

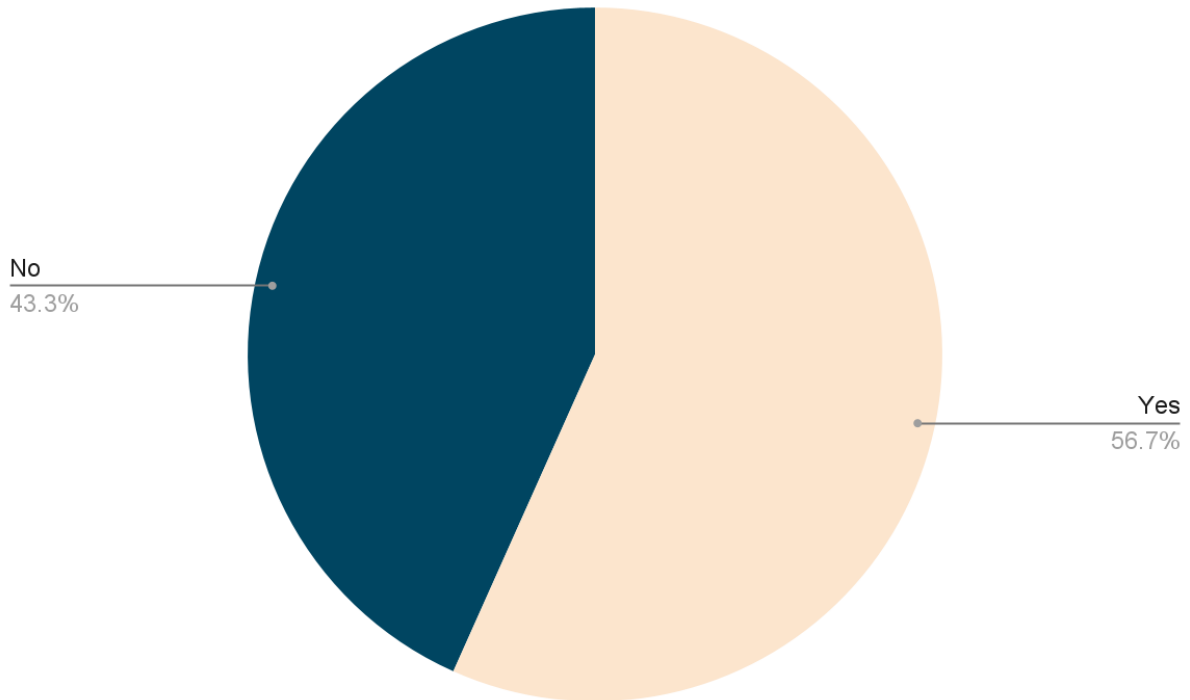
# Executive Summary: 2023 Public Input Survey

## Collection Windows and Number of Respondents:

| Collection Year | Open Date | Extraction Date | <i>n</i> size |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|
| 2023            | 4/24/23   | 7/8/23          | 159           |
| 2022            | 3/31/22   | 6/3/22          | 218           |
| 2021            | 4/7/21    | 6/17/21         | 204           |
| 2020            | 4/14/20   | 6/5/20          | 112           |
| 2019            | N/A       | N/A             | 372           |
| 2018            | N/A       | N/A             | 200           |

## Demographics

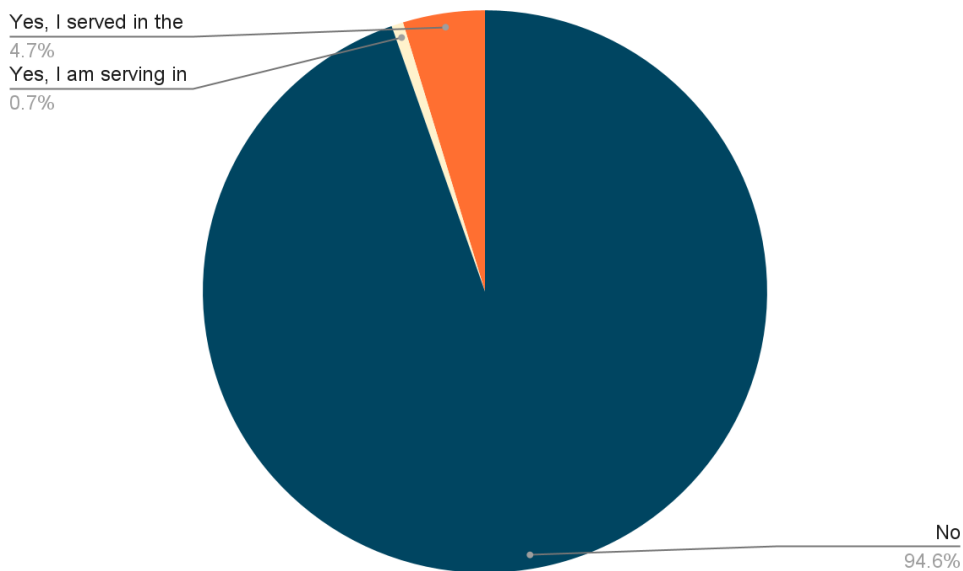
Q: Do you identify as a person with a disability?



**Q: Do you identify as a person with a disability?**

| Collection Year | # Yes | %Yes | # No | %No |
|-----------------|-------|------|------|-----|
| 2023            | 89    | 43%  | 68   | 57% |
| 2022            | 118   | 54%  | 100  | 46% |
| 2021            | 92    | 45%  | 112  | 55% |
| 2020            | 44    | 39%  | 68   | 61% |

