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About the Division for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services, Jerusalem, Israel

The vision

The Division for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) provides services and support systems to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Israel, with the goal of enabling every person with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to live a meaningful life. The Division strives to improve the quality of life of persons with IDD, provide means for their development, and frameworks for their enhanced social welfare in order to meet their needs, abilities and desires. The Division strives to achieve these goals by working together with the family and the community while preserving human dignity, personal choice, privacy, inclusion, professionalism, innovation, and initiative.

Introduction

Epidemiological studies have shown that 0.5-1.0% of the population is identified as having an intellectual disability. The diagnosis of intellectual disability is based on significant limitations in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior originating before age 18 years.

The Division for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities functions on the basis of several laws. The primary legal status is defined in Welfare Law: Treatment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (1969) and The Residential Care Act (1965) and its later amendments.



In Israel, the law (Welfare law: Treatment of Persons with IDD) has established that the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment plan for persons with IDD are determined by a multidisciplinary committee (the diagnostic committee).

The DIDD has developed a wide range and variety of services currently provided to approximately 25,000 persons with IDD (from a total of 35,000 persons presently diagnosed with IDD in Israel). Services are provided to persons of all ages and at all levels of functioning, in the community, in assisted living in apartments, group homes and supported-living residential care centers.

Core values

The core values of the Division for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities are:

- Human dignity
- The right to grow and develop, based on abilities and strengths
- The right to uniqueness and diversity
- The right to make independent choices in collaboration with the family
- The right to privacy and intimacy

Guiding principles

The Division of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities is guided by the following principles:

- Ensuring the individual and his or her family a continuum of care and a variety of dynamic services, with flexible transition between them.
- Ensuring the rights of the individual in all areas of life.



- Developing tailored support, intervention and personal development programs in cooperation with the individual and family.
- Working to continuously enhance quality of life and quality of treatment.
- Giving priority to the provision of services at home and in the community.
- Developing a system of services to meet the individual's needs in all areas of life.
- Initiating and fostering activities with the goal of integrating the individual into the community and society.
- Fostering innovation, initiative and knowledge.
- Recognizing the importance of the human resource while continuously striving for positive development and advancement.

Goals and tasks

The Division of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities has set the following goals for the upcoming years:

- Advancing the transition process of 900 individuals from residential care centers to community living between the years 2015-2017.
- Developing a support package while expanding services at home and in the community for the individual and his or her family.
- Conducting continuing assessments in order to meet the standard required by law.



The Division for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Departments and Services

The Division for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities includes the following departments:

- The Department of Diagnosis, Advancement and Placement Services
- The Department of Community Services
- The Department of Supported Living
- Health Services
- Protective Services
- The Budget and Development Department

The Department of Diagnosis, Advancement and Placement Services

The Department of Diagnosis, Advancement and Placement Services is the department which determines eligibility for services rendered by the DIDD. The department provides the following services:

- The administration of a multidimensional assessment and diagnosis that addresses the four dimensions that determine the existence of intellectual and developmental disability: significantly subnormal intellectual functioning, developmental delays that are present before the age of 18 years, adaptive behavior, and the level of support that the individual requires.
- Preparation of a comprehensive report detailing the strengths and difficulties of each individual. This report provides the diagnostic material through which the diagnostic committee can determine a final diagnosis and a treatment plan. This process is conducted in 14 diagnostic centers located throughout the country.



- The department supervises the work of the diagnostic centers and the diagnostic committees. The diagnostic boards are statutory and act according to the "Welfare Law: Treatment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities" (1969). Each committee includes five professionals – a social worker who is the chairperson of the committee, a physician, a psychologist, a psychiatrist, and an educator. The committee determines the disability, the level of disability, and the treatment plan.
- The department operates a system of personal advancement and development programs for persons in supported living and in the community.
- Execution and supervision of the placement process of individuals referred to out-of-home supported living.
- Delivery of psychosocial and sexual counseling and treatment for individuals living in supported living facilities or with the family.

The Department of Community Services

The Department of Community Services of the Division for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities is responsible for providing the following services:

- Gathering information regarding persons with intellectual disabilities in the community and defining their needs (in conjunction with the local social services departments in each municipality).
- Setting standards for the provision of services in the community.
- Developing a continuum of programs and services for persons of all ages and of all levels of functioning while allocating the resources for the implementation of these programs.



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- Developing the means for the implementation of programs in the community.
- Policy formulation.
- Overseeing and supervising service delivery to the individual and his or her family.
- The supervision of the staff working with the IDD population in the local social service departments, the day programs and foster care services.

