

PASCO News

August 2020

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the ADA



Americans with Disabilities Act

PASCO appreciates the importance of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This important civil rights law prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all aspects of public life, such as jobs, schools, transportation, and every public and private place that is open to the general public. The purpose of the law is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else.

As our nation celebrates the 30th anniversary of this law, it can be valuable to reflect on how this idea garnered momentum. There is no single person responsible for the passage of the ADA, but rather a collection of actions that helped propel this law to the forefront.

As the civil rights movement of the 60s and 70s changed America, more voices were being heard establishing disability rights as basic human rights. Disability activist groups were formed across the country. One action initiated in Colorado were the remarkable efforts of the Gang of 19. The Gang of 19 (with assistance from PASCO founder Barry Rosenberg) demanded that people with disabilities have the same level of access to public transportation as able-bodied individuals.

In July of 1978, 19 brave individuals rolled their wheelchairs into a busy public transportation intersection and laid down on the asphalt to amplify the reach of their message.



Members of the Gang of 19 - Denver Post



Jennifer Keelan crawls up the steps of the U.S. Capitol on March 12, 1990. - Tom Olin

These efforts, among others, culminated in the late 1980s into a bill to establish civil rights protections for people with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was a bipartisan effort, passed in 1989 by the Senate but stalled in the House of Representatives. On March 12, 1990, disability activists arrived at the U.S. Capitol to rally support for the bill.

To highlight the necessity of this bill, protesters rolled their wheelchairs to the bottom steps of the U.S. Capitol. With the help of personal assistants or by their own mobility, they sat or laid down on the steps and began to crawl. The images of inaccessibility were unforgettable. This action became known as the "The Capitol Crawl." It showed the world what the disability community already knew: this world was not equally accessible to everyone.

The House passed the bill a few months later, and President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law on July 26, 1990.



Virtual Community Events connection for the community

PASCO

Transitioning to Adult Waivers

Thursday, August 13th
10:00am - 12:00pm
Virtual Presentation

Featuring
Erika Swanson
(Client Services Manager)

The event card features a green and blue background with a circular photo of Erika Swanson on the left. The text is white and yellow, providing details about the presentation.

Transitioning to Adult Waivers

Join PASCO for a virtual presentation aimed at providing caregivers with the resources and knowledge regarding the eligibility criteria transitioning from children's waivers to adult waivers.

Aug 13 2020 Online
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Private Workout Party

This one hour accessible workout will be led by Stephanie Thomas, a certified personal trainer and longtime PASCO employee and family member. Success options and modifications will be provided so any fitness level can participate in the workout.

Aug 20 2020 Online
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

PASCO

Private Workout Party

with a Personal Trainer

Thursday, Aug 20th
11:30am - 12:30pm
Virtual Presentation

campGladiator

The event card features a purple and white background with a circular photo of a woman in a red shirt performing a yoga pose. The text is white and purple. The campGladiator logo is in the bottom right corner.

Let's Connect! RSVP for your preferred events at: pascohh.com/community-events/

Advocacy Corner by David Bolin

Great progress has been made on the new Colorado Assessment and Support Planning Tool. You can preview it here: coassessment.blogspot.com. The last issue that remains to be resolved is the Person-Centered Budget Algorithm. This is essentially how to budget all Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) that the state offers. One member of the PASCO advocacy team has been selected to provide input as part of the Technical Advisory Group for this tool. There are 21 members selected and it includes advocates, providers, case managers and others. Many of these members have been involved in the development of the tool for the past 6 years. As you can imagine, the development of a Person-Centered Budget Algorithm would impact all clients of HCBS services. The first meeting of the group is slated for August 25, 2020.

Our advocacy team continues to address the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to make many of the prevailing COVID-19 waivers permanent. This includes the ability for home health agencies to conduct CNA and HCBS supervisory visits via telehealth and video. With cold and flu season approaching and the continued risk of COVID-19, we believe that remote support can best safeguard our clients and our staff, which is our highest priority.

Finally, the state has convened a stakeholder group to determine how to implement the use of a Utilization Management vendor in IHSS and CDASS, which should result in cost-savings. We are advocating that the process be done by a vendor with the full understanding of consumer direction, Colorado rules governing IHSS and CDASS, a true understanding of Health Maintenance activities, and how these activities differ from Personal Care and Homemaker services.

- More to come in the next newsletter.