

Message from the Chair:

The Fair Shake Network (FSN) is an association of West Virginians dedicated to a “fair shake” for people with disabilities. Our mission is to educate policymakers and the public about disability issues and to empower people with disabilities to speak for themselves. The vision of FSN is “People with disabilities have an opportunity to equally participate in their communities and realize their dreams.”

FSN will monitor all legislation introduced that may affect the disability community. FSN urges the Legislature and the Executive Branch to invest in people with disabilities and their invaluable resources, and contributions to West Virginia. *Please* support the 2018 Disability Agenda.
--Nancy Tyler, *FSN Chair*

Community Based Supports:

FSN supports legislation that invests adequate funding for services that support people with disabilities to live in their own homes and communities; eliminates the institutional bias in West Virginia and ensures rebalancing of Medicaid and other public funding.

FSN supports home and community based services and other services to bring WV into compliance with the Americans’ with Disabilities Act(ADA).

People with disabilities should be given the opportunity to leave nursing homes, long term care facilities, I/DD Homes, other group homes, and psychiatric hospitals, and be supported to live as part of the community of their choice. FSN supports the full implementation of the WV Olmstead Plan.

FSN supports legislation for housing that increases the statewide availability of accessible, economical, integrated and safe community based housing, while promoting stronger universal design in home construction.

FSN supports policies that ensure people with disabilities will be able to receive quality, reliable and self-directed services.

FSN **will not** support the development of segregated/congregate service settings.

Out-of-State Placement for Behavioral Health Services:

FSN advocates for In-State Care for Behavioral Health Services. West Virginia does not currently have adequate behavioral health services to prevent some West Virginians from being placed out-of-state in nursing homes and other institutional facilities.

- Currently, adults being discharged from hospitals and are being placed into out-of-state institutions, rather than in their own communities with supports.
- Currently, children are being separated from their families and sent out-of-state for behavioral health services due to the lack of availability of these services in WV.

FSN supports the funding of prevention and early intervention behavioral health services to ensure that children and adults receive needed treatment to remain in their own homes in WV.

Health Care:

FSN supports a comprehensive health care system that provides the most affordable, accessible, appropriate, effective, and quality health care services that includes people with disabilities and their families.

FSN **will not** support any legislation that supports assisted suicide or hastens death. FSN condemns judging the value of a person's life based on their disability and invoking "quality of life" concerns as a basis for terminating someone's life.

FSN believes in excellent standards of care for people with disabilities and advanced directives must be honored. We reject limitation of treatment policies directed at people with disabilities.

Funding Issues:

FSN supports increases in funding necessary to maintain or enhance critical support services that allow people with disabilities to live, work, and engage in recreation in the community.

- Aged and Disabled Waiver
- Birth-to-Three-Program
- Division of Rehabilitation Services Employment Attendant Care Program
- Extended Supported Employment Services
- Family Support
- Independent Living Services (Community Living Services Program)
- Intellectual /Developmental Disability Waiver
- Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services Program (RYPAS)
- Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver (TBI)
- Medicaid Expansion Program

Education:

FSN supports legislation which promotes inclusive education and high academic standards for students with disabilities of all ages and all levels of need in their home or community schools to prepare them for adult life and active community participation.

FSN supports full implementation and enforcement of state and federal special education policies, including transition planning, and compensatory education requirements and adherence to Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) and 504 Accommodation Plans.

Emergency Preparedness:

FSN supports emergency preparedness issues that will assure that disability inclusion is built into all aspects of emergency management and require that all shelters meet ADA standards.

Guardianship:

FSN supports the use of alternatives to guardianship for people with disabilities. FSN advocates for training of appointed counsel, mental hygiene commissioners, and judges on the necessity to explore *limitations to guardianship* so that the appointment of full guardianship is used only as a means of last resort.

Employment:

FSN supports legislation that would establish and implement an “Employment First” initiative, emphasizing integrated, competitive wages, community-based employment as the desired outcome for individuals with disabilities - expecting, encouraging, providing, creating, and rewarding integrated employment in the workforce as the first and preferred option of youth and adults with disabilities.

FSN supports the creation of a line item appropriation in the State budget to focus on competitive, community-based employment.

Bullying, Exploitation, and Neglect:

FSN will support legislation that *protects people with disabilities* against abuse, including financial exploitation, bullying, neglect, and discrimination.

Other Issues:

FSN will monitor all legislation introduced that may affect people with disabilities.

Disability Rights are Civil Rights!

For More Information,

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2018 Disability Agenda



FAIR SHAKE NETWORK

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

--Margaret Mead