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| **FY 2020** |  |
| **P&A** | **PAVA Narratives** |
| AZ | The Arizona Center for Disability Law’s (ACDL) Protection and Advocacy for Voter Access (PAVA) Program works to ensure that Arizonans with disabilities have an opportunity to cast a private and independent vote, and have full access to the electoral process in registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places.   ACDL has developed collaborative, educational, and enforcement strategies to achieve our goal of ensuring full access to the electoral process. During Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20), ACDL’s PAVA activities focused on the following:  1. Increasing voter education opportunities for Arizonans with disabilities.  2. Increasing voter registration and voting participation by Arizonans with disabilities.  3. Collaborating and building partnerships with disability self-advocates, stakeholders, and disability organizations to improve statewide access to the electoral process for Arizonans with disabilities.  4. Protecting the rights of Arizonans with disabilities to cast a private and independent vote.   5. Working with election officials at the state, county, and local level to ensure access to the electoral process, including the development and implementation of best practices to meet the needs of Arizonans with disabilities.    ACDL’s FY20 Work to Increase Voter Education Opportunities for Arizonans with Disabilities   In ACDL’s efforts to provide statewide voting rights trainings to Arizonans with disabilities, we worked in collaboration with several disability organizations to conduct a number of in-person and virtual trainings on voting rights in FY20. The trainings and curriculums were designed and implemented to meet the needs of various disability stakeholder groups, including persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Some of the organizations ACDL partnered with to provide voter rights trainings included the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) and the Youth Leadership Forum. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the trainings were primarily conducted through a virtual platform, with American Sign Language and Closed Captioning provided.   In addition to providing voter training, ACDL also partnered with disability self-advocates and a variety of disability organizations to produce a series of three voter education videos in FY20. The videos provided information regarding the following voting topics: ways to vote in Arizona, why voting is important, and a demonstration of Maricopa's new accessible voting equipment. The following organizations provided their talents and support for this voter education video project: Youth Action Council of Arizona, Southwest Institute for Families and Children, Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), People First of Arizona, Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired, and the Maricopa County Recorder’s Office and Elections Department. The voter education videos were made publicly available on ACDL’s and its partners’ websites. Information concerning the videos and where to access them was distributed to a variety of stakeholders to amplify the impact of the voter education videos.   In FY20, ACDL also began planning improvements for the PAVA portion of its website, including better organization and additional self-advocacy materials and resources to assist Arizonans with disabilities to understand and enforce their voting rights. ACDL will continue this work in FY21.    ACDL’s FY20 Work to Increase Voter Registration and Voting Participation by Arizonans with Disabilities   Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, starting in March 2020 all in-person voter registration endeavors reduced or ceased throughout the United States. This had a significant impact on ACDL’s ability to reach out and provide voter registration opportunities for Arizonans with disabilities. In an effort to address this barrier, ACDL applied to participate in the Arizona Secretary of State Online Voter Registration Unique URL Pilot Program, which was designed to encourage organizations conducting large-scale voter registration drives to do so electronically and securely through the Service Arizona website, rather than relying on paper forms. ACDL was approved to participate in the Unique URL Pilot Program and received an assigned unique URL to use/distribute for voter registration purposes. ACDL also received periodic reports of valid voter registrations and updates submitted through its assigned URL.   ACDL partnered with twenty disability organizations to conduct and coordinate statewide virtual online voter registration activities for Arizonans with disabilities, including activities to encourage registration around National Disability Voter Registration Week (July 13-17, 2020) and National Voter Registration Day (September 22, 2020). Although ACDL faced challenges and barriers in its efforts to conduct virtual voter registration, many lessons were learned that will assist in preparations for voter registration efforts in future elections.    