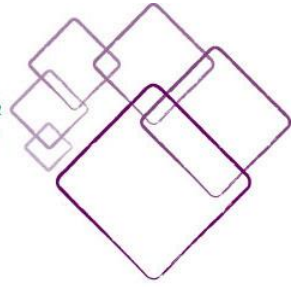


TASC Training &
Advocacy
Support
Center



Guide to TASC Services

Training and Advocacy Support Center

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Training, Technical Assistance and Networking Resources

Through the delivery of state-of-the-art training, technical assistance (TA) and networking, the Training & Advocacy Support Center (TASC) is designed to enhance the advocacy functions of the Protection & Advocacy agencies (P&As) and Client Assistance Programs (CAPs) in your efforts to protect the civil rights of persons with disabilities and prevent and/or remedy abuse and neglect of those who reside in institutions, other facilities and the community.

Guided by the needs of the P&A network, TASC provides a broad range of training, technical assistance, and networking to staff, Board and Advisory Board members of the network to build the capacity of the P&A/CAP staff and the organizations as a whole to accomplish your mission.

Technical Assistance and Networking: TASC sustains numerous channels to both respond to individual questions and to assist staff in linking to resources from other P&As and CAPs working on the same problems and issues. Requests from individuals affiliated with the P&A/CAP network are received by phone or e-mail as well as through the listservs and website in the areas of quality assurance, community integration mandates, abuse and neglect, restraint and seclusion, employment, criminal justice, juvenile justice, education, housing, transportation, health, recreation, information and referral, community outreach, consumer education and self-advocacy, communication, management and governance.

Trainings: TASC conducts multiple national training events each year including the P&A/CAP Annual Conference, and position-specific trainings and conferences for CEOs and fiscal managers. All materials and resources for the trainings are provided to participants electronically.

TASC also coordinates frequent teleconferences and webcasts open to the entire Network on emerging policy and legal issues and based on requests coming from the Network.

GO TO <http://tascnow.com/tasc/meetings-and-trainings.html>

Listservs: TASC hosts 18 listservs that focus on specific personnel within the P&A network (PABSS, CAP and Resource Advocacy staff as well as Fiscal Managers, HR Directors, Legal Directors, and those who do Communications work), while others

address specific legal areas (ADA, Abuse and Neglect, Community Integration, Criminal Justice, Education, Foster Care, Housing, Juvenile Justice, Return to Work, TBI and Voting). The listservs are open to any P&A staff member and provide a confidential place to seek guidance and input from your peers within the P&A network.

GO TO <http://tascnow.com/tasc/tasc-services/listservs.html> to learn how to sign up for a listserv.

Website (www.tascnow.com): TASC maintains an accessible and extensive web-based collection of TA materials and links to other resources, providing assistance on a large number of diverse and sophisticated issues. Composed of thousands of pages and updated on a regular basis, the website is a centralized, comprehensive repository of TA materials developed by TASC and its contractors, as well as selected materials developed within the network. The materials are categorized by subject matter area (including service provision, P&A program criteria and self-assessment tools, quality control, confidentiality, information and referrals, investigations, substantive areas of disability law, etc). There are additional materials providing guidance, regulations, and information specific to P&A/CAP services, as well as numerous links to facilitate collaboration.

Publications: TASC provides two monthly publications: **TASC Update** (tascnow.com/tasc/publications/tasc-update.html), which provides a general overview of network news, resources, and upcoming events; and **LegalEase** (<http://tascnow.com/tasc/publications/legalease.html>), which reviews significant decisions and other legal developments both inside and outside the network.

TASC also produces monthly and quarterly in-depth legal analyses of new legal developments and significant legal issues that P&As face, coverage of specific issues through **Q&As** (tascnow.com/tasc/publications/q-and-as.html) and **Fact Sheets** (tascnow.com/tasc/publications/fact-sheets.html).

TASC updates and distributes its **P&A case dockets** addressing significant ongoing P&A cases occurring nationwide on core areas of disability law and policy such as the ADA, special education, fair housing, and community integration (including issues on abuse and neglect, access to health care, and P&A investigative authority). These dockets summarize and analyze the cases, identify the P&A/CAP attorney working on the case (who may be contacted for further information), and catalogue the litigation documents

filed in the cases. These documents, in turn, are made available (in hard copy or online) to P&A/CAP staff upon request.