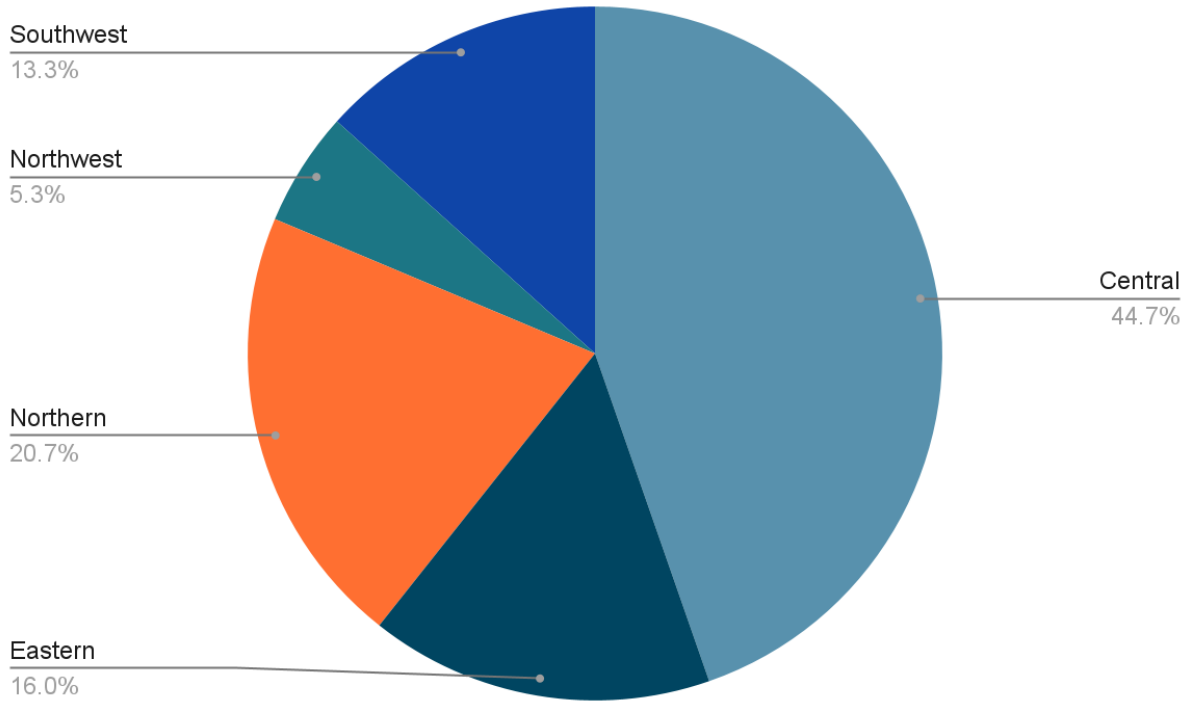
**Q: Are you currently serving or have you served in the US Military?**



**Q: Are you currently serving or have you served in the US Military (question reworded in 2022)?**

| Collection Year | # Yes, I served | %Yes, I served | # Yes, I am serving | %Yes, I am serving | # No | %No |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|------|-----|
| 2023            | 1               | >1%            | 7                   | 5%                 | 141  | 95% |
| 2022            | 7               |                |                     | 3%                 | 211  | 97% |
| 2021            | 14              |                |                     | 6%                 | 190  | 94% |
| 2020            | 12              |                |                     | 11%                | 98   | 87% |

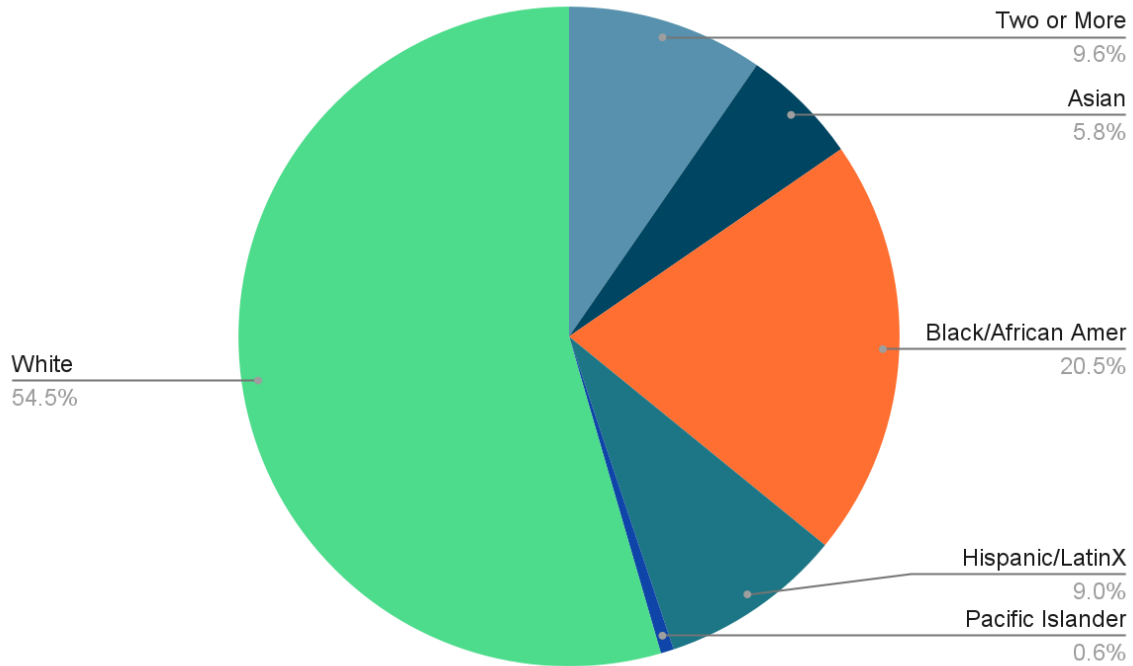
**Q: Please select the region in Virginia where you live:**



**Q: Please select the region in Virginia where you live:**

| Collection Year | 2020 |     | 2021 |     | 2022 |     | 2023 |     |
|-----------------|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|
|                 | #    | %   | #    | %   | #    | %   | #    | %   |
| Central         | 67   | 60% | 114  | 56% | 112  | 53% | 67   | 48% |
| Eastern         | 16   | 15% | 25   | 12% | 42   | 20% | 24   | 16% |
| Northern        | 17   | 15% | 34   | 17% | 33   | 16% | 31   | 21% |
| Northwest       | 1    | 1%  | 10   | 5%  | 11   | 5%  | 8    | 5%  |
| Southwest       | 10   | 9%  | 18   | 9%  | 12   | 5%  | 20   | 13% |