ACDL’s FY20 Work Collaborating and Building Partnerships with Disability Self-Advocates, Stakeholders, and Disability Organizations to Improve Statewide Access to the Electoral Process for Arizonans with Disabilities   As part of ACDL’s efforts to build strong statewide partnerships around voting, we collaborated with disability self-advocates and several disability organizations in Arizona to develop strategies and implement projects to improve access to the electoral process for all Arizonans with disabilities. These activities included: in-person and virtual voting rights trainings, disability roundtable discussions, production of voter education videos, and a virtual voter registration drive and voter registration activities as part of National Voter Registration Day and National Disability Voter Registration Week. ACDL also participated in election town halls, statewide conferences, and virtual planning meetings as part of its collaboration and partnership-building efforts in FY20.   ACDL collaborated with the following organizations and offices on voting activities in FY20: The Arc of Arizona, Arizona Citizens Clean Election Commission, Southwest Institute for Families and Children, Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona, the Arizona Division of Developmental Disabilities, People First of Arizona, the Maricopa County Recorder’s Office and Election Department, and the Arizona Secretary of State’s Office. Several of these organizations also played a key role in the development and implementation of best practice policies for serving voters with disabilities in Arizona, and other input provided to election officials in Arizona concerning the needs of voters with disabilities.     ACDL’s FY20 Work Protecting the Right of Arizonans with Disabilities to Cast a Private and Independent Vote   In FY20, ACDL undertook a variety of activities aimed at protecting the right of Arizonans with disabilities to cast a private and independent vote. One such activity is the voting hotline that ACDL operates during city, county, state, and federal elections to assist callers in resolving access issues on Election Days, and ensuring every voter has an opportunity to cast a private and independent vote. ACDL operates the voting hotline during the hours the polls are open on Election Days.   ACDL also provides assistance related to voting issues and representation in the enforcement of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, and other civil rights laws protecting the right to vote for people with disabilities. The following summary is one example of the continued enforcement work ACDL conducted as part of its PAVA program in FY20.   ACDL began reporting in FY19 on its advocacy work in the case of K.H., who is an individual with physical disabilities including spinal stenosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and drop foot, which causes her difficulty with walking and standing. On Election Day, November 6, 2018, K.H. requested a reasonable accommodation – curbside voting. She went to two different voting centers in her County of residence and was denied curbside voting at each center. After visiting the second voting center, K.H. had no choice but to cast her vote there inside the voting center, or face being disenfranchised. K.H. thereafter contacted ACDL and we assisted K.H. in preparing a charge of discrimination against the County under the Arizona Civil Rights Act, for discrimination in voting on the basis of her disability. ACDL filed the charge of discrimination with the Arizona Attorney General’s Office Civil Rights Division (ACRD), and in FY20, represented K.H. during a position statement review on the charge in November 2019.  In May 2020, ACRD issued a dismissal notice for K.H.’s charge of discrimination without findings for either K.H. or the County, noting that the information obtained was not sufficient to establish violations of the Arizona Civil Rights Act. ACDL requested reopening of the proceedings, and a copy of the investigation file from which ACRD rendered its decision. After reviewing the file, surveying other counties and states about their policies on curbside voting, and identifying tools available to facilitate curbside voting, ACDL submitted an application for reconsideration to ACRD. The application for reconsideration discussed, among other things, how the curbside voting ban violates the Arizona Civil Rights Act, the availability of curbside voting in other Arizona counties, and the growing need for curbside voting for people with disabilities given the increasing threat of COVID-19. Unfortunately, ACRD upheld its decision and denied the application for reconsideration. ACDL is currently pursuing litigation against the County on this matter on K.H.’s behalf under another federal grant program.    