



The Arc of Texas

The Arc of Texas
Preliminary 80th Legislative Platform
Updated on September 15, 2006

ADVANCE SELF-DETERMINATION

Assure statewide and health and human services system-wide adoption of self-determination principles so Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities are empowered to make their own choices and decisions.

END WAITING LISTS

Honor the *McCarthy v. Hawkins* settlement agreement by funding a 10-20% decrease in the Waiting Lists for services in the FY 2008-2009 biennium. The Arc of Texas continues to support a "Ten-Year Plan to Eliminate the Waiting Lists," while maintaining the first-come, first-served provision, so that at the end of those ten years no individual waits more than 24 months to receive Medicaid Waiver Program supports and services.

ENSURE QUALITY SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

Strengthen the health and human services delivery system and infrastructure to ensure quality supports and services (i.e. direct care worker wages, provider rates, etc).

PROMOTE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Assure that Texas students with intellectual and developmental disabilities are fully included in all educational settings.

STRENGTHEN FORENSIC SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Develop and strengthen forensic services in Texas so that persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the criminal justice system are identified and receive timely supports and services to facilitate their return to productive lives and to reduce criminal justice costs.

STRENGTHEN THE SAFETY-NET

Restore general revenue funding for essential "Community Mental Retardation" supports and services.

ENSURE DISTINCT HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DELIVERY SYSTEMS

Ensure a distinct service delivery system to address the unique needs and choices of persons for whom statutory rights and benefits exist based on a diagnosis of mental retardation, including specialization at service system entry points, safety-net services, and community-based Medicaid waiver programs.

**For more information, contact Amy Mizcles, Director of Governmental Affairs,
512-454-6694 or amizcles@thearcoftexas.org.**

8001 Centre Park Drive, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78754 ♦ Phone (512) 454-6694 ♦ Toll Free 1-800-252-9729 ♦ Fax (512) 454-4956

"...committed to expanding opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities."