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Amount of grant award: \$52,500

The 2019 IOLTA Grant was awarded to support the Disability Rights Center's (DRC) general operating expenses, with a focus on three areas of work: (i) services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and mental health issues; (ii) access to Medicaid-funded home and community-based services; and (iii) special education services. Updates on DRC's work in each area is below.

Grant Project Goal 1: Services for people with developmental disabilities and mental health issues.

DRC will provide individual representation to people who are diagnosed with both developmental disabilities and mental or behavioral health issues on a variety of legal issues including eligibility, access to appropriate services from the developmental disability or mental health systems and access to services in appropriate and integrated settings.

People with both intellectual disabilities and mental illness need specialized supports and services to be successful at home and in their communities. However, it is often challenging to provide the care and support these individuals need and they are often placed in very restrictive settings or abandoned by the state system of supports all together. Without proper supports, these individuals face long term institutionalization.

From June 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018, DRC assisted 10 individuals with developmental disabilities and mental or behavioral health issues with 11 cases related to access to critical services including eligibility, access to appropriate services from the developmental disability or mental health systems and access to services in appropriate and integrated settings. DRC provided technical assistance, support for self-advocacy and legal representation. Of these cases, 5 were closed during this period and 6 remain open. Issues included:

- Helping a young man with developmental disabilities and behavioral health issues access a transitional program so that he could learn the skills to live independently.
- Successfully representing a young man with intellectual disabilities and behavioral challenges in an administrative appeal to access services in his home versus in an institutional placement.
- Assisting a young woman with intellectual disabilities, behavioral issues and communication difficulties to remain in a group home until appropriate home and community-based services could be put into place.

Grant Project Goal 2: Access to Medicaid-funded home and community-based services.

DRC will provide legal information, advice and representation to people with disabilities seeking to access Medicaid-funded home and community-based services, which allow them to remain in their own homes and communities.

Many people with all types of disabilities struggle to obtain the services and supports they need to remain independent in their homes and communities via the state's Medicaid waiver programs including the Developmental Disabilities waiver, Acquired Brain Disorder waiver and Choices for Independence waiver. People with mental illness also struggle to access appropriate services and supports through the regional community mental health services. As with the population described above, without proper supports, these individuals face institutionalization in nursing homes, group homes and other institutional settings.

From June 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018, DRC assisted 47 individuals with disabilities with 48 cases related to access to Medicaid funded home and community-based services. DRC provided technical assistance, support for self-advocacy and legal representation. Of these cases, 31 were closed during this period and 17 remain open. Issues included:

- Representing a man with significant physical disabilities to return to the community home where he had lived for years and loved rather than go to a more restrictive setting after a short hospitalization.
- Helping a man with a traumatic brain injury to get his Medicaid reinstated after his case manager failed to file the appropriate paper work.
- Helping a woman who was deaf and had physical disabilities to access interpreter services so that she could participate in meetings about her care.

Grant Project Goal 3: Special education services.

DRC will provide information and advice about the substantive and procedural rights to special education services and advice on how best to advocate for those rights.

Legal assistance to children with special education needs remains a critical advocacy area for DRC. Families often call when they are facing a crisis and attempts to advocate for themselves have been unsuccessful. DRC attorneys provide advice, technical assistance, and representation to these students or their families in school districts across the state.

From June 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018, DRC provided legal assistance to 112 students on 118 issues related to special education. Of these, 69 cases were closed during this period and 49 remain open. Issues included:

- Helping a young teen with developmental disabilities who was only allowed to go to school for three hours a day. His DRC attorney helped the child's mother understand her rights to appropriate educational services and how to advocate for her.
- Helping a child with communication difficulties to access extended school year services so that he would not regress during the summer.
- Helping the mother of a child with disabilities understand how to advocate when her child's school was not following his Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- Helping to delay a child's graduation so that she could continue to receive the vital school services to which she was entitled.

Attached please find the Financial Statement through November 30, 2018 itemizing IOLTA-only grant revenue and expenses.

IOLTA GRANT

Mid-Year Report

June 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018

IOLTA Grant Revenue: \$ 26,250

IOLTA Grant Expenses:

 Staff Attorney Support:

Salaries	\$ 20,565
Payroll Taxes	1,573
Benefits	<u>4,112</u>
 Total	 <u><u>\$ 26,250</u></u>