ACDL’s FY20 Work with Election Officials at the State, County, and Local Level to Ensure Access to the Electoral Process   In FY20, ACDL conducted a number of activities with election officials to ensure access and improve the voting experience of people with disabilities in Arizona. For example, ACDL and the Maricopa County Recorder’s Office and Election Department (MRCO/ED) co-hosted Disability Roundtable meetings to facilitate discussion with, and provide feedback to, Maricopa County election officials concerning the needs and concerns of voters with disabilities. MCRO/ED also provided information relevant to voters with disabilities in attendance. MCRO/ED administers the fourth largest county election system in the United States, comprised of more than 2.5 million registered voters, and is responsible for ensuring that its elections are free, fair, and accessible to all voters in Maricopa County.   In preparation for the 2020 General Election, ACDL and MCRO/ED co-hosted a Disability Roundtable on December 12, 2019. MCRO/ED provided the disability community with an overview of Arizona’s new election laws and how the new laws may impact Arizonans with disabilities’ access to the electoral process. ACDL and MRCO/ED co-hosted their first virtual Disability Roundtable on May 28, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Maricopa Recorder Adrian Fontes and other election officials discussed the steps they were implementing to protect voters in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, in preparation for the Arizona’s Primary Election and the General Election on November 3, 2020. Election officials also provided information on voting options for individuals concerned with voting in-person at the polls, including the expansion of voting options through Special Election Boards (bi-partisan teams that bring ballots to voters who are unable to come to a polling location due to illness or disability). Election officials also provided information about the additional steps the County would implement to protect the health and safety of voters, poll workers, and staff during in-person voting during the COVID-19 pandemic.   ACDL also participated in the Arizona Secretary of State’s Office Election Officer Certification Training process in December 2019, and provided a training on ADA requirements for polling places and the election process for local election officers in Arizona. |
| DE | Seventeen (17) individuals with disabilities were provided information and referral services about voting rights. The DLP provided absentee ballots and educational materials.  DLP staff exhibited at NAMI Conference 2019 on October 3, 2019. Staff spoke to attendees about all DLP programs and services including the PAVA program. There were 400 persons in attendance. Staff distributed an assortment of 206 brochures, pamphlets and booklets containing PAIR-related information.  DLP staff gave a presentation at Beebe Hospital to an amputee support group on October 29, 2019. Staff spoke to attendees in depth about “reasonable accommodations” and all DLP programs and services. There were 10 persons in attendance. Staff distributed an assortment of 20 brochures and pamphlets.  DLP staff exhibited at the Community Mental Health Conference, 2019 on November 7, 2019. There were approximately 260 persons in attendance. Staff s spoke to attendees about all DLP programs and services. Staff distributed an assortment of 230 pamphlets, brochures and booklets.   DLP staff gave a presentation at Amerihealth Caritas on November 20, 2019. Staff spoke to attendees about supported decision making. Staff also spoke about all DLP programs and services including the PAVA program. There were 30 persons in attendance. Staff distributed 30 sets of materials.  The DLP served on the design team and exhibited at the LIFE Conference on January 28, 2020. Staff gave an overview of all DLP services including the PAVA program. There were approximately 530 persons in attendance. Staff distributed an assortment of 267 brochures, pamphlets and booklets that included information related the PAVA program.  DLP staff gave a presentation at the Food Bank of Delaware on February 18, 2020. Staff spoke to attendees about all DLP programs and services including the PAVA program. There were 12 persons in attendance. There was an assortment of 27 brochures and pamphlets distributed.  DLP staff gave a presentation to the Brain Injury Committee on February 26, 2020. Staff spoke to attendees about DLP programs and services. There were 15 persons in attendance. Staff distributed 15 sets of materials.  DLP staff exhibited at the 29th Annual Traumatic Brain Injury Conference on March 5, 2020. Staff spoke to attendees about all DLP programs and services. There were approximately 197 persons in attendance and staff distributed 92 brochures, booklets and pamphlets.  