

The Arizona Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries

Our Vision

Our vision is that there is a comprehensive, well-coordinated, easily accessible, and effective service delivery system for all persons with spinal cord and brain injuries. We envision a system in which all partners understand their roles and accept responsibility for doing their part to create a seamless system. We envision a system that is responsive to and reflective of the diversity¹ of people throughout Arizona. We envision a system in which injuries are identified early, needs are assessed regularly, and services and supports are planned, developed, and delivered to meet these needs and maximize quality of life.

Our vision is that policy makers recognize the capabilities, potential, and needs of all persons with spinal cord and brain injuries and their families and that this heightened awareness has had a positive impact on public and private sector policies and practices.

Our vision is that all Arizonans are aware of spinal cord and brain injuries and work together to decrease the incidence and severity of these injuries and to ensure the full inclusion of all persons who have sustained spinal cord and brain injuries in the life of the community.

Finally, we hope that the Arizona Governor's Council will serve as a model for others in its efforts to work collaboratively with all persons with spinal cord and brain injuries, their families, government agencies, community organizations, and the business community in realizing this vision.

¹ The concept of diversity encompasses awareness that each individual is unique; recognition of individual differences; exploration of these differences in a safe, positive, and nurturing environment; demonstrating acceptance of and respect for one another; and moving beyond simple tolerance to embracing and celebrating the rich dimensions of diversity contained within each individual. These can be along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies. (Based on a definition of diversity originally published by the University of Oregon.)