

Public Awareness and Goals Committee  
Report, Fall 2023

The Public Awareness and Goals Committee met on Sept 25th to review and affirm the dLCV Objectives and Goals for the upcoming year. Specifically, dLCV staff from each of the units created strategies on how they could help meet the Focus Areas outlined within each of the eight Goals. For example, Goal 4 states "*People with Disabilities Live in the Most Appropriate Integrated Environment.*" Focus Area 1 within Goal 4 states "*The Commonwealth will appropriately transition all people when they are ready for discharge from state hospitals.*" dLCV staff then identified nine strategies to help meet Goal 4, Focus Area 1:

- ***Represent three individuals in state-operated mental health facilities to resolve barriers to discharge where the CSB is the barrier,***
- ***Provide STA to at least 10 residents of DBHDS-operated facilities who have questions about discharge rights to identify barriers to discharge,***
- ***By March 1, 2024, select two state-operated mental health facilities with high numbers of patients on the Extraordinary Barriers List and survey patients regarding barriers to discharge,***
- ***Monitor DBHDS' progress in reducing the Extraordinary Barriers List. For each month the list exceeds 100 people, distribute alerts to social media and lawmakers. At least two of the alerts will focus on specific individuals and their experiences on the EBL,***
- ***Research potential litigation remedies for legal strategies related to individuals clinically-ready for discharge in DBHDS-operated mental health facilities and develop law brief by September 1, 2024,***
- ***Train social workers at DBHDS-operated mental health facilities on patient rights and CSB responsibilities regarding discharge. Leverage these relationships to pinpoint cases where the CSB is the barrier to discharge,***
- ***By January 1, 2024, publish a guidance document regarding CSB discharge responsibilities on dLCV resource page,***
- ***By December 1, 2023, publish a policy brief to educate legislators on the failure of DBHDS-operated mental health facilities to timely discharge individuals who are clinically ready for discharge, and***
- ***Determine which providers of post-discharge services are representative payees and what their requirements for services are. Where requirements appear to exceed legal authorization, refer to Social Security for authorization to conduct a Representative Payee Review.***

The committee reviewed and discussed every strategy. To put this in perspective, there are over 180 strategies identified by dLCV staff!

Other highlights from the meeting include the creation of a new unit within dLCV, called the Data and Incident Resource Unit (DIRU). The unit related to special education was dissolved and their staff was assigned to other units. Much of the work previously covered by the special education unit was distributed to other units and dLCV staff included special education in some of the strategies.

The full set of goals, focus areas and objectives is attached.