DLP staff gave a zoom presentation to the Developmental Disabilities Council on May 8, 2020. Staff spoke to attendees about all DLP programs and services. There were approximately 30 persons in attendance and staff distributed 30 sets of materials    DLP staff participated on a Q & A Panel sponsored by the Developmental Disabilities Council on June 18, 2020. There were approximately 21 persons in attendance. Staff talked about assistive technology as it pertains to education and voting and also about all DLP programs and services. Staff distributed 21 sets of materials with PAVA related information.  DLP staff participated in a zoom orientation for new law students at Widner University on August 12, 2020. Staff spoke to attendees about all DLP programs and services including the PAVA program. There were approximately 180 persons were in attendance. There were no materials distributed.  DLP staff gave a zoom presentation for the Parent Information Center on September 16, 2020. Staff gave an overview of all DLP programs and services including the PAVA program. There were 17 persons in attendance. Staff distributed 17 sets of materials. |
| HI | PAVA conducted 60 visits to distribute "Go Vote" posters and advertise to underserved communities.  PAVA provided 56 trainings to schools, facilities and other community centers to education potential voters.  PAVA distributed 579 voter education materials to the community, HDRC applicants and clients.  PAVA opened 126 individual cases to provide technical assistance and representation to people with disabilities who requested to register to vote.  PAVA embarked on its broadest, most coordinated effort in Fiscal Year 2020. Statewide interest in the 2020 electoral process mirrored nationwide interest in the Presidential election. We also witnessed people with disabilities get swept into the electoral fervor. PAVA’s comprehensive campaign had three major prongs:  1. Voter Registration. Individuals with disabilities were asked if they were able to access the voter registration process. Every applicant for HDRC’s services – even persons who did not qualify for programmatic services -- was approached to register to vote. Every HDRC employee wore a 4” button that said “I Can Help You Vote,” and HDRC’s office also posted several red, white and blue banners that bore the same message. Each PAVA advocate kept a stack of voter registration forms on their person. Despite lockdowns arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, over 120 individuals with disabilities completed and submitted voter registration forms, and many more received registration forms in the mail.  2. Media Campaign. Social media, newspaper and radio advertising, bus placards and televised public service announcements all empowered people with disabilities to have a voice in the electoral process.   Newspaper ads were created and published in each island’s major newspaper. Twenty four radio stations ran a total of 2,661 spots during drive time, aggregating 5,753,100 impressions. Radio advertising also created opportunities for live interview spots on each island and PAVA would accept every opportunity. Bus placards were placed in 50 buses whose routes travel primarily through underserved Filipino and Pacific Islander communities. The PSA videos were run on public television and also posted on HDRC’s website and Facebook page.   3. Monitoring Access. Systems cases were opened to monitor polling place and ballot accessibility. It was a small surprise when Hawaii closed all but a handful of polling places and moved to a mail-in ballot system. Nevertheless, PAVA applied the same standard of accessibility to evaluate the entire mail-in ballot process. The two remaining polling places on Oahu (city hall and a satellite city hall) were monitored and observed for physical and programmatic access.   From PAVA’s individual case files:  H.L. is a 78-year old blind woman who wanted to register to vote. She had misplaced or lost her identification, which we are informed is a common occurrence for people with blindness. H.L. called city hall and a variety of agencies, and was advised that she could not register to vote without presenting valid identification. She finally contacted HDRC for assistance, reaching out to a PAVA advocate who is a board member of a local blind organization. The PAVA advocate researched the issue and learned that all H.L. needed to register to vote was the last four digits of her Social Security number. The PAVA advocate arranged to meet H.L. at the city hall polling place. He ushered her through the registration process where she recited the last four digits of her SSN, and then he escorted her to an accessible electronic voting machine where H.L. cast her primary vote.  While at the polling place, the PAVA advocate noted thick cables run across several pedestrian paths. He identified the trip hazard and asked the precinct official to have the cables moved. The cables were re-routed minutes later. |