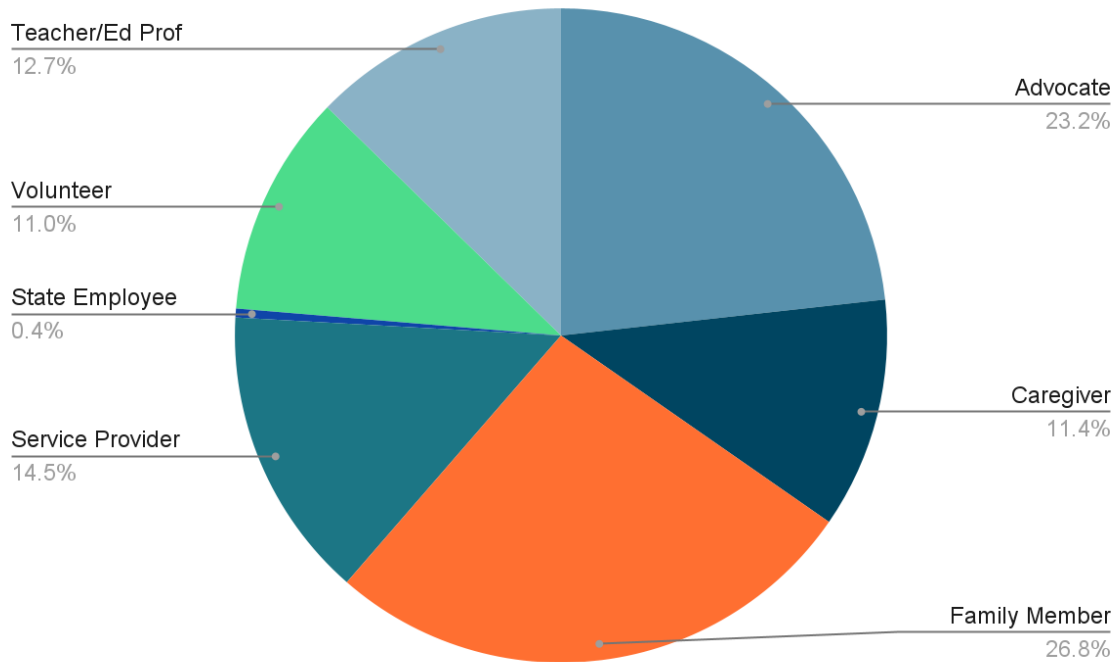
**Q: What race(s) do you identify as, please check all that apply:**



**Q: What race(s) do you identify as, please check all that apply:**

| Collection Year                        | 2021 |     | 2022 |     |       | 2022 |     |                |
|--|------|-----|------|-----|-------|------|-----|----------------|
|  | #    | %   | #    | %   | VA %  | #    | %   | dLCV clients % |
| American Indian                        | 0    | 0%  | 2    | <1% | 0.5%  | <    | <   | 1%             |
| Asian                                  | 8    | 4%  | 8    | 4%  | 6.9%  | 9    | 6%  | 2%             |
| Black/African American                 | 20   | 10% | 48   | 22% | 19.9% | 32   | 21% | 32%            |
| Hispanic/LatinX                        | 20   | 10% | 21   | 10% | 9.8%  | 14   | 9%  | 8%             |
| Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander | 2    | 1%  | 0    | 0%  | 0.1%  | <    | <1% | 1%             |
| Two or more races                      | 10   | 5%  | 15   | 7%  | 3.2%  | 15   | 10% | 6%             |
| White                                  | 133  | 65% | 123  | 56% | 69.4% | 85   | 55% | 50%            |

**Q: What role(s) do you identify as, please check all that apply:**



**Q: What role(s) do you identify as, please check all that apply (Duplicated Counts):**

| Collection Year                                 | 2020                 |                      | 2021                 |                      | 2022                 |                      | 2023          |               |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
|   | #                    | %                    | #                    | %                    | #                    | %                    | #             | %             |
| <b>Self-Identified Role (Duplicated Counts)</b> |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |               |               |
| <b>Advocate (including self)</b>                | 10                   | 9%                   | 51                   | 21%                  | 98                   | 24%                  | 53            | 27%           |
| <b>Caregiver</b>                                | Combined with Family | Combined with Family | Combined with Family | Combined with Family | Combined with Family | Combined with Family | 26            | 13%           |
| <b>Family Member</b>                            | 32                   | 28%                  | 51                   | 21%                  | 82                   | 20%                  | 61            | 31%           |
| <b>Person w/ Disability</b>                     | 44                   | 39%                  | 92                   | 38%                  | 118                  | 29%                  | Not collected | Not collected |
| <b>Service Provider</b>                         | 13                   | 12%                  | 28                   | 12%                  | 26                   | 6%                   | 33            | 17%           |
| <b>State Employee</b>                           | Not collected        | Not collected        | Not collected        | Not collected        | Not collected        | Not collected        | 1             | <1%           |
| <b>Teacher or Education Professional</b>        | 12                   | 11%                  | 18                   | 8%                   | 25                   | 6%                   | 29            | 13%           |
| <b>Volunteer</b>                                | 1                    | <1%                  | Not collected        | Not collected        | 32                   | 8%                   | 25            | 11%           |

**RANK ORDER by ROLE (1 = highest)**

| <b>Goal Areas</b>  | <b>Overall</b> | <b>PWD</b> | <b>Advocate</b> | <b>Caregiver</b> | <b>Family Member</b> | <b>Service Provider</b> | <b>Education Prof</b> | <b>Volunteer</b> |
|--|----------------|------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Abuse and/or Neglect in Facilities (such as Assisted Living Facilities, Nursing Homes, Group Homes, Psychiatric Facilities, Training Centers, Day Support) | 2              | 3          | 1               | 9                | 4                    | 2                       | 2                     | 1                |
| ...in Jails and Prisons  | 13             | 17         | 8               | 10               | 14                   | 4                       | 18                    | 16               |
| ...in Juvenile Justice   | 18             | 14         | 18              | 16               | 20                   | 23                      | 18                    | 7                |
| ...in Schools  | 14             | 17         | 13              | 16               | 9                    | 21                      | 9                     | 19               |
| Access to Government Benefits including Social Security's Disability Programs and Medicaid Waivers   | 1              | 1          | 2               | 1                | 1                    | 4                       | 4                     | 2                |
| Assault and/or Violence Against People with Disabilities   | 6              | 5          | 10              | 6                | 5                    | 11                      | 7                     | 3                |
| Advance Directives/Supported Decision Making   | 17             | 9          | 23              | 2                | 20                   | 13                      | 23                    | 11               |
| Assistive Technology   | 22             | 21         | 19              | 20               | 23                   | 18                      | 20                    | 22               |
| Community Access/Barrier Free  | 15             | 8          | 15              | 13               | 19                   | 15                      | 15                    | 15               |
| Employment Rights  | 10             | 6          | 15              | 7                | 10                   | 12                      | 12                    | 17               |
| Elder Rights and Nursing Home Conditions   | 16             | 15         | 21              | 22               | 18                   | 21                      | 14                    | 9                |
| Guardianship   | 21             | 22         | 22              | 16               | 20                   | 15                      | 16                    | 23               |
| Health Care: Access and/or Availability to Providers and Specialists   | 7              | 12         | 8               | 3                | 10                   | 8                       | 6                     | 13               |
| Health Care: Ensuring Quality Services/Treatments  | 19             | 17         | 17              | 12               | 13                   | 19                      | 9                     | 13               |
| Housing  | 3              | 2          | 6               | 8                | 2                    | 1                       | 5                     | 6                |
| Management of Social Security Benefits   | 9              | 12         | 19              | 14               | 8                    | 10                      | 11                    | 20               |
| Mental Health: Access and/or Availability to Providers and Specialists   | 5              | 9          | 5               | 4                | 2                    | 6                       | 7                     | 4                |
| ...Appropriate Discharge Placement/Inclusive Decision Making   | 20             | 20         | 14              | 21               | 15                   | 13                      | 20                    | 11               |
| ...Ensuring Quality Services/Treatments  | 11             | 9          | 7               | 15               | 12                   | 9                       | 12                    | 8                |
| Promoting Self-Advocacy through Education and/or Training  | 4              | 4          | 4               | 23               | 7                    | 7                       | 3                     | 9                |
| Special Education  | 8              | 6          | 3               | 4                | 5                    | 15                      | 1                     | 4                |
| Transportation   | 12             | 16         | 12              | 10               | 17                   | 2                       | 17                    | 20               |
| Vocational Rehabilitation Services   | 22             | 23         | 11              | 16               | 16                   | 19                      | 20                    | 17               |
| Voting Rights  | 24             | 24         | 23              | 24               | 24                   | 24                      | 24                    | 23               |

