APRIL

Advocacy Committee

March 29,2023

**Discernment Process**

After sending a survey requesting feedback regarding potential “Advocacy PRIORITIES”, a collection of 158 individual “priorities” were received. After narrowing the list by combining all “identical priorities”, a list of 134 priorities remained. After continuing to narrow the list by combining “agreed upon” “similar priorities, the list was reduced to 120 items. Upon completion of six more “rounds” of narrowing the list by combining similar items and using a N/3 voting process, the list was narrowed down to the following two sub-committee recommendation and a list of five (5) “final priorities” (listed in order of preference/priority):

**Recommended Sub-Committees**:

1. Housing – Accessible, affordable, integrated housing--supporting full participation in community expansion. (Universal design for ALL new building projects, metro AND rural; if a home is accessible from the start, it's one less barrier to staying in the home/remaining independent and un-institutionalized!)
2. Transportation – Reliable/affordable rural transportation for PWD, both public transit and Medicare/Medicaid based transit that is "included" in membership in certain health plans; most of the times these plans try to rely on subcontracting transportation and PWD miss appointments when these providers don't show up.

**Advocacy Priorities (in order of preference/priority)**:

1. Increased Funding for Centers for Independent Living (e.g., 5 for 5 campaign/Diversion/ Etc.).
2. Re-authorization of the Rehabilitation Act.
3. Increased funding for HCBS Self-Directed Services/Better Pay for Personal Assistants.
4. Overused & Unnecessarily Restrictive Guardianship/Supportive Decision Making.
5. Broadband Accessibility in Rural Areas.