

MPAS

2019

annual report

**"To advocate and protect
the legal rights of people
with disabilities."**

MICHIGAN



PROTECTION & ADVOCACY
SERVICE, INC.

"Protecting the Rights of Persons With Disabilities"



Michelle Roberts
Executive Director



John McCulloch
Board of Directors President

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT

Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service, Inc. (MPAS) is pleased to present highlights from 2019.

MPAS continues to advance our mission and advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities. Each year, we have the privilege to work alongside many dedicated people and organizations at the local, state and national levels, as we collaborate to end abuse and neglect and work to improve inclusion, accessibility, and access to services.

To lead, we know we must listen to our clients and learn about their concerns. Each individual we serve has the ability to shape the future for themselves and others. This year reflects a moment, person, or project that energized us and gave us hope that our work is having real impact.

**There is no greater
disability in society,
than the inability
to see a person
as more.**

~Robert M. Hensel

We are proud to be able to tell our story through this annual report. We invite you to explore our work further and engage in the conversation on Facebook, or by signing up for our e-newsletter.

We will continue to work with our amazing staff and dedicated board of directors. We are all deeply committed to the MPAS mission, and we work each day with a renewed dedication.

MPAS BY THE NUMBERS

33

Abuse and Neglect Investigations

12,704

Individuals Impacted Through Class or
Systemic Impact Litigation

\$2.2M

Governor's Budget Increase to Fund
Professional Evaluation Staff to Address
the Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST)
Waiting List

41,121

MPAS Publications Distributed

5,614

Individual Callers to Information
& Referral

2,397

Facebook Friends (10% increase)

31k+

Individuals Impacted Through 28
Trainings/Educational Presentations

100

Representative Payees Interviewed,
Affecting 6,192 Beneficiaries Served by
Those Payees

\$40M

For More MI-Choice In-Home Nursing
Through MPAS Advocacy and
Collaboration

9,974

Exchange Newsletter Mailing List

77%

Satisfied Clients

31,749

Website Visits

2019

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

1.

MPAS received a call from a client who was seeking assistance from the MPAS Client Assistance Program (CAP) in working with her Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) counselor to obtain a power wheelchair and a customized desk. The client has multiple sclerosis and needed these items in order to continue to work. She had been waiting for approximately a year for these essential items to be provided. During a conference call with the client and the MRS Counselor, the CAP advocate was able to negotiate to have the power chair and the desk incorporated into the client's Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). Within a couple of weeks, the power chair was delivered to the client and the desk was being customized to fit her needs.

2.

A client contacted MPAS to investigate if she had a Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) overpayment of \$61,000. The advocate reviewed the client's work earnings and attended a personal conference with her after her waiver was denied. The client presented a work subsidy form along with work pay stubs and monthly expenses to Social Security. The client also filed for reconsideration at that meeting. She was advised roughly 2 months later that the overpayment was eliminated.

3.

A 40-year old man was in a dispute with his guardian over his choice of living arrangements. MPAS was called and helped the man understand his rights and strategies for negotiating with the guardian. Both parties agreed to a process for moving to a less-restrictive placement.

4.

A 23-year-old man with learning disabilities and hearing impairment had attended school for several years without receiving appropriate supports. MPAS attorneys and advocates became involved and filed a hearing request that resulted in a substantial financial settlement for the client. MPAS staff then worked with the school district, vocational rehabilitation, and independent living service agencies to secure expert advice and design a transition plan to help the client address his transition needs.

5.

MPAS staff participated in a 2-week Voter Assist Terminal Training (VAT) and Disability Rights Training with the City of Lansing. MPAS helped train around 250 Lansing election workers serving 33 precincts. Through these efforts, the county was able to see over 70% of the precincts use the VAT machine.

6.

MPAS assisted a 59-year-old man with a hearing impairment in securing assistive technology to attain and retain employment. The man needed hearing aids to perform his work as a truck driver, but the state vocational rehabilitation agency was not responding to his requests or inquiries and was applying an incorrect standard of law regarding the timeline for implementing an Individualized Plan of Employment (IPE). An MPAS advocate contacted the agency, explained the proper timeline and standard, and succeeded in securing a written IPE that reflected the need for the hearing aids. As a result, the man was able to get the necessary assistive technology to keep his job.

PLEASE
CONSIDER | **DONATING**
How Can I Support MPAS?

A planned or deferred gift of
cash or investment securities.

The Michigan State Bar Foundation's
"Access to Justice Fund."

A cash gift is also appreciated
and generally tax deductible.

MPAS

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THANK YOU!

MPAS is a 501(c) 3
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

9 PROGRAMS OPERATED BY MPAS

The Protection and Advocacy for:

1. Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (PADD)
2. Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI)
3. Individual Rights (PAIR)
4. The Client Assistance Program (CAP)
5. Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)
6. Voting Accessibility (PAVA)
7. Assistive Technology (PAAT)
8. Beneficiaries with Representative Payees (PABRP)
9. Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI)

Revenue & Support 2019

<u>Revenue and Support 2019</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
PADD	\$1,354,459	31.1%
PAIMI	\$996,753	22.9%
PAIR/GLADA	\$319,391	7.3%
CAP	\$354,389	8.1%
PAAT	\$102,510	2.4%
PABSS	\$153,884	3.53%
PAVA	\$126,687	2.9%
Rep Payee	\$609,079	14.0%
PATBI	\$48,469	1.1%
State Grant	\$194,400	4.5%
Private Grants & Contracts	\$50,000	1.1%
Donations & Miscellaneous	<u>\$48,985</u>	<u>1.1%</u>
	\$4,359,006	68.9%

Expenses 2019

Program Services	\$3,822,133
Management & General	<u>\$448,410</u>
	\$4,270,543

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*Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service, Inc. is mandated by federal and state law to protect the legal rights of individuals with disabilities in Michigan. MPAS receives part of its funding from the Administration for Community Living, the Center for Mental Health Services-Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Rehabilitation Services Administration, and the Social Security Administration. This publication is made possible by support from these federal funders. The contents are solely the responsibility of MPAS and do not necessarily represent the official views of the federal agencies listed above. The Annual Report is funded by the federal appropriations and grants, 94%; State of Michigan appropriations and grants, 5%; Other, 1%. Total copies 150. Total Cost: \$849.41 Cost per issue: \$3.95.