Fact Sheet: President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities

The President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID) is a federal advisory committee that promotes policies and initiatives that support independence and lifelong inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in their respective communities. The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities provides oversight and support for PCPID.

As an advisory committee, PCPID does not receive an appropriation from Congress to administer Federal funds and thus is not an agency that administers grants or provides financial and technical assistance to individuals, groups, agencies, or organizations.

Formerly known as the President’s Committee on Mental Retardation, PCPID was established in 1966 through Executive Order by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Committee has been continued by every President since that time.

Mission

PCPID’s mission is to provide advice and assistance to the President of the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on a broad range of topics pertaining to intellectual disabilities. Undergirding the Committee’s mission is the goal to improve the quality of life that is experienced by people with intellectual disabilities, by upholding their full citizenship rights, independence, self-determination, and lifelong participation in their communities.

Membership and Activities

PCPID is comprised of 34 members, including 19 citizen members and 13 ex officio (Federal Government) members; a maximum of 21 citizen members is allowed. Citizen members are appointed by the President and serve for a maximum of 2 years. A variety of individuals are appointed as citizen members, including parents of individuals with intellectual disabilities, scientists and professionals employed in the field of intellectual disabilities, community and business representatives, and systems advocates.

The 13 ex officio members include the secretaries of Health and Human Services, Education, Labor, Housing and Urban Development, Commerce, Transportation, Interior, and Homeland Security; the U.S. Attorney General; the President and CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service; the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; the Chair of the National Council on Disability; and the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration. PCPID is also supported by a team of federal employees.

PCPID holds formal meetings at least twice within a fiscal year and convenes informally throughout the year. In addition, PCPID is mandated to submit an annual report to the President. This report is the vehicle through which members provide advice to the President regarding issues and recommendations pertaining to intellectual disabilities.