**RANK ORDER by RACE/ETHNICITY (1 = highest)**

| <b>Goal Areas</b>  | <b>Overall</b> | <b>Asian</b> | <b>Black/<br/>Afr<br/>Amer</b> | <b>Hispanic<br/>/ LatinX</b> | <b>Multi</b> | <b>White</b> |
|--|----------------|--------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Abuse and/or Neglect in Facilities (such as Assisted Living Facilities, Nursing Homes, Group Homes, Psychiatric Facilities, Training Centers, Day Support) | 2              | 4            | 4                              | 2                            | 1            | 2            |
| ...in Jails and Prisons  | 13             | 6            | 13                             | 4                            | 5            | 21           |
| ...in Juvenile Justice   | 18             | 4            | 22                             | 12                           | 15           | 15           |
| ...in Schools  | 14             | 12           | 11                             | 24                           | 13           | 11           |
| Access to Government Benefits including Social Security's Disability Programs and Medicaid Waivers   | 1              | 2            | 7                              | 1                            | 9            | 1            |
| Assault and/or Violence Against People with Disabilities   | 6              | 18           | 1                              | 3                            | 2            | 13           |
| Advance Directives/Supported Decision Making   | 17             | 15           | 13                             | 5                            | 8            | 17           |
| Assistive Technology   | 22             | 18           | 19                             | 18                           | 21           | 19           |
| Community Access/Barrier Free  | 15             | 16           | 11                             | 14                           | 10           | 14           |
| Employment Rights  | 10             | 6            | 10                             | 6                            | 22           | 9            |
| Elder Rights and Nursing Home Conditions   | 16             | 12           | 5                              | 8                            | 13           | 22           |
| Guardianship   | 21             | 17           | 21                             | 9                            | 10           | 23           |
| Health Care: Access and/or Availability to Providers and Specialists   | 7              | 8            | 2                              | 9                            | 18           | 10           |
| Health Care: Ensuring Quality Services/Treatments  | 19             | 11           | 18                             | 12                           | 22           | 16           |
| Housing  | 3              | 18           | 8                              | 9                            | 6            | 3            |
| Management of Social Security Benefits   | 9              | 1            | 3                              | 14                           | 20           | 12           |
| Mental Health: Access and/or Availability to Providers and Specialists   | 5              | 12           | 17                             | 16                           | 2            | 4            |
| ...Appropriate Discharge Placement/Inclusive Decision Making   | 20             | 8            | 22                             | 18                           | 6            | 19           |
| ...Ensuring Quality Services/Treatments  | 11             | 8            | 9                              | 18                           | 12           | 8            |
| Promoting Self-Advocacy through Education and/or Training  | 4              | 2            | 6                              | 7                            | 4            | 6            |
| Special Education  | 8              | 18           | 15                             | 21                           | 18           | 5            |
| Transportation   | 12             | 18           | 16                             | 16                           | 15           | 7            |
| Vocational Rehabilitation Services   | 22             | 18           | 20                             | 23                           | 22           | 18           |
| Voting Rights  | 24             | 18           | 24                             | 22                           | 15           | 24           |

### RANK ORDER by REGION (1 = highest)

| Goal Areas   | Overall | Central | Eastern | Northern | Northwest | Southwest |
|--|---------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Abuse and/or Neglect in Facilities (such as Assisted Living Facilities, Nursing Homes, Group Homes, Psychiatric Facilities, Training Centers, Day Support) | 2       | 1       | 3       | 1        | 2         | 1         |
| ...in Jails and Prisons  | 13      | 7       | 9       | 17       | 19        | 16        |
| ...in Juvenile Justice   | 18      | 17      | 18      | 16       | 13        | 19        |
| ...in Schools  | 14      | 14      | 14      | 13       | 14        | 14        |
| Access to Government Benefits including Social Security's Disability Programs and Medicaid Waivers   | 1       | 2       | 1       | 3        | 4         | 3         |
| Assault and/or Violence Against People with Disabilities   | 6       | 12      | 5       | 2        | 8         | 2         |
| Advance Directives/Supported Decision Making   | 17      | 23      | 22      | 10       | 8         | 11        |
| Assistive Technology   | 22      | 20      | 19      | 24       | 15        | 22        |
| Community Access/Barrier Free  | 15      | 12      | 16      | 17       | 15        | 15        |
| Employment Rights  | 10      | 8       | 9       | 15       | 19        | 8         |
| Elder Rights and Nursing Home Conditions   | 16      | 18      | 12      | 17       | 6         | 16        |
| Guardianship   | 21      | 19      | 21      | 22       | 19        | 11        |
| Health Care: Access and/or Availability to Providers and Specialists   | 7       | 6       | 9       | 14       | 4         | 7         |
| Health Care: Ensuring Quality Services/Treatments  | 19      | 20      | 12      | 21       | 10        | 8         |
| Housing  | 3       | 4       | 3       | 9        | 1         | 6         |
| Management of Social Security Benefits   | 9       | 15      | 2       | 6        | 18        | 13        |
| Mental Health: Access and/or Availability to Providers and Specialists   | 5       | 3       | 7       | 6        | 6         | 16        |
| ...Appropriate Discharge Placement/Inclusive Decision Making   | 20      | 16      | 19      | 20       | 19        | 19        |
| ...Ensuring Quality Services/Treatments  | 11      | 11      | 14      | 5        | 10        | 8         |
| Promoting Self-Advocacy through Education and/or Training  | 4       | 5       | 8       | 4        | 2         | 4         |
| Special Education  | 8       | 9       | 6       | 8        | 15        | 5         |
| Transportation   | 12      | 10      | 17      | 10       | 10        | 19        |
| Vocational Rehabilitation Services   | 22      | 22      | 23      | 10       | 19        | 23        |
| Voting Rights  | 24      | 24      | 23      | 23       | 19        | 24        |