TASC also creates and maintains manuals which provide in-depth coverage on a range of P&A/CAP issues. **Manuals** are distributed both through the website and in hard copy (tascnow.com/tasc/publications/manuals.html). Current manuals include:

- Abuse and Neglect Detection and Prevention: Recommended Strategies for Protection and Advocacy Systems
- CAP Encyclopedia
- Challenging Systems - Advocating for Students with Disabilities in the Public Schools
- Conducting Abuse & Neglect Investigations: Video with Workbook
- Extended School Year Services Under the IDEA
- Icing on the Case: The Law of Attorneys' Fees
- Information and Referral/Short-Term Assistance: Organizing to Meet Client Needs
- Medicaid Waivers: Tools for Deinstitutionalization - Innovative Models and Legal Strategies
- P&A Client Services: A Case Management Compendium
- P&A Desk Reference Manual
- P&A System Access Manual: Legal Authority to Access Facilities Serving Persons With Disabilities and Records in Order to Investigate Abuse and Neglect
- Representing Clients Who Need Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT): A Practical Manual for P&A Advocates
- School Initiated Delinquency Petitions, Crime Reports, and Their Aftermath: Materials for P&A Advocates
- School Health Services: Legal Strategies for Accessing Health Services for Students with Disabilities in the Public Schools

TASC Legal and Advocacy Resources

In addition to the resources listed above, TASC devotes significant time and resources to specific legal and advocacy functions of the P&A, as well as to the tasks associated with managing and governing the organizations.

Issue groups or issue task forces: TASC continually develops its cadre of P&A issue groups. These are networks of P&A/CAP staff members with significant expertise in core areas of disability law (e.g., special education and Medicaid). These work groups act as mentors for advocates in other P&A/CAPs; assist in developing TA materials; and help coordinate issue-specific conference calls, meetings, and trainings. Listservs also exist on each issue area.

Legal Back-Up Centers: TASC maintains three legal back up providers to the P&As. The providers include:

- Center for Public Representation on issues related to major institutional reform and community integration litigation;
- National Health Law Program on issues related to access to health care for people with disabilities with particular attention to Medicaid, Medicare, the Affordable Care Act, and general health care rights; and
- Neighborhood Legal Services Assistive Technology on issues related to leveraging funding to access durable medical equipment with Medicare and Medicaid, ABLE Accounts, ERISA and ACA; understanding specialized equipment; and AT and transition services.

In order to access these services, please contact the NDRN staff person responsible for the legal or advocacy issue of interest.

Outside experts: TASC maintains databases on experts outside the network as needed to supplement in-house expertise. In general, contractors provide the following services to P&A/CAPs: oral and written advice on substantive law issues and litigation strategies; review and drafting of proposed pleadings, briefs, and other litigation documents; sample briefs, policy papers, outlines, and publications of relevance to advocates; and training. In addition, some or all of the contractors may be required to assist in the coordination of special advocacy projects on a national level. These projects are intended to provide enhanced coordinated technical assistance to support P&As in

addressing a range of significant disability issues and in implementation of P&As' annual priorities for case selection.

Friend of the court (amicus) briefs: TASC continues to coordinate drafting of briefs that often play a critical role in promoting development of favorable case law on behalf of the P&A network and the disability community at large.

Ethics Consults: The Ethics Consultant Group, comprised of prominent academicians around the country are available for informal consultation with P&A/CAP attorneys on legal ethics/professional responsibility issues that may arise in the P&A network. There may be many other avenues for P&A/CAP attorneys to receive information about ethics issues and this resource is intended to supplement and complement other available resources, not supplant them.

