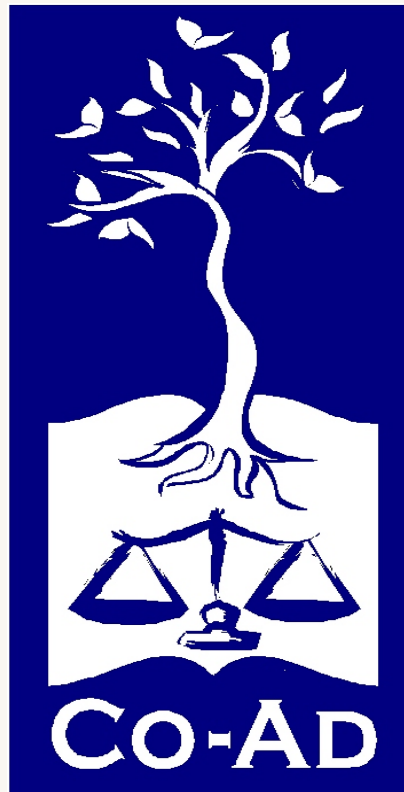


CO-AD, INC.

IDAHO'S PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM



Promote, Protect
and Advocate

ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2004

COMPREHENSIVE ADVOCACY, INC.

Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc., better known as Co-Ad, Inc., is a private, non-profit, legal and advocacy services organization, advocating for human, legal, and service rights of individuals with disabilities. In 1977, Co-Ad was designated by the Governor of Idaho as the state's Protection and Advocacy System. Co-Ad is funded by several federal grants and all services are offered statewide at no cost to eligible individuals in accordance with Co-Ad's available resources and service priorities.

MISSION STATEMENT

Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc. assists people with disabilities to protect, promote and advance their legal and human rights through quality legal, individual, and system advocacy.

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Web Site: users.moscow.com/co-ad

E-Mail: coadinc@cableone.net

SERVICES PROVIDED

Information and Referral
Negotiation and Mediation
Short-Term Assistance/Technical Assistance
Administrative Remedies
Legal Representation
Investigation of Abuse or Neglect
Education and Training
Advocacy Addressing System and Policy Issues

Message from the Executive Director

Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc. (Co-Ad, Inc.) is proud to present this report of our activities and accomplishments during Fiscal Year 2004. The report represents a broad overview of one year in Co-Ad's struggle to protect the rights of Idahoans with disabilities. The need for Co-Ad's services continues in spite of many battles won and many changes made. Those changes are often made one person at a time, or one small issue at a time. But if the single person or issue is left unaddressed, we all lose a little bit of our freedom, independence and protection from harm.

Protection and advocacy systems like Co-Ad were established by Congress largely in response to the exposure of conditions in state institutions for people with developmental disabilities and mental illness in the 1970's. In 2004, we are still fighting for meaningful treatment for people in state institutions.

We began investigation of four suicides in Idaho state correctional facilities who were known to have mental illness and to be at risk for suicide, but were not placed on suicide precautions. We advocated for effective mental health treatment for adolescents at Idaho State School and Hospital and reduced dramatically the average amount of time state psychiatric hospital patients spent in seclusion and restraints. We also managed to get a bill through the legislature which incorporated Co-Ad's

right to have access to people in Idaho's mental health facilities into the Idaho Code.

"Changes are often made one person at a time, or one small issue at a time. "

We continued to chip away at the ongoing non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by government entities and private businesses. We worked to improve the protection of children's rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and we fought many battles to insure that the Medicaid program fulfills its obligations to people with disabilities.