## **Q: Why did you select your top concern?**

### **Open Responses-**

*People with disabilities struggle to find and retain employment. In our current economy, this drastically effects people with disabilities abilities to live independently. With costs-of-living rapidly increasing, it is paramount that we find ways to support people with disabilities in stable and quality employment. Employee rights are particularly fraught for Virginia workers, as we are a "right-to-work" state, and there is little precedent or enforcement of the ADA for employees. The risk of being retaliated against is quite high. Changing this culture for our state would change lives.*

*Self advocacy helps reduce harm in all placements and avenues of a disabled persons life.*

*My Mother's experiences*

*I am an educator. I believe every student should have the right to a quality education, free from harm, harassment and abuse.*

*Health care especially for mental illness is being neglected by government entities*

*It seems people in general get lost in the court/justice system. Some maybe not even belong there. But too easy to forget about them and perpetuate problems.*

*Because my child is currently school age*

*People with disabilities are frequently victims of violence or more subtle abuse. I couldn't narrow it down to one place/situation.*

*Accessing quality & accessible services is a major issue for our disability community; overlaps with several other concerns on the list.*

*There is not enough supported living in apartments for individuals with disabilities*

*If you qualify for a disability diagnosis, you should qualify for a waiver.*

*All are of equal concern.*

*Because presently services are almost on-existent in our area or they are one size fits all which never works*

*It affects everything else*

*It's unfair and unjust that With a disability cannot vote when regular pairs vote and they don't have the mental capacity themselves. Also, Dr. and if they have them in Tallardy to know where they're going, they should drive that should not be taken away from them*

*no clue!*

*DMAS's mismanagement of waiver services, and the hostile political environment toward Medicaid services.*

*Need more funding and less govt red tape*

*I had family members in facilities and this was always a concern for me.*

*Ensuring Quality Services/Treatments - many families have questions about this. I would consider school/special education, abuse/neglect, and health care (available providers/assistive technology, etc.) to be included in this.*

*because these are issues that are not being addressed adequately at the state or congressional level, and there is a dire need amongst our disabled population. public guardianship agencies have waitlists a mile long. There are disabled people who need medical procedures but can't get them because they don't have a guardian, and can't afford to go through the process of obtaining one. A lot of people have guardians that are elderly and have their own cognitive delays as they've gotten older and can no longer make decisions for others. There seems to be no quick or easy process for removing a guardian, especially if the person doesn't have someone else to re-appoint as guardian in place of the previous guardian.*

*Creating community access is one of the most important ways to make sure disabled people are included in community life*

*it is major focus of the center and should remain as such*

*Abuse happens daily in many hospital emergency departments where people who are under ECO's and TDO's are handcuffed to beds for hours and days at a time.*

*I believe that self advocacy is a skillset that can impact all of the areas above, so it is a foundational tool.*

*Group homes are dangerous for our loved ones; monies from DMAS go to the owners, so poor direct support pay equals poor care. My son is now brain damaged. No agency or official did anything about it. No attorney would take the case because it involved Virginia's largest group home provider. DBHDS does nothing meaningful in terms of oversight. They accept CAPs like "employee was terminated; more training will be provided;" but chronic abuse and neglect continue. This system in Virginia is not broken; it's rotten. Disabled, often non-verbal adults live in torment, fear, neglect, abuse. Twelve years after DOJ V Commonwealth of Virginia Settlement Agreement, Virginia Remains in non-compliance. The adults with autism who require skilled support get poorly paid, unskilled, overworked babysitters. They continue to suffer under this inhumane system.*

*The behavioral healthcare system in Virginia can serve all Virginians who need inpatient services if they are discharged in a timely manner. Inclusive decision making will hopefully reduce future inpatient services.*

*Family experience*

*Abuse is everywhere in Virginia*

*Happened to me when I was younger*

*Experience in my classroom and at home with my daughter*

*poor job of Governor and government to oversee these places*

*constant battling with Social Security office*

*high prices for rent or buying, terrible for low income folks like my mother and me*

*Hard to find a company to transport folks*

*We need to talk about how to fix problems out there in places where people don't understand how to get help!*

*Nothing takes away personhood like an unnecessary guardianship does, and in almost every case there IS another way*

*Facility proximity to dLVC means impact could be higher with lower travel costs.*

*Currently DBHDS/DMAS makes it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for those on waivers to use their funds because of antiquated and impossible regulations. Providers must jump through impossible hoops. DBHDS/DMAS interpret regulations for their own benefit. And services are then blocked for those who need them.*

*I would check all of them as #1 if I could!!*

*lots of scary places in this state where people are forced into living*

*limited resource- need more of this*

*DARS is slow to respond when I ask for help*

*Many people continue to need access to services.*

*Concern for physical and mental health*

*Special Education is underutilized and often inadequately leveraged, even though funding IS there to implement it.*

*Primary importance to get safe, dignified treatment.*

*I have seen first hand the neglect found in nursing homes. The neglect I have witnessed has take place in facilities where people who are not "disable" and yet neglect occurred. So, I imagine that neglect happens more frequently in places where people are unable to advocate for themselves.*

*The process to obtain a medicaid waiver and then use the resources associated with them is difficult and not user friendly at all! Parents should be able to be paid caregivers for their children.*

*The members of our legislation aren't making enough waiver slots available year after year. Consistently.*

*Because the current process to receive the waiver is unlawful*

*Too much discrimination in the workplace*

*I have witnessed this*

*Community access is always a high priority. Often times those with a sensory disability are not properly accounted for nor offered the appropriate accommodations. Specifically those with a hearing loss.*