| ID | The purpose of this project was to record the work DRI has done in response to the election changes in 2020 and voter access to individuals with disabilities. On April 1, 2020, the Governor of Idaho issued a proclamation regarding the May 2020 primary – changing it to an all absentee-mail ballot process. DRI grew concerned that this process may negatively impact persons with disabilities, esp. those with print disabilities.  DRI staff reached out to the Deputy Sec of State to discuss concerns, esp. around the lack of information being provided/advertised regarding the new election changes. As a result, the Sec of State’s office agreed to issue a press release as well as a Facebook Live presentation/press conference explaining the election changes and communicating a commitment to ensuring that voters with disabilities would have access to vote. DRI staff then researched county websites for accommodations information and found little to none.  DRI staff then communicated with DOJ attorneys in Washington and eventually filed a DOJ Complaint regarding our concerns. The American Council of the Blind (ACB) and the National Federation of the Blind of Idaho (NFB) also filed supplementary complaints, detailing individual experiences in regards to this election change. (NDRN staff connected ACB with DRI). The ACB and DRI released a press release regarding their complaints. ACB and DRI also did a podcast regarding the complaint filing process. DRI staff reached out to various stakeholder agencies in Idaho to see if they had received complaints/concerns about the election process from their constituents. DRI staff also reached out to other P&A staff in states where absentee/mail in voting has been performed on a regular basis, to inquire as to their process, accommodations, etc.  DRI edited the PAVA paragraph in its letters with updated election information re: the May 2020 primary election. This paragraphs goes out to all I&R, IRNE, TA and closing letter sent from DRI. DRI also posted election process updates on the DRI website as well as press releases.  DRI also collaborated with 2 volunteer attorneys in Idaho who were working on an elections accessibility project for a leadership academy – sharing information and suggestions on things to look into and research to help promote voting accessibility, esp. in rural areas. DRI staff were invited to present at the NDRN Virtual Conference in June 2020 in regards to DRI’s experience in filing a DOJ complaint re: voting accessibility concerns.  DRI staff also did a presentation to the local NFB chapter members on the DOJ complaint it had filed re: election accessibility concerns and paired it with a presentation on voting rights for persons with disabilities.  DRI staff also communicated with the Assistant US Attorney for Idaho regarding DRI’s concerns in the elections process and to get updates on DOJ’s movement on the complaint that was filed.  In August of 2020, the Governor convened a special session of the legislature to discuss proposed legislation related to the November election and another COVID-related issue. DRI staff reviewed the legislation, drafted and then submitted written testimony regarding its continued concerns regarding election accessibility. This was then turned into an Op-Ed article that was published in the Idaho Falls Post Register in August of 2020, in collaboration with the NFB of Idaho. |
| MA | DLC, in collaboration with members of the DD Council, continues to support Anne Fracht as the President and member of the Board for Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) and the GoVoter Project.   With it being a Presidential Election, extensive work on the REV UP MA Project was conducted in FY 2020. This work was conducted under the PAVA program and included a large day-long REV UP conference featuring national speakers. This work has been reported to ACL under the PAVA PPR. |
| ME | DRM staff attorney was interviewed by the Portland Press Herald regarding voting access barriers in Maine and the purposes of the HAVA and our PAVA project.  DRM provided guidance to a reported from the Bangor Daily News on voting barriers, assisting voters with disabilities, and HAVA. |
| MI | According to Lisa Schur of Rutgers University, 1/7 of Michigan’s 7.5 million registered voters (over 1.7 million, or about 295 per precinct) have disabilities. DRM engaged in a number of PAVA activities to improve access to the electoral system for voters with disabilities.  DRM voting rights and voter engagement activities took place in the context of one national election and two statewide primaries and featured for the first-time constitutional changes that guaranteed Michigan voters the right to no-reason absentee voting and same-day voter registration. The national election included legal standards and conditions, especially around voting by mail, that changed daily.  