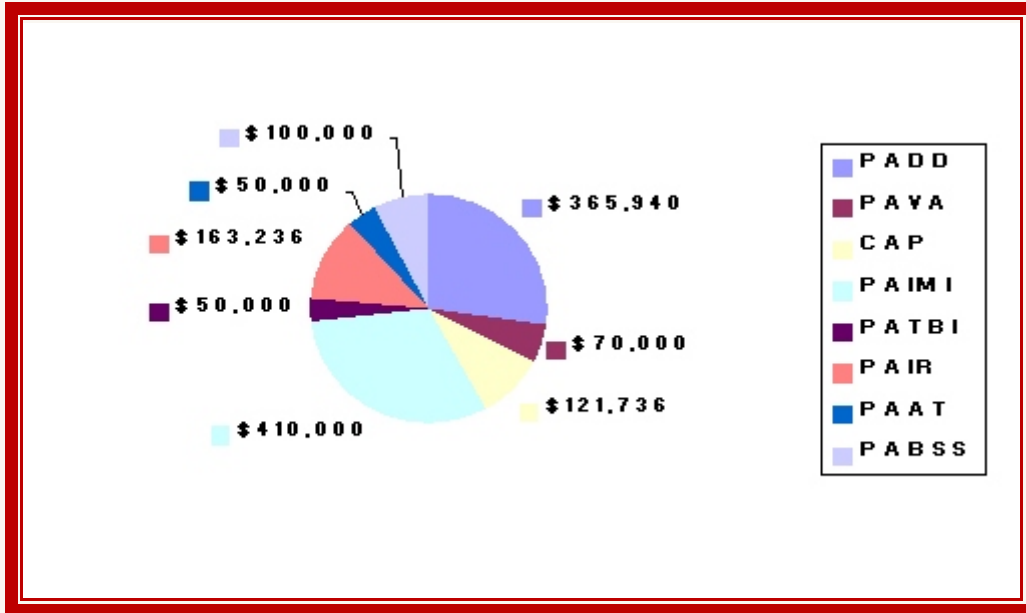
Co-Ad played a major role in large multi-year legislative projects which will change the legal landscape for people with disabilities.

I hope this report reflects our efforts and our successes as well as the need for much more work in the years to come.

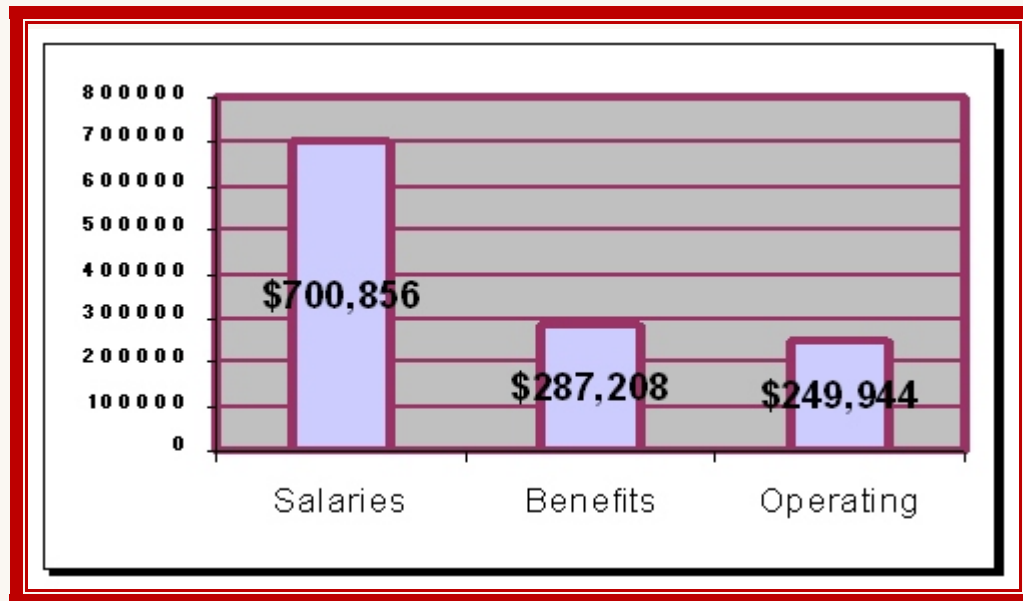
**James R. Baugh, Executive Director
Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc.**

Fiscal Year 2004

Federal Grant Income



Expenses



Co-Ad, Inc.

PROGRAMS

PADD: Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

The PADD Program was established in 1977 and funded by the Department of Health and Human Services. PADD provides services that address disability-related rights violations for individuals who have severe and chronic developmental or physical disabilities.

