

Report to the Developmental Disabilities Council

Prepared by the Advocacy Center

January, 2008

- Advocacy Center has prepared a draft legislative agenda, which is as follows:
 1. Make it a condition of participation for Medicaid funding that nursing homes be required to contract with hospice providers.
 2. Amend multi family housing accessible unit threshold from “more than four units” to” four or more units”
 3. Amend State Personal Care Program legislation to allow choice of qualified service provider without regards to program participant’s geographical residency.
 4. Increase transportation opportunities for persons with disabilities.
 5. Amend interdiction statute to allow interdict the ability to retain legal counsel to challenge interdiction.
 6. Create intermediate sanctions for child/youth residential services operated by OCS and OYD.
 7. Amend election laws to provide for less cumbersome method for allowing folks with disabilities to vote by mail.
 8. Amend statute that provides for sanctions against group homes and nursing facilities to increase intermediate sanctions
 9. Amend APS/EPS law to reflect recommendations of study group created in 07 legislative session
 10. Budgetary increases: More Mental Health services; More EDA slots; More NOW Waiver slots; Strengthen oversight and quality control over local human service districts and authorities; Assisting maximum funding of LRS and IL services if needed.

AC hopes to work in collaboration with the DD Council and others in furtherance of some of these goals.

- AC’s Katrina Aid Today Program, a case management program funded by the United Methodist Committee on Relief, will be closing down operations as of March 31, 2008. KAT was funded in January, 2006, specifically to provide case management services to all victims of Hurricane Katrina. In Louisiana, the Advocacy Center was selected to serve those victims of Katrina who also have a disability.

During its two plus years of operation, KAT has assisted a total of 2,381 people with disabilities to develop and implement a recovery plan. Through this work \$5,947,377 have been generated, which these people used to rebuild their lives

and homes. Both these numbers are expected to increase at the end of the month as Case Mangers enter new data for the fourth quarter.