

MCRS Quarterly Report - Quarter 1 (October-December 2023)
Disability Right Michigan (DRM) / Employment Team (CAP & PABSS programs)

Objective A: Individuals with disabilities will have access to services within vocational rehabilitation (VR) and centers for independent living.

Case Consideration Criteria: Handled all calls related to agencies receiving vocational rehabilitation funding (e.g., MRS, CIL, BSBP, SILC).

CAP/MRS Policy cadre meetings project.	Q1: DRM staff participated in a meeting with Public Consulting Group (PCG) and MRS policy cadre staff to discuss psychological and neurological services rate. PCG proposed a restricting plan, noting that the rates for psychological and neurological services were below the federal standard set by Medicaid and Medicare.
MRS/BSBP Compliance with Rulemaking Requirements. (New Project).	<p>Q1: The CAP attended the public hearing on proposed rule revisions and spoke with MRS representatives about the proposed revised rules.</p> <p>MRS accepted all of the substantive changes that the CAP proposed that concerned aligning the MRS rules with the federal regulations.</p> <p>With respect to MRS "retroactive authorization" and "least cost" rules, MRS proposed revisions to these rules that the CAP views as meaningful improvements over the current rules on these issues. On retroactive authorizations, MRS added language allowing retroactive authorization under certain circumstances. On "least cost" services, MRS added language making clear that the services must be of sufficient quality to meet the needs of the individual being served.</p>
Access to MRS/BSBP Administrative Hearing Process. (New Project)	No activity during Q 1

Objective 3B: Individuals with disabilities will have employment options in the competitive and integrated workforce.

Case Consideration Criteria: Assisted individuals with disabilities needing advocacy to gain Competitive Integrated Employment, including those in sheltered workshops and individuals who requiring work accommodations.

Subminimum Wage in Michigan.
(New Project)

No activity during Q 1

Access to Employment-Related
Transportation in Detroit. (New Project).

Q1: Explored the national online dialogue hosted by the Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) as part of the Exploring the Future of Public Transportation research. This aims to improve policies and practices, ensuring public transit is safer, cleaner, greener, and more resilient, inclusive, and equitable. Had a meeting with Leah, Kristen, and Chelsea to exchange ideas on enhancing public transit, particularly for individuals with disabilities. We will contribute insights, experiences, ideas, and suggestions to the national online dialogue on Exploring Future Transit at IdeasScale.com before the January 5, 2024, deadline.

Objective 3C: Individuals with disabilities will have access to Social Security work incentives.

Case Consideration Criteria: Handled calls from social security beneficiaries regarding work-related overpayments as a barrier to employment, assisted beneficiaries experiencing issues with VR and addressing calls regarding lack of work accommodation, post -secondary education and housing accessibility issues affecting employment.

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance
(WIPA) meetings project.

Q1: Staff continue to meet quarterly with Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) staff. This quarter we received information from Lisa Ruby, Public Benefits Attorney about Michigan Poverty Law Program and Medicaid changes.

Objective 3D: Individuals with disabilities will have access to transition services to prepare for competitive, integrated employment.

Case Consideration Criteria: Handled calls regarding students aged 14 or older needing transition services from MRS & BSBP and assisted students with IEPs enrolled in school not receiving appropriate transition services.

MOUs Between School Districts and VR (New Project).	No activity during Q1
Detroit Transition Services. (New Project)	No activity during Q1

Other community workgroups meetings and outreach & training

Community Workgroups meetings project.	Q1: Michigan Inter-agency Transition Team (MITT) conducted both an in-person meeting and virtual meetings to review the progress of their work. Q1: CAP Director continues to attend Michigan Council for Rehab Services (MCRS).
re: con Conference Presentation Project	Q1: The re: con conference presented by Incompass Michigan. The event is for Michigan vocational rehabilitation professionals, special education teachers, parents, students with disabilities, employers, and customers. Staff hosted a booth at the RE-CON exposition, engaging with many professionals and consumers to provide information about DRM services, CAP & PABSS programs
MAF Transition Trainings project	Q1: Staff presented with Michigan Alliance for families in Genesee County to students and their families about DRM services, CAP & PABSS programs and transition services to improve access and rights to services for youth and adults with disabilities. 14 people attended.

	<p>Q1: Staff presented with Michigan Alliance for Families in Oakland County to students and their families about CAP and PABSS programs and transition services to improve access and rights to services for youth and adults with disabilities. 10 people attended</p>
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