



**Disability
Rights**
Michigan

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



Michelle Roberts
Executive Director



John McCulloch
Board of Directors President

We Inform. We Empower.
We Advocate.

MESSAGE
FROM THE
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
AND BOARD
PRESIDENT

In a year like no other, Disability Rights Michigan (formerly Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service, Inc.) faced challenges presented by the global pandemic. While much of the world stopped, our mission to protect individuals with disabilities never faltered.

2020 tested expectations and what it truly means to deliver our expertise and resources to the community. It also established how DRM can and should operate in a crisis. As we confronted obstacles this year, we remained focused on our mission and core values. Our team continued to deliver solutions to address our clients' most urgent needs, both immediate and long-term.

Our advocacy was not possible without our staff's dedication and successful adjustment to home-based work during the pandemic. We are proud of their commitment and flexibility, especially during challenging circumstances.

2020 taught us that our agency, our clients, and our state are capable of much more than we previously thought. Thank you for your continued support.

Our Work



\$2.00

legislated hourly pay increase to direct care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic



16

abuse/neglect complaints resulting in sanctions against nurses and administrators



\$20 million

increase for home nursing services under the MI-Choice program



436

people who had home- and community-based services reinstated



65,000

children and youth who may receive better crisis services under the KB settlement



7,987

online views of “Students with Disabilities: An Advocate’s Guide”



17,394

people reached through voter rights/engagement



2,705

Facebook friends



470

hours of compensatory education from DRM complaints



30

virtual monitoring visits in all 5 state psychiatric hospitals



4,712

calls to DRM Information and Referral advocates



23,922

publications distributed

Our Stories



1

The parent of a 13-year-old with cerebral palsy called requesting assistance in getting her son appropriate, medically necessary services from a suburban community mental health (CMH) program. DRM negotiated an increase in nursing respite service, which resulted in the CMH approving the client for additional nursing respite hours and provided the family with a break from caregiving.

2

A customer of the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) was trying to start her own computer gaming business. The BSBP counselor closed the case and refused to assist the client with her business expenses, believing the business would not generate enough income to sustain a living. A DRM Client Assistance Program (CAP) advocate worked with the counselor and client to re-open the case with BSBP. In addition to re-opening the case, the counselor offered the client a position as a BSBP vendor.

3

DRM successfully represented an individual in an appeal of her denial of 24/7 staffing support from Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) that she needed to attend college. That client can now continue to attend University and pursue her post-secondary educational goals.

4

A 20-year-old with intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy and speech impairments needed to receive the appropriate community living and respite services that had been authorized but suspended due to the lack of a provider. DRM represented the client in legal action to get those services, and obtained a favorable settlement of the case in federal court.

6

DRM assisted a client with a developmental disability that made it extremely difficult to pass the General Educational Development (GED) Test. He had been repeatedly required to participate in GED testing without accommodations for his disability, and his failure to pass resulted in the client being prohibited from receiving a work assignment. With DRM assistance, the client was able to obtain the accommodations needed to pass the GED and obtain a semi-skilled labor assignment.

5

A woman needed more space in her subsidized apartment for medical equipment related to rehabilitation, and also needed help filling out applications for reasonable accommodations. The DRM advocate provided the woman with appropriate referrals and, through those referrals, the woman received assistance from public and private organizations to request the larger apartment.

7

The mother of a 6-year-old girl with Adjustment Disorder contacted DRM for assistance because the school district had placed the client on a shortened day and moved her to a self-contained program for that reduced day. DRM filed a state special education complaint on multiple violations of federal and state education law. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) found the District noncompliant in all areas and determined the district had denied the student a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). MDE ordered 50 hours of compensatory services for the student.

TOGETHER

A photograph showing a man in a wheelchair and a woman sitting at a white desk in an office setting. The man is on the left, wearing a light grey sweater and tan pants, looking towards the woman. The woman is on the right, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, looking down at a laptop. On the desk, there is a coffee cup, a small potted plant, and some papers. A large black monitor is visible in the background.

WE CAN DO SO MUCH MORE

SUPPORT us through cash donations. Support for DRM comes in part from the generosity of our donors.

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SHARE our story. Tell others about the services DRM can offer.

DRM is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization



PROGRAMS OPERATED BY

DISABILITY RIGHTS MICHIGAN

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)

Grant Awards & Support 2020

Percent

PADD	\$1,000,882	23.1%
PAIMI	\$869,127	20.1%
PAIR/GLADA	\$466,867	10.8%
CAP	\$332,991	7.7%
PAAT	\$119,360	2.8%
PABSS	\$163,605	3.78%
PAVA	\$130,108	3.0%
Rep Payee	\$903,496	20.9%
PATBI	\$94,608	2.2%
State Grant	\$194,400	4.5%
Private Grants & Contracts		0.0%
Donations & Miscellaneous	\$53,824	1.2%
	\$4,329,268	100.0%

Expenses 2020

Program Services	\$3,847,811
Management & General	\$475,878
	\$4,323,689



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