CAP: Client Assistance Program

In 1981, the CAP Program was established and funded by the Department of Rehabilitation Services. CAP provides information and advocacy services to individuals who are involved with federally funded rehabilitation programs.

PAIMI: Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness

The PAIMI Program was funded in 1986 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Priority representation is provided to individuals with mental illness alleging abuse, neglect or violations of rights occurring in treatment facilities. Services may also be provided to address rights violations in the community.

PAIR: Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights

The PAIR Program was established in 1994 by the Department of Rehabilitation Services in order to provide services addressing disability-related rights violations for all other individuals with physical and/or mental disabilities who are not eligible for services under the PADD, PAIMI or CAP programs.

PAAT: Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology

In 1992, Co-Ad received funding from the U.S. Department of Education to reduce barriers to accessing assistive technology.

PABSS: Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security

In 2001, the Social Security Administration funded the PABSS program to provide information and advocacy services to beneficiaries of Social Security seeking to secure, retain, or regain gainful employment.

PATBI: Protection and Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury

This protection and advocacy program was funded in 2002 by the Department of Health and Human Services to provide services to individuals with traumatic brain injury and their families to improve access to health and other services.

PAVA: Protection and Advocacy for Voting Assistance

In 2003, Co-Ad received funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to ensure full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities including registering to vote, casting a vote and accessing polling places.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES PROCESS

Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc. (Co-Ad) is funded by federal grants which limit Co-Ad's representation to specific issues. Co-Ad complies with this by developing a Statement of Objectives and Priorities (SOP) each fiscal year. Additionally, because funding is limited, Co-Ad finds it useful to develop an SOP for all of its programs. It is a useful management tool that helps Co-Ad focus its efforts in the most needed areas.

Co-Ad distributes its SOP to a wide variety of individuals and organizations representing Idahoans with disabilities, and solicits comments. This is an ongoing process and continues throughout the year. The SOP is distributed to: Co-Ad Board of Directors, PAIMI Advisory Council, all member organizations of the Consortium of Idahoans with Disabilities (CID), Co-Ad applicants who are denied services due to priorities, all information and referral clients, and to consumers at trainings and conferences.

Each year, Co-Ad staff conduct focus group meetings with various groups representing people with disabilities who may be under-served, to solicit suggestions for priorities for the upcoming year.

The annual priority setting meeting is held in June. Participants include the Co-Ad Board, staff, the PAIMI Advisory Council and representatives from seven other disability organizations. Participants hear focus group reports, information obtained from outreach and consumer training activities, comments from clients, and service request statistical reports. They identify potential priorities and prioritize areas of concern.

Later in the summer, the Co-Ad staff reviews the identified issues, discusses possible advocacy strategies and develops priorities and objectives. These proposed priorities and objectives, along with a specific work plan and resource budget are presented to the Co-Ad Board at their September meeting for approval or amendment and take effect on October 1st.

Co-Ad, Inc.

FY 2004 Statement of Priorities

All FY 2004 Priorities and Objectives were either met or exceeded and complied with all federal reporting standards

ABUSE AND NEGLECT

PRIORITY: People with disabilities will live free from abuse and neglect.

RIGHTS IN FACILITIES

PRIORITY I: Licensed residential facilities in Idaho will have policies and procedures regarding residents' rights that comply with state and federal laws.

PRIORITY II: People at State Hospital North (SHN) will have their rights enhanced through facility accreditation.

PRIORITY III: Individuals in facilities will not have their rights violated.

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

PRIORITY: People with disabilities will live in their community of choice with the supports they need for successful integration.

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

PRIORITY I: Public and private housing entities and owners will not discriminate against persons with disabilities in violation of the Fair Housing Act.

PRIORITY II: Persons with disabilities who have court appointed guardians are able to reside in the least restrictive environment.

PRIORITY III: Rights of people subjected to guardianship or conservatorship will be protected.

ADA/ACCESSIBILITY

PRIORITY: Public entities and places of public accommodation will be accessible and will not otherwise discriminate against people with disabilities in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

PRIORITY: Idahoans with Disabilities will have better access to health care coverage and services.

