2018-2019 PRIORITY ISSUES

1. LEADERSHIP/PUBLIC POLICY

- People with disabilities want opportunities to speak up on OUR opinions on what we want/need; to share our comments on public policy decisions, services, issues, State/Federal legislation, State regulations, budget cuts, etc.
- More people with disabilities need to actively participate on various State committees, community agency Boards, etc.
- Build leadership skills of Members through monthly Coalition informational meetings and trainings for people to learn to be more independent, advocate for themselves and speak up living the life they want (not what someone else thinks)
- Increased involvement on the development of training/information to people with disabilities and families on “Person-Centered Planning, Thinking and Culture” and leading our Planning meetings
- Transparency and information by state and local agencies published online on the supports available and outcomes of services so people with disabilities and their families have better information to make informed choices about available services through various agencies

2. EMPLOYMENT

- Increased employment resources for people to get the help they need to find good paying jobs… with opportunities for pay raises and career advancement
- Information, customized support and resources for people with disabilities who may want to start their own business (Self-Employment)
- More “Peer Support” types of services (“Job Club”, informational meetings, training, personal stories) on the positive outcomes of employment on a person’s quality of life
- Information and training on financial education, ABLE Accounts, budgeting and saving money
3. PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Acceptance, integration and real participation of people with disabilities, just like anyone else, in local communities
- More social media and public awareness about personal human interest, success stories about abilities and contributions of people with disabilities as “People-First”
- More employers need to be educated to understand the abilities and benefits of hiring people with disabilities
- More information to people with disabilities and families about the choice of “Self-Directed Services” and more flexibility for allowable services/supports
- Visibility of the Coalition’s “Speakers Bureau” and scheduled presentations to different audiences on various topics

4. ACCESSIBILITY

- Improve transportation options so people with disabilities can more fully participate in the community
- Identify accessible recreational locations and social opportunities for people with disabilities
- Improve access to information on resources and technology available for people with disabilities
- Publicize Coalition Accessibility Project and post information online

The MISSION of the RI Cross Disability Coalition is to bring together people with various types of disabilities from different organizations and groups in RI to:

- Meet one another, Learn from one another, Share information,
- Talk about opportunities for partnerships and connections within local communities, Build leadership capacity to increase and strengthen the voices of individuals with disabilities, and
- Talk about ways we can work together and unite as one on issues that WE think are important in our lives or will benefit people with disabilities living in RI.

Telephone: 401-737-1238  Website: www.riddc.org/cross_disability

“The Coalition is for people with various disabilities to connect and talk about what is important in our lives and what we can do together to improve quality for all people! It is also an opportunity to become familiar with community opportunities and services available in RI and learn what these experiences and agencies can do to support and meet the needs of individuals to live a good quality life.”