lori and Bob provided "goody bags" with information regarding all 8 P&A programs (shown in above picture) and other helpful publications, including housing rights, service animals, the CAP program for employment assistance with DVR, and voting rights.


The Priorities forums were presented to go over the priorities for FY 2018 P&A was proposing and provide the public with an opportunity to comment. All community programs Lori and Bob visited, as well as employees of DVR and DWS and the area case managers received a written copy of the priorities, which included P&A's primary authority to investigate and monitor abuse and/or neglect reports from the State's institutions — the Wyoming State Hospital and Wyoming Life Resource Center.

If you want P&A to provide a rights presentation, please contact us!

SHARING THE VISION

Accessibility Issues Related to Persons with Disabilities

presented by:

TO THE  WYOMING COUNTY CLERKS

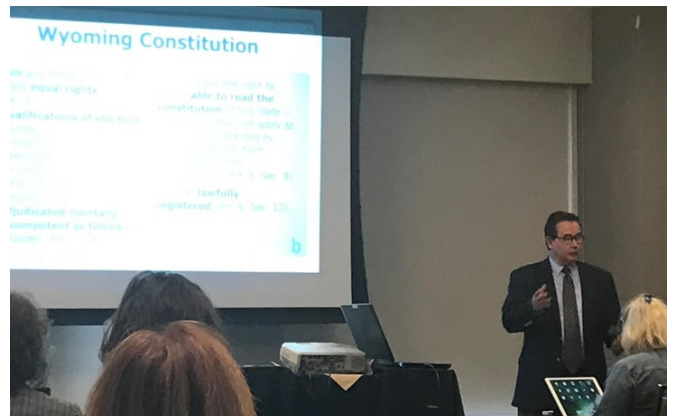
May 9-10, 2018
CODY WYOMING

COUNTY CLERKS WELCOME P&A!

While in Cody on May 10th, Bob Walters and Lori Regnier also did a presentation of voting rights of persons with disabilities and accessibility issues, which are often found in voting registrations, physical access to polling sites, and accessibility of the voting machines themselves. People First language was discussed as an important aspect of interaction with persons with disabilities.

The audience was extremely engaged and asked important questions, including problems faced with service animals. P&A extended an invitation to the county clerks to share our vision of no barriers and encouraged the clerks to view P&A as a resource to them, their staff, and volunteers.

As this is an election year, there are important offices to be considered. At the Federal level, voters will elect a U.S. Senator and the House representative. At the State level, all high ranking positions are up for election as well as those in the Senate in odd numbered districts, and House member is all districts. 2018 will be an important year for elections!



(continued on next page)

Who Are People With Disabilities in the United States?



1 in 5
U.S. Adults, or 64 million people,
have a disability



Of those, **35%**, or 22 million,
are of prime working-age
(ages 16–64)

Source: *A Hidden Market: The Purchasing Power of People with Disabilities*, 2018

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IS AN IMPORTANT CONSUMER MARKET!

People with disabilities provide a twofold opportunity for business and industry. First, businesses benefit from hiring people with disabilities by increasing the diversity of their labor force, inspiring innovation, and improving productivity; they benefit from an increase in favorable public perception. Second, people with disabilities also represent a vast consumer market for high-quality services and products.

The American Institutes for Research published a report in April 2018, entitled “A Hidden Market: The Purchasing Power of Working-Age Adults With Disabilities.” The Report examines the significant and growing economic power of the disability market through the lens of disposable and discretionary income, and provides information to help motivate businesses to enter this market. Disposable income (money available after taxes to spend on essential living expenses); discretionary income (money available for nonessential items after taxes and basic living expenses have been met). The report also discusses implications for businesses, next steps to aid in accessing this market, and specific examples of companies in the United States that have experienced strategic benefits from employing, marketing to, and developing specific products for people with disabilities. People with disabilities also are not a solitary market; they are surrounded by family members and friends who also recognize the value in products and services that accommodate all people in society.

Key Findings included: (1) the total after-tax disposable income for working-age people with disabilities is about \$490 billion, which is similar to that of other significant market segments, such as African Americans (\$501 billion) and Hispanics (\$582 billion); (2) discretionary income for working-age people with disabilities is about \$21 billion, which is greater than that of the African-American and Hispanic market segments combined; and (3) Disposable and discretionary income varies by disability type and by state—information that can help business leaders as they make plans to access the disability market.

The Report can be obtained online at: <https://www.air.org/system/files/downloads/report/Hidden-Market-Spending-Power-of-People-with-Disabilities-April-2018.pdf>.

(continued from first page)

P&A assists in educating county clerks and other officials regarding voter accessibility for persons with disabilities. A feature of the training is legal obligations that should be met and demonstrations with voting machines especially tailored for persons with disabilities. This invitation was extended to the county clerks at the meeting, some of whom expressed interest.

Training also is available for other groups (including community programs) upon request. Any group wanting this or other training should contact P&A!

MORE INFO

CONTACT US

Protection & Advocacy System, Inc.
7344 Stockman Street
Cheyenne, WY
Email: wypanda@wypanda.com
www.wypanda.com
(307) 632-3496 Voice or Relay
(800) 624-7648 (Clients Only)