MEDICAID

PRIORITY I: Individuals with disabilities will have increased access to Medicaid Services.

PRIORITY II: Selected systemic issues will provide increased access to medically necessary services.

EDUCATION

PRIORITY I: Children with disabilities in Idaho will receive appropriate education services.

PRIORITY II: Address systemic barriers to Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for children with disabilities.

CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

PRIORITY I: Increase access to Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) funded services.

PRIORITY II: Increase outreach and awareness of CAP services to RSA funded agencies.

EMPLOYMENT

PRIORITY: Social Security beneficiaries will obtain or retain employment.

FINANCIAL ENTITLEMENTS

PRIORITY: Adults and children with disabilities who are entitled to Social Security Disability and Supplemental Income will receive their SSDI/SSI benefits.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

PRIORITY: Adults with disabilities incarcerated in the state correctional system will be afforded their constitutional rights to mental health treatment.

OUTREACH

PRIORITY: People with disabilities in Idaho will have increased access to Co-Ad services.

VOTING

PRIORITY: Idahoans with disabilities will be able to vote at their local polling place.

Highlights of Co-Ad Cases Fiscal Year 2004

Co-Ad assisted a client in obtaining Idaho Medicaid funding for a vest therapy device necessary to prevent reoccurring pneumonia and other medical complications due to her compromised respiratory system. The client was represented for the Medicaid hearing through the stipulated remand of the case. As a result of continued collection and submission of documentation to establish medical necessity, Medicaid approved the vest therapy device for the client.

"I would just like to say thank you for all Co-Ad did for our son. We were so lucky to have an advocate during a difficult time. Thank You!"

An eight-month-old girl, born four months premature, experienced multiple disabilities requiring a lung and intestine transplant. Although Medicaid approved payment for the evaluations necessary to determine her candidacy for the transplants, a clause in the federal Medicaid guidelines presented a barrier for out-of-state hospitals to accept the payment. As a result of Co-Ad's assistance, Idaho Medicaid sped up the process for the out-of-state reimbursement to occur. Subsequently, the

University of Pittsburgh Hospital negotiated with Idaho Medicaid and agreed to provide the necessary evaluations to determine the child's transplant candidacy.

"Yes! You are all super!!! Prompt, caring & knowledgeable."

CAP assisted a client with a mental illness and an anxiety disorder who expressed concerns that Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) would not provide funding to attend college unless he agreed to attend on a full-time status. VR argued it would only assist clients to attend college on a full-time status because clients had to show progress towards an employment goal and, if a client attended college part-time, the client's progress would be too slow. The client believed that attending college full-time would be too much for him to handle. The client agreed that if he was able to handle part-time schooling and felt more comfortable at a later time, he would enroll as a full-time student. CAP reviewed his medical documentation to see if there were any psychological evaluations stating that the client could not handle full-time enrollment. The records did not have any such documentation.

CAP assisted the client in gathering a recommendation for part-time schooling from a therapist. Subsequently, VR accepted and approved the client's request to enroll in college as a part-time student.

"Thanks to a fine group of people who care."

An individual diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia, ADHD, disassociative disorder and seizures, contacted Co-Ad alleging the State Board of Nursing was preventing her from reaching her vocational goal by issuing her a restricted nursing license based upon her disability. Graduating with a 4.0, the client had recently obtained her associate degree from a local university nursing program. She subsequently passed her boards and applied for her nursing license. The Board of Nursing issued a one-year license restricted to supervised settings in structured environments. Unfortunately, this restriction prevented her from pursuing her Bachelor's in Nursing because the program requires nursing in people's homes without supervision in unstructured environments.

Co-Ad reviewed the issue and verified with the State Board of Nursing that the restriction was due to the client's psychiatric history not her

seizures. Both her vocational rehabilitation counselor and her psychiatrist confirmed the client had been previously cleared to pursue nursing as her vocational goal and agreed the restriction was unnecessary. The P&A filed a letter of appeal with the State Board of Nursing contending the board did not have sufficient evidence that the client's disability would impair her ability to function as a nurse. An attorney for the Board of Nursing responded, stating as long as the client has a diagnosis of mental illness, she is to have a restriction on her license. Co-Ad represented the client at a closed board meeting. Although the Board of Nursing affirmed its decision to place restrictions on the client's nursing license.