The Department of Community Services provides various services for persons with intellectual disability in the community:

- Services for babies and children - from birth until 3 years old, programs in hospitals aiming to prevent abandonment of babies by their families, early childhood development centers, social services, programs for the integration of children into mainstream kindergartens and day care centers (140 children) and rehabilitation day care centers (approx. 170 children)
- Placement and service provision for persons with intellectual disability in foster care.
- Services for persons aged 3-21 years, including afternoon programs in the schools or in community centers until 4 pm (16:00) (persons with mild to moderate IDD) and until 6 pm (18:00) for those with more severe IDD.
- Vocational services for those aged 21 years and over, including various home based employment services, sheltered workshops, rehabilitative employment frameworks, supportive employment, sheltered employment in industry and employment in the regular



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work force: 4,800 persons are employed in 86 sheltered workshops and 1,300 persons in supported employment in 100 locations. In addition persons with more severe intellectual disability are placed in therapeutic day care centers.

- Social clubs, leisure activities and enrichment programs in 70 clubs throughout the country.
- Special programs:
 - Family oriented programs – family contact centers, "Shemesh" program for comprehensive family rehabilitation, "Friend of the Family" program and regional information centers for families.
 - Support and treatment centers
 - Group vacations – approx. 24,000 total nights in locations throughout the country
 - Respite care
 - Summer camps for children and young people (up to age 21 years) – 1,500 children nationwide
 - Military service ("Equal in Uniform") and National Service
 - Supported Community Living in 25 local and regional municipalities
 - "Maavarim" – (Transitions) – a program operating in conjunction with the Ministry of Education – preparing students with IDD for the transition from school to the work force.
 - Foster families – approx. 370 children live in 290 foster families throughout the country
 - "Accessible Community" – 52 local and regional councils
 - Life skill development programs
 - Self-advocacy programs



The Service for Supported Living

The Service for Supported Living in the Division for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities offers various options for supported living outside the home as exhibited in the following table:

Service provided	Number of Residents	Number of facilities	Number of residents per facility
Residential care centers - Total	7,041	63	35-270 residents
Government	1,523	9	
Public	1,268	13	
Private	4,250	40	
Group homes (hostels)	1,540	48	13-34 residents
Apartments	1,460	30	2-12 residents
Total	10,041	141	

The Service for Supported Living in the DIDD provides the following services:

- Quality support services in an out-of-the home setting, with the goal of continued improvement and advancement of the residents.
- The provision of options available to residents in all areas of everyday life.
- Maintaining the safety, well-being and dignity of each resident while formulating a personal development program tailored to realize his or her potential, while providing services aimed at meeting his or her changing needs throughout the life span.
- Overseeing and supervising activities in all supported living facilities.



- Integrating residents in the daily life and activities of the surrounding community while engaging the community in the daily life of the facility.

Health Services

The Health Service of the Department for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities provides the following services:

- The provision of 24 hour health services in 63 residential care centers.
- The delivery of health services in the community for individuals living in the community.
- The development of professional knowledge in the area of medical care for persons with IDD in Israel.
- Research, training, and national and international cooperative ventures.

Services are provided in the following areas: general medicine, nursing services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, nutrition, mental health and dental services (dental services are provided in 20 specialized dental clinics).

The Community Nurse of the Health Services is also responsible for emergency and disaster planning, with the task of providing, in conjunction with the Home Front Command, for the safety and security of the IDD population in the event of an emergency or a disaster. This is carried out through drills and emergency preparedness exercises in order to ensure adequate response in the case of actual emergency situations.



Protective Services

Social workers dealing with protective services act under the auspices of The Welfare Law: (Treatment of Persons with IDD) – 1969 and the 26th amendment to the Penal Code ("Mandatory Reporting"). This service is headed in the DIDD by the chief Social Worker for Protective Services.

There are presently 140 social workers in the municipalities and local councils dealing in protective services, supervised by six regional social workers in the DIDD. They are responsible for reporting and treating cases of abuse and neglect in the IDD population in the community and in supported living facilities. The regional social workers also address individual cases in those municipalities where there is no licensed social worker working in protective services. These social workers work in conjunction with the Israeli courts of law and in cooperation with the police.

The Department for Budget and Development

The Department for Budget and Development in the DIDD works together with the chief budget director of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services, the Director-General of the Ministry, together with the Ministry of Finance, in planning and overseeing the budget while determining the standards for the allocation of government funds.



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