*It is tied to the work I do.*

*Transportation continues to be one of the biggest barriers*

*So many doctors hold stereotypes and some strange resentment towards people with chronic illnesses, as if it is our fault that we have medical issues. We rarely receive quality treatment, myself included, and are often MISTREATED by medical professionals at all levels, from office staff all the way up to the doctors. Concerns are dismissed and invalidated rather than heard and considered, and even while we're still in a global pandemic, doctors and nurses and other professionals aren't wearing masks anymore. It's not even safe to GO to medical offices for those of us with high health complications and high risk factors. This is compounding existing issues in the Disabled community.*

*Access to benefits especially work incentives and Waivers will allow many of the other concerns to happen, Special Education needs to improve access especially to under served communities.*

*Abuse in facilities because people are vulnerable*

*Voting Rights is a way that everyone can participate and have their voice heard.*

*inmates and prisoners are a very vulnerable population, particularly those with disabilities, that often don't receive much attention let alone protection and advocacy*

*Although much had changed, abuse especially among disabled people has a long way to go.*

*In order to obtain or provide assistance in other areas of need, it is important to ensure that we have access to the community we are in/serving and that it is free of barriers.*

*I have personally experienced misunderstanding, violation of my rights and backlash when appealing, without any concern for the individual.*

*Acexx to Medicaid Waiver services is important.*

*Abuse in nursing facilities*

*I have a child in FCPS schools.*

*Too many times JJ system is not given attention it needs to assist the juveniles; therefore ABM?T occur*

*Early intervention is vital in all areas*

*Red tape for providers of services to become supported employment providers is cumbersome. A lot of individuals could work and be supported by competent providers, especially in rural areas, but DARS/CARF accreditation is ridiculous when we're already licensed by DBHDS.*

*I hear from families constantly who cannot find benefits and are denied benefits for which they're eligible With the aftermath of COVID, LEAs are looking to minimize the level of support provided to students.*

**Q: Why did you select the other four issues as a concern?**

**Open Responses-**

*2. Mental health crises are on the rise and areas of our state do not have a lot of access. Same day access at CSB's is still an issue. Beds available is still an issue for folks who need intensive care. 3. Lots of lawsuits recently expose systemic issues within Virginia's special education system. Recruitment and retention of qualified professionals as school aide's and teachers, as well as chronic understaffing and lack of fiscal resources contribute greatly to these issues. Because those root causes are systemic, I think it makes sense to address Special Education concerns systemically. 4. I am always worried about people, particularly folks with mental health concerns or PTSD, within our prison systems. What is so often viewed as "behaviors" to be punished is symptoms of an underlying untreated condition. This is part of what makes people with disabilities in prisons easy targets for abuse, as folks perceive them as "deserving it" based on "their behaviors." 5. Disability discrimination in healthcare in Virginia is alive and well. From doctors not listening to or addressing my concerns, to rampant fatphobia that results in undetected medical conditions, to issues with insurance, to simply not being able to get in with a new provider... The issues are numerous and multifaceted. Students undergoing medical school need more comprehensive training involving individuals with disabilities, and not simply as an afterthought.*

*Past work history, personal experience, and things I have seen happen to others.*

*All important to make the system better*

*I suffer with my own mental health and am related to others who share these struggles. Additionally I believe there is so much more we can do for our special education programs in the public school system and I believe housing and health care is a right of humanity that all should be afforded.*

*Housing should be basic right, as well as education, no one should be assaulted*

*Because there are so many things we can't have because of our situation*

*I just tried to identify things that are common issues and can be pertinent to those with cognitive disabilities but also those with physical disabilities.*

*I have a lot of concerns due to firsthand experiences in these areas.*

*They are issues that I see often in case management*

*VA promotes community inclusion but fails to provide and ensure quality services to meet those community living needs. Programs and their poor quality staff are failing a high risk population.*

*I have seen first hand in my job the last 20 years these are all issues that get washed over.*

*Husband is a disabled veteran and son has autism. Mental health issues affect so many societal concerns as well as personal ones.*

*I selected the other four because it's unfair. Also that a parent with a child or adult person with a disability still has to be questioned to talk on their behalf when they send all the paperwork of guardianship in legal terms for them to speak on their behalf, and we still get questioned to speak with the person with a disability, when they don't know how to communicate.*

*no clue!*

*Special Education continues to be an issue of great concern in Virginia, and is tied to access to assistive technology, and treatment of students with disabilities*

*Professional connection*

*Just the same issue.*

*All issues selected were chosen due to requests by family.*

*There is a severe lack of Medicaid waiver providers, as well as assisted living facilities.*

*Benefits, employment, and housing rights are incredibly important in empowering disabled people with the resources they need to be able to survive and have determination over their lives. Healthcare access and quality is incredibly important.*

*they are all about access and engagement or choice in treatment*

*The local jail here makes people wait days and weeks to receive mental health care if at all. They are often denied their medications and the main three methods RRJ uses to deal with mental illness is to ignore it, isolation, and "riding the chair" restraints*

*From working in Fair Housing and speaking to providers and individuals with disabilities, I hear their needs.*

**Special education:** I am a fulltime wheelchair user who has engaged in special education programming with both positive and negative experiences, and I believe that open lines of communication about methods of promoting inclusive practices will always be important.

**Housing:** There is a need for more accessible housing options and education for leasing agents about how to make housing truly accessible. I wish there was a clear definition of accessibility in housing for leasers to follow.

**Abuse and neglect:** I wish there could be a lot more training to prevent abuse and neglect, and not just in facilities but in home health as well. Home health is often forgotten about and can have situations of abuse too.

**Community access:** I believe that there should be more focus on universal design for community accessibility. In order for me to maintain my quality of life I have to be able to access necessary areas. I care about all suffering abuse, neglect; I wrote about group homes because of first hand knowledge. The other items support my concern about over-utilizing inpatient services.

relevant to current situation

provider issues are big here for lots of services

#2 would help spread alternatives to guardianship. #3 there will never be enough advocates to help everyone. We **MUST** learn to advocate for ourselves. #4 It doesn't matter what services are available if we can't get there. #5 Abuse and neglect of helpless people in facilities (many of which are not there by choice) must not be tolerated

They could all benefit from new projects and focus.

As a provider we see often see issues surrounding neglect, abuse, access to housing, access to services, and mental health support.

trying to get and keep up with benefits and health is a full time job

past issues with self and family

areas that continue to benefit from support and growth

Although all ages are important, the youngest and older persons are the least likely to be able to advocate for themselves. Just about all of them. As a general society tends to ignore the disabled population.

Access to appropriate medical providers is essential.

They are basic rights and necessity if all people.

I find those issues to be issues that all people need more support.

