**Disability Law Colorado’s Protection and Advocacy Priorities**

**October 2022 – September 2023**

**Voting:** Individuals with disabilities, particularly those in and leaving facilities, will be educated about their right to vote and given equal opportunities to register to vote.

**Representative Payees:** Individuals with disabilities who receive Social Security benefits administered by a representative payee will be free from financial exploitation.

**DVR and CILs:** Individuals with disabilities will have access to appropriate services through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and Centers for Independent Living (CILs).

**Abuse and Neglect:** Individuals with disabilities will be free from abuse and neglect, and live in healthier, safer, and respectful community settings or facilities (as appropriate). As part of this priority, DLC will ensure that policies and practices honor the dignity of their humanity.

**Community-Based Services in the Least Restrictive Settings:** Individuals with disabilities will have access to appropriate and individualized community-based services, including assistive technology and transportation, which will enhance their abilities to live in the least restrictive environments.

**Housing:** Individuals with disabilities will have available, accessible, affordable, and supportive housing, in part to prevent institutionalization.

**Employment:** Individuals with disabilities will have meaningful access to integrated employment and be paid at least minimum wage.

**Education:** Youth with disabilities will not be removed from school, denied access to a free appropriate public education, or experience restraint and seclusion because of their disability-related behaviors.

**Independence:** With supports, if needed, individuals with disabilities will be able to make everyday decisions about their lives, including where they live, how they manage their money, and what their healthcare looks like.

**Enforcing Ongoing Settlements:** Individuals with disabilities who fall within DLC’s ongoing settlement agreements or consent decrees will have those rights enforced.