



**The Arc of Texas Legislative Goals for the 78th Legislative Session
Adopted By The Arc of Texas Board on June 7, 2002**

I. Advocate for the inclusion of funds for waiting lists in the TDMHMR and TDHS budgets.

1. To expand Medicaid waiver services over a period of six years such that no individual will remain on a waiting list for more than two years.
2. To expand state and local program and administrative support infrastructure to enable an effective ramp up of waiver services expansion over six years.
3. To improve the quality of community-based mental retardation services by increasing the average direct care wage to at least that offered in state facilities.
4. Regarding TDMHMR: To develop and implement an effective and efficient Selected Essential Services Waiver as proposed by Governor Perry's Executive Order RP 13 relating to community-based alternatives for people with disabilities.

II. Advocate for people with mental retardation who are involved with the Texas criminal justice system.

1. To define the population of those with mental retardation who are involved with the criminal justice system (MRO population).
2. To raise awareness about the MRO population and their needs.
3. To ensure that current special needs offender studies and initiatives include offenders and alleged offenders with mental retardation.

III. Advocate for TEA full compliance with IDEA.

1. Support existing coalition efforts to move Texas toward IDEA compliance.

IV. Advocate for the implementation of the Promoting Independence Plan.

1. To ensure that the Promoting Independence Plan is updated as appropriate.
2. To ensure that people wishing to receive services in the community can do so within reasonable promptness.
3. To impact studies and future initiatives on "dollars following the client" as individuals move from any institution into the community.