I work in a school and see how hard it is for families to access special education services, obtain adequate placements outside of general education, affordable housing, etc.

Children with psychiatric and medical issues and DD/ID often fall through the cracks of services.

They are areas I've personally seen problems in

It's what I see in my daily life

I have spoken to several people about these concerns

Transportation is often a huge barrier for those with a disability. It can be due to the location in which they live or the cost. Housing is quickly becoming another area of need for those on a limited income. Access to services is another large barrier for those on a limited income. Individuals in the justice system are undiagnosed with a disability and are not given appropriate access to services needed to aid them.

They are common areas of need by the population I serve for work.

I see them as issues in my line of work

Access & Availability to providers & services (#2) is a follow up to my #1 concern, as they're closely related. Additionally, it's difficult for a disabled person to get to medical care when specialists aren't located nearby and do not communicate with one another. #3, Employment Rights, I selected because many of the employers I work for simply don't understand when I ask for reasonable accommodation and seem to hold it against me, if not in anything measurable than at least in attitude. I've even been asked to explain why I need something specific and had this 'argued' against ("oh, do this instead etc etc"). #4 - Government benefits is pretty self explanatory but to be concise, it's extremely difficult to navigate the process for anyone, and especially for disabled people who already have the full-time job of navigating our health management and might even have a disability that affects executive functioning on top of fatigue, etc. Compounding factors. #5 - Mental Health access - being Disabled comes with a whole host of other things when it gets to the discussion of mental health. Medical trauma is there, along with the fact that when a person becomes

*disabled they tend to lose many of the important people in their lives as those people realize the change isn't temporary and they begin to see the disabled individual as a burden or, less intentionally but still with lasting effects, simply no longer want to put in the time or effort to keep up a relationship. The Disabled community is one which desperately needs access to mental health resources, and with the extra costs on top of medical bills, copays, and treatment expenses, many of us can't afford to take care of our mental health & wellness. This too is compounding - mental illness and the inability to care for it DO affect our physical health, in every person, and for Disabled people, being unable to treat any mental illnesses (or at very least to talk out & address issues that arise BECAUSE of Disabled status in society) means that physical health, already struggling, is made more difficult to manage. Think snowball effect. Affordable housing, especially for people with disabilities is a major concern.*

*Because they are the most important*

*Mental Health access would directly support my issues; abuse and neglect at all institutions is a major problem, especially when they are reliant on state support.*

*because they're also important and areas that I believe have more issues than the other topics. there were some issues listed that I didn't quite understand the context. for example, "assistive technology." okay, in schools? in institutions? insurance coverage of AT? i don't understand what "community access/barrier free" meant.*

*I feel they still need to improve*

*All of the areas of concern are important, but from both a professional and personal perspective, these are the areas that I've seen that are an immediate concern for much of the community.*

*I am a retired special education teacher with a child who has a disability and maintain deep concern for her welfare.*

*Transportation is important especially for wheelchair users. Assistive technology is also important, too. Special education is also important because I have lived experience in special education.*

*Again providing a barrier-free life for those we serve*

*My child is on he waiver list.*

*we need to educate the health care industry on how to give quality of care to persons with disabilities and not be afraid to touch us; and to stop looking at the computer when we are talking difficult to choosr, but these seem most appropriate*

*Transportation is always an issue in rural areas, as is housing. Meeting income requirements is nearly impossible.*

*Safety in schools and jails/prisons is a major, life-altering concern we hear about often. Families continue to be encouraged to pursue guardianship without considering alternatives, and GALs don't recommend alternatives.*

**Q: Are there other issues you wish you could have ranked in your top 5? If so, what are they and why?**

**Open Responses-**

*Voting rights - because voter suppression is on the rise in other states.*

*No*

*I felt myself initially ranking most of the issues as top priority. It was a bit difficult to choose. I suppose community access/barrier free resources and care. It can often be difficult to navigate the bureaucracy involved in public support systems. It should be more accessible to all and those with fewer resources.*

*Schools are terrible at helping our children with disabilities, need more aides and qualified teachers in the system*

*Transportation in rural areas is very difficult.*

*The frustration of dealing with inappropriate denials (appeals) having a waiver but not getting any use out of*

*it*

*Everything! If there were no challenges in those areas they wouldn't be on the list.*

*School issues & rights; concerns about teacher training & staff shortages.*

*AT- It is really difficult to get AT funding and it is a long process.*

*Mental Health- I don't think there is enough MH services specifically trained or advertising to effectively help individuals with disabilities.*

*Employment- it feels like it takes forever to get employment worked out.*

*I think to a great extent they all tie together is some fashion and should all be considered concerns.*

*the subsets of mental health issues.*

*Also, with guardianship when you choose to move out of state, that should be stepping stone that we could take it to any state without being hassle to go to a judge to recertify it.*

*noidea!*

*The lack of qualified special educators resulting in a lack of services whichbare legally required due robfunding*

*Na*

*Advanced Directives and Housing. Comes up often and just not enough concern or affordable options.*

*Assistive Technology - many families have questions about how they can get these services and what they may need to do to get them.*

*Transportation is a major issue. There is an extreme lack of transportation providers and drivers in rural areas.*

*Healthcare and mental health accessibility and quality, employment rights, guardianship (how to avoid guardianship and promote alternatives). Also, abuse and neglect against people with disabilities is not nearly talked about enough, and the systematic disempowerment of disabled people creates a culture that denies disabled people's autonomy that can lead to abuse.*

*t do wait list and consumers being charged with crimes while waiting placement*

*The complete ECO and TDO process. Having more options than inpatient or safety plan. More crises stabilization units. Medicate and release is not working for too many people.*

*Ensuring quality services. Often times individuals with disabilities are treated like "others". This can impact tne quality of treatment they receive.*

*I think all of these issues are important and I understand that we have to prioritize, but it is important to keep all of these issues as open topics for communication in order for things to improve.*

*Require a specific, large percentage of monies that go to group homes go to direct care staff; monitor and verify. Require in-home video monitoring so that family/loved one can check in on non-verbal/other disabled loved one. Safety trumps "privacy" in the matter, as Virginia's group home history has shown chronic, systemic abuse and neglect.*

*Access to providers and services would also reduce the need for inpatient services. I believe a more transparent system that includes accurate reporting of abuse, neglect etc will encourage trainings be given to providers.*

*jails and prison abuse*

*everything on the list. Seriously, is there anything on the list that it would NOT be good to address*

