



Potential Candidate Questions

The Arc of Indiana's Governmental Affairs Committee developed the following guiding questions regarding issues that affect individuals with disabilities. These questions could be asked in an Issues Forum or Interview with candidates.

General

People with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) want to be active members of the community who are valued and provided opportunities to receive an education, have a job and live a full life. How will you use your office to support and advance issues important to people with I/DD, their families and the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who work with them.

Employment

The unemployment rate for people with disabilities is nearly 80% although many people with disabilities want to work and can work. What will you do to create opportunities for people with disabilities to have access to job training and careers that will increase independence?

Public Transit

Accessible transportation continues to be a major barrier for people with disabilities to get to work, as well as medical appointments. What would be your plan to address the need for increased mass transit that people with disabilities could utilize?

Managed Care

There are many conversations taking place regarding managed care for people with disabilities. What would be your priorities and/or goals for a managed care system?

Medicaid Reimbursement Rates/DSP Crisis

There is currently a shortage of qualified Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) to provide personal, critical care to people with disabilities. Indiana's current Medicaid reimbursement rates for most services provided to people with disabilities were recently restored to the rates of 2010 (they had been cut significantly over the last 10 years). These rates do not allow community providers to hire qualified, dedicated staff. People with disabilities are seeing high turnover of the people who provide very personal care. What would you do to address the crisis we are facing in the shortage of DSPs across the state?

Education

K-12 education for students receiving special education services is critically important as it paves the way for a future filled with independence. What would your administration do to insure that students receiving special education services have every opportunity to be successful in school with the needed resources that helps them earn a high school diploma, be fairly tested and learn alongside their peers?

Guardianship/Supported Decision Making

Too often parents rush into guardianship although the person with a disability is capable of making many decisions on his or her own. Supported Decision Making is an alternative to guardianship that allows people with disabilities to remain in charge of their own decisions but allows them access to support should they want it. What would you do to make sure that families have alternatives in supporting their children with I/DD to help them maintain independence while getting some support they need in making important decision?

Crisis

Unfortunately the need for crisis intervention exists. Indiana currently does not have a crisis system in place for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities who also have a mental health issue. When people have a crisis situation too often the emergency room or police are the only options. What would your administration do to help provide services for people in crisis situations who have co-existing conditions?