"I really appreciated all of the help and support given by my advocate. I felt empowered to help in an area that I was unfamiliar with. Thank You!"

As a result of Co-Ad's intervention, the university nursing program agreed to allow continuation of classes and provide professor supervision as appropriate to address the licensure restrictions.

Upon receipt of the formal written decision, Co-Ad filed an appeal, and the client submitted letters of recommendation from her professors and clinical program supervisors. Following an informal meeting between the parties, the Board of Nursing agreed to lift all restrictions on the client's nursing license, and seal her file. Co-Ad has requested a formal opinion from the Department of Justice as to whether the language contained in the Idaho Board of Nursing Licensing application asking about one's physical and mental history, as well as its policy of selecting everyone with a physical and/or mental disability for additional scrutiny, complies with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"I was treated very well by my advocate. She was so reassuring and her encouraging words really helped."

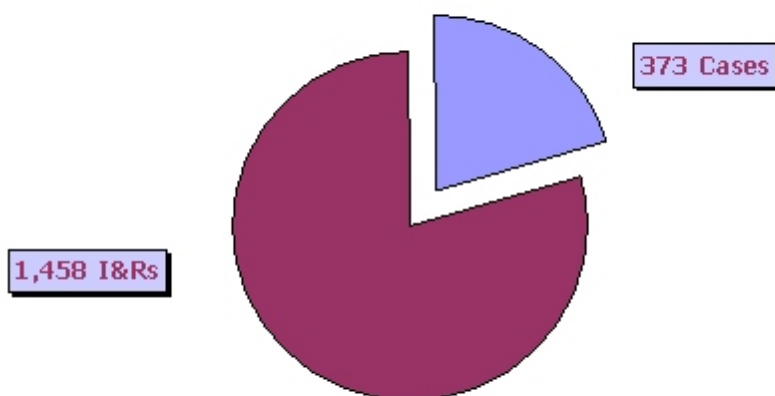
Co-Ad assisted eleven (11) PAIMI clients in their efforts to move from a long-term institutional placement to living in the community of their choice. Several individuals have discharge planning in place and are awaiting finalization of their discharge. Through identifying community resources and

collaboration partners, reviewing treatment and discharge plans and advocating and/or facilitating the coordination of resources, several clients were successfully placed in the community.

Co-Ad received several calls from concerned parents alleging disability harassment of their children in the school setting. A review of various school's policies revealed many schools did not have policies in place addressing disability harassment. Unfortunately, further review indicated that although the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (IDAPA) clearly stated that public schools must have a comprehensive harassment policy, it does not require policies specific to disability harassment. Co-Ad subsequently engaged in a public awareness campaign that included a disability awareness presentation at the Idaho Parents Unlimited annual conference and developed handouts explaining disability harassment and possible remedies to provide to families of children with disabilities in the school system.

Fiscal Year 2004

**1,831 Direct Services Provided
1,502 Clients**



Information and Referral (I&R) is generally brief written or oral information that does not involve direct advocacy intervention by staff or any type of follow-up.

Cases are everything more than an I&R and can range from advice and technical assistance to representation in a court of law

Cases and Clients Served

Breakdown of Cases

Short-Term Assistance	96
Technical Assistance	252
Represented at Hearings	6
Represented at Meetings	9
Litigation	5
Abuse & Neglect	5

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Mary E. Dwyer
Ernest Paul Judd
Tewa Evans
Joni Waybright

STAFF

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Corinna H. Wolfe, Advocacy Director
Jennie E. Brennan, Administrative/Fiscal Director
J. Carl Mickelsen, Staff Attorney
Amy Cunningham, Staff Attorney
P. Denise Giles, Staff Attorney
Dina Flores-Brewer, Staff Attorney
Therese Varela, Advocate Supervisor
Manuel Guerra, Senior Disability Rights Advocate
Angela Eandi, Disability Rights Advocate
Lynn Erickson, Disability Rights Advocate
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