



## Statement of Priorities & Objectives October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021

### A - Intake & Outreach

- Goal:** Efficiently provide timely services to new clients & increase awareness of the Law Center's services through community & media-based outreach, providing training & information.
- Objective 1:** **Access to Available Benefits.** Assist seniors and individuals with disabilities receive appropriate services by helping them access programs that help pay for healthcare, food and energy, for which they are eligible.
- Objective 2:** **Promoting Vocational Rehabilitation Services.** Increase awareness of vocational rehabilitation services through:
- producing outreach materials; and
  - training on employment opportunities and supports for 50 people with disabilities wanting to return to work.
- Objective 3:** **Promote Self-Advocacy & Understanding of Rights.** The Law Center will participate in local, regional & national conferences & training events to increase:
- the understanding of Native Americans with disabilities & their families of their rights to services, supports, & employment;
  - the ability of Native Americans with disabilities & their families to advocate for their needs & services; &
  - the understanding of the issues facing Native Americans with disabilities.

### B - Children's Education & Safety

- Goal:** All Native American children in the Four Corners region will have access to appropriate education & services designed to keep them safe & meet their unique needs in the least restrictive environment.
- Objective 1:** **Represent Abused and Neglected children.** Represent Native American children as Guardian Ad Litem or Youth Attorney in child abuse & neglect cases in New Mexico and the Navajo Nation through court appointments.
- Objective 2:** **Promote Self-Advocacy.** Provide technical assistance to families of twenty-five (25) students with disabilities to empower them to advocate for their children to

obtain appropriate education and related services in the least restrictive environment in their community.

**Objective 3: Direct Representation.** Provide direct representation in meetings, informal settings, and/or administrative proceedings to thirty (30) children with disabilities who are not receiving a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment, with priority given to students who are excluded from school and/or referred to the juvenile justice system.

**Objective 4: Systemic Advocacy.** Ensure that the federal & state education systems meet the educational needs of Native American students with disabilities enrolled in their schools by addressing the general education, special education, mental health, and wellness needs of students, including those impacted by trauma and adversity.

### **C - Community Integration**

**Goal:** Individuals with disabilities will be free from abuse and neglect, whether they live in the community, residential facilities or correctional institutions, and receive appropriate supports & services to enable them to live in the most integrated, least restrictive settings appropriate to their choices and needs.

**Objective 1: Monitoring Facilities and Services.** Monitor facilities and institutions at least quarterly for instances of abuse and neglect, distributing educational materials, and providing advocacy services for individuals who are allegedly being abused or neglected.

**Objective 2: Protection for Beneficiaries of Social Security:** Monitor benefit use by those with Representative Payees to ensure that benefits are used to support beneficiaries.

**Objective 3: Promote Community Access.** Provide direct assistance to individuals with disabilities in their efforts to obtain appropriate community services, such as housing, vocational rehabilitation services or address employment discrimination.

**Objective 4: Champion Right to Autonomy.** Work with other disability advocacy organizations to address systemic discrimination by transforming attitudes of paternalism, recognizing the right to autonomy in individuals with disabilities, especially those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and to increase the awareness of their needs and services, including community supports, training or education opportunities.