*Abuse and Neglect in all facility types listed above, Assault and/or Violence.*

*abuse and neglect in prison system*

**Funding of services to attract staff. Disability services continue to experience a staffing crisis**

**Presently, it seems that the needs of children and older adults are constantly working against each other in completion for funding.**

**N/A**

**Hard to choose.... All are crucial.**

**NA**

**All of them! They are all important and deserve attention!**

**CCC+ Waiver services for children between 13-17 are not inclusive of needed services. Adults with CCC+ receive day service benefits. If your child needs day services when not at school, parents must self pay until they receive the DD waiver. Some children never get off the waitlist.**

**Transportation is an issue with people trying to get to work.**

**Special education would be another. It is becoming a catch all and there are not enough providers for the need. Another are VR services. There are too many people and not enough counselor or services provided to consumers. Consumers also often do not know what they can qualify for through those programs. We need to advocate for better pay for those providers in special education and VR counselors and to have more of them.**

**No**

**No**

**Inclusive Decision making - because medical providers don't seem to recognize that patients understand their bodies well and often are HIGHLY educated and researched on their illnesses or disabilities. Doctors should be working WITH patients (and/or patient advocates, ie family, supports) as a team, not making decisions FOR them.**

**Housing - difficult to find housing that is legally required to be accessible because so many buildings were build pre-ADA. the ones that ARE accessible are more expensive and we end up having to pay more just to be able to, e.g., get to and from car safely. Like the 'Pink Tax' but essentially the 'disability tax'. (I also often refer to 'the ADHD tax' of missing deadlines and such for payments, paying twice for things, etc).**

**That does not make sense. I ranked the 5 most important. If I could have a top 6, I would have picked another one (and so on)**

**Access to Government Benefits including Social Security's Disability Programs and Medicaid Waivers, dLVC receives a lot of SMEs on this topic**

**Helping the families of disabled people**

**N/A**

**Speech, language and sign language providers should come into the homes to instruct, reinforce and provide support to the client and other members in the household for greater impact, rather than having the child learn in isolation.**

**Voting rights is an important issue because everybody needs to be able to vote.**

**Discharge plans**

**none**

**Healthcare and quality of care would be highest with juvenile justice**

**A issues are important, but the ones checked stood out**



**Q: Are there any issues that you would have ranked as a concern but were not included on our list? If so, what are those issues?**

**Open Responses-**

*Lack of enforcement of ADA via litigation. Frequently people with disabilities are too marginalized to have the funds to pursue their own legal cases. This means that some tenants of the law, such as employment, are essentially going unenforced, because lawyers will not take these cases without significant financial investment as they are "difficult to prove." I think this issue of access to enforcement of rights moves far beyond any one issue. What other structures can we use to gain enforcement of the law (OSHA, DOLI, the EEOC, etc), and how can we help everyday people access this enforcement?*

No

*None that I can think of. This is well thought out. Thank you for your advocacy.*

*Family counseling dealing with the issues that handicapped individuals face*

*Integrate people with disabilities more into everyday life so they aren't "different".*

*The frustration of dealing with inappropriate denials (appeals) having a waiver but not getting any use out of it, having to live below poverty to qualify for ssdi for my child*

No

*Financial assistance for attorneys, hired to support families through the issues included.*

*The inability for individuals with disabilities to have more than 2000 in their own bank account and keep Medicaid/ their waiver. This makes it incredibly hard for anyone to build wealth and be independent.*

*I am new to VA and have done this exact job in NY for 10 years. I can't believe VA state is not more involved with managing and overseeing providers that receive state funding. This responsibility should not fall on CSB's and the Case Managers.*

*I would expand mental health services to include jails - I would expand rehab services to include issues related to securing IDs and social security cards to be able to move forward in life to name a few.*

*Caregiver resources specifically*

*not that i can think off!*

Na

No

no

*Promoting autonomy and self-determination for disabled people to gain control over their own lives. Also, protecting holistic sexual health education for all people including disabled people and the sexual and reproductive rights of people with disabilities.*

*More providers specializing in one of the toughest challenges for housing providers with residents that hoard.*

*Caregiving training and recruitment within the home health field. Home health care is an integral part of maintaining my quality of life, and sometimes due to a lack of recruitment or training, stress is added my life from having to worry about managing my home health in a way that supports me and my goals.*

*Provide housing supports in the individual's community and not hours away from loved ones. Define "living in community" for the individual, then identify location, activities of true community engagement. DBHDS' website lists supports available, but they're not available.*

*We need more peer recovery specialists. Pushing for elimination of barrier crimes, co-supervision of clinicians and prs over medicaid (RPRS) peer recovery specialist services, and PRS in every emergency*

*department is the access I would prioritize. I have heard anecdotally from former patients that PRS services reduce abuse and neglect.*

**Special Needs Trusts**

*I think you covered things pretty well*

*Trans accommodations and access to health care in schools and facilities under the ADA and 504.*

*Access to Remote Supports (currently categorized under EHBS) for those on the IDD waivers has been made more difficult than ever. Remote Supports can be a solution to lack of in-home care, emergency support needs, successful housing, mental health support and much more. DBHDS says they want Remote Supports but the regulations block Individuals from getting this service approved.*

*All issues are concerns that depend on adequate funding.*

*N/A*

*NA*

*Poverty and people with disabilities. TANF, SSI, etc provide the bare minimum for families and they can not afford even basic necessities.*

*Emergency services are not geared to teens in need. They seem geared toward children not in crisis. Mentor program - mentors don't seem equipped to deal with teens in crisis but are provided to children only when they are in crisis. I hoped to use this service to get my teen daughter to meet someone to relate to while being allowed to get some distance from be. Mentor could not establish relationship and I was criticized for not forcing my non compliant daughter to take part in the program. Since defiance was our major concern, this program didn't help at all. If my daughter wasn't having issues following demands, we would not have needed the service. You get to the point of crisis to qualify for services then find out the services are not available or aren't appropriate for your child. Dangerous and disappointing.*

*No*

*No*

*Deaf Group Homes with staff fluent in ASL.*

*not really*

*police interactions with PWDs*

*N/A*

*Prisoners who are incarcerated should be given timely appointments to attend their doctor's appointment when in dire need of treatment and provided follow-up.*

**Elder rights**

*none*

*getting the MH system to look at causal origins AND getting state government to realize not all persons with disabilities are on public supports or persons with developmental disabilities. Too much is given to those on public benefits and those with developmental disabilities leaving the rest of us without any support*

*Housing and employment are vital to doing all activities*

*Issues accessing appropriate services through Waiver. Families wait for years for Waiver, but services are denied, quality is poor, and there are few providers.*