(tascnow.com/tasc/images/Documents/Legal_Management/TASC_Protocol_Consulting_Ethics_Group.pdf)

Staff Responsible for Legal and Advocacy Resources:

Abuse and Neglect:	David Hutt
Accessibility:	Kenneth Shiotani
ADA (Titles I, II, and III); Section 504:	Kenneth Shiotani
Advance Directives:	Elizabeth Priaulx
Assistive Technology:	Ron Hager
Census	Erika Hudson
Client Assistance Program (CAP):	Amy Scherer
Criminal Justice:	David Boyer, Diane Smith Howard
Community Education and Self-Advocacy Support:	Ian Watlington
Community Integration:	Elizabeth Priaulx
Education:	Ron Hager

Emergency Preparedness:	Justine Shorter
Employment:	Kenneth Shiotani
Ethics:	Janice Johnson Hunter
Foster Care:	Diane Smith Howard
Housing:	Kenneth Shiotani
Juvenile Justice:	Diane Smith Howard
Legal Management:	Janice Johnson Hunter
Litigation (general):	Janice Johnson Hunter
Medicaid:	Elizabeth Priaulx
Monitoring:	David Boyer
P&A Access:	David Hutt
P&A Standing:	David Hutt
PABSS Program:	Cheryl Bates-Harris
Rep Payee:	Crystal Perry, Zachary Martin, Danielle Whetton, Milo Nygren-Cassels
Return-to-Work:	Cheryl Bates-Harris
Restraint and Seclusion:	Ron Hager
Transportation:	Kenneth Shiotani
Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI):	David Boyer
Vocational Preparation:	Amy Scherer/Cheryl Bates- Harris
Voting:	Michelle Bishop

TASC Management Resources

TASC staff and external consultants focus on meeting the needs of those who run and govern the P&As and the CAPs.

Materials responsive to emerging needs: TASC collects examples of policies and other documents used by P&As and CAPs. These documents may include policies relating to case selection criteria, procedures used to establish priorities, guidelines for interpreting preferences of clients with limited or non-standard communication systems, mission statements, or job descriptions. Model policies are available on such issues as grievance procedures, internal controls, centralized intake, and information and referral functions.

Technical Assistance through On-site and Peer Consultations: Through on-site peer and management consultations, TASC is able to meet the individualized needs of P&A/CAP programs. These consultations use NDRN staff, as well as Directors and staff members of other P&As as consultants. On-site assistance can be requested through contacting Nachama Wilker at nachama.wilker@ndrn.org.

Staff Responsible for Management Resources:

OMB Circulars, fiscal issues, HR management:

LaToya Blizzard

Board training and development:

Nachama Wilker

Organizational Capacity, executive management, development of outcome measures, PPRs, and leadership:

Nachama Wilker

Priority-setting, strategic planning, cultural competency, staff management, team building, and organizational capacity:

Nachama Wilker

Legal Management:

Janice Johnson Hunter

I&R Management:

Ian Watlington

Reaching out to Unserved Populations:

David Card

PAIMI Advisory Boards:

Ian Watlington

Other TASC Resources

In addition to the above, technical assistance and training is also available on a variety of matters on which our staff have expertise and can help facilitate P&As accessing expertise of others in the network. Some of this TA might include the following:

Communications and Outreach: In addition to the media relations, publications, and websites done by TASC, assistance is also available to P&A/CAPs on how to mount strategic communications efforts, from the use of internal communications tools to external media relations. Specific TA is also available on using such tools for outreach, keeping in mind the need to reach a variety of audiences with different backgrounds, languages, and ways of taking in information.

DAD and Information Technology: Besides specific TA on use of the DAD system for case management and more, TA is also available on a variety of issues related to information technology. This also includes how to ensure website accessibility and meeting 504 guidelines.

Legislative Advocacy: TA is available to help P&A/CAPs be more effective in their state-level advocacy efforts, and to identify legislative trends.

Meetings Management: TA is available to help P&A/CAPs in their own conference/training planning, including review of site contracts, what to look for in a meeting facility, etc.

Staff Responsible:

DAD, Information Technology (IT), Website Accessibility:	Zach Martin
Legislative Advocacy:	Eric Buehlmann, Amanda Lowe, Jacqueline Hubbard
Communication Strategies, Media and Publications:	David Card
Publications:	David Card
Meetings:	Nachama Wilker
Web Content Development, Social Media, Video:	Tina Pinedo

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