DRM Advances Voting Rights in an Election Year  DRM staff participated on two statewide elections commissions on cybersecurity and election modernization. We collaborated on several training pieces for improving access to voting with Michigan State University, the Bureau of Elections, American Civil Liberties Union, and Rooted in Rights. DRM also provided successful Lansing-area clerks’ training in a jurisdiction serving approximately 4,640 adult voters with disabilities (32,481 x .14). (Project #s 98676, 98678)   DRM co-sponsored the collaborative Michigan Election Protection website and hotline, designed to provide nonpartisan, accurate information about voting rights to all voters, including voters with disabilities. DRM, the Brain Injury Association of Michigan (BIAMI), DD Council, Disability Network, Michigan State University’s Usability Access Center, Michigan Disability Rights Coalition and the Bureau of Elections created a voting rights Facebook group and online event running from July through October. The Bureau also began work on a sensitivity training video for election workers to be included in training workshops and made part of the Bureau's online video catalog. DRM was tasked with developing the communications and marketing plan and assisted in reviewing the video scripts. The video was due for completion in October 2020.  DRM Promotes Voter Registration and Conducts Social Media Outreach  DRM continued to leverage its high number of information and referral calls by including in its Client Satisfaction Survey an invitation to request voter registration information. In FY 2020 DRM sent out 46 voter registration packets as requested by eligible callers.  DRM engaged in extensive social media coverage on voting rights and voter engagement, reaching 17,394 people through its nonpartisan informational postings.    DRM Handles Voting Concerns of Individuals  DRM responded to several I&R calls about voting, including: • A caller who wanted to share DRM information with the SABE “GoVote” project; we encouraged her to do so. (SR# 2050250)  • the same caller wanted information and had questions about applying to become a member of Michigan’s state voting redistricting commission. (SR# 2055185) • A caller with questions/concerns regarding accessibility at a Wayne County polling site. The clerk provided assurances that the site would be in an accessible location at the next election. (SR# 2081624) • A call from the resident of a psychiatric hospital who had general questions about voting; that person was referred to the hospital social worker, the Election Protection Hotline, and the recipient rights officer. (SR# 2104282)  • A caller who had a paper allergy and needed information on alternatives to registration and online ballot submission. We provided registration alternatives and advised to contact the local clerk to discuss specific accommodations. (SR# 2112730)  Additionally, DRM was contacted by a person with blindness who had not been able to use the accessible ballot in the May election. She was seeking assistance to ensure that she would be able to cast her vote in the future. DRM staff drafted a reasonable accommodations request letter on her behalf to the Michigan Secretary of State and her election administrator requesting that her ballots be formatted so they could be read by JAWS 2020 for Windows and VoiceOver for the iPhone. We also requested that she be provided with the opportunity to return her ballots electronically. The Michigan Secretary of State’s Office responded to the reasonable accommodations request, explaining that the formats for the accessible voter ballot application and ballot have changed and are now available through the Democracy Live OmniBallot, a platform compatible with the iPhone and other Mac devices. The Secretary of State’s Office also reiterated that Michigan law requires that a ballot be printed, placed in a signed envelope, and returned to the local clerk. DRM researched the issue of private voting and determined the case was not suitable for a lawsuit. Staff communicated with the client an offer of assistance in securing other accommodations. The client related, however, that although she initially had a hard time obtaining the ballot, she had acquired one, voted on her computer, and had a friend assist in printing and dropping off the ballot, so she had been able to vote. (SR# 2090348)   DRM Provides Informed Voter Training and Outreach to Adults with Disabilities  Dr. Schur’s research suggests that lack of information on candidates and issues is one of the primary reasons voters with disabilities turn out less often than the general voting public. Toward that end, DRM engaged in a number of outreach events designed to help voters with disabilities gain access to nonpartisan information. In Michigan, DRM participated in 10 training events reaching 230 people. Many of these events were conducted in conjunction with the Self-Advocates of Michigan and presented jointly with persons with disabilities. DRM also completed a high school curriculum and presented once to 60 students in a special education transition program in Detroit.   DRM, Rooted in Rights, Block by Block Creative, and 14 other P&As financed, finalized and launched the “Vote for Access” Series. DRM invested funds and in-kind time contributions to complete the series. Episode 3 featured a Michigan resident with a case that was successfully resolved and a Michigan clerk providing voting information and unique training to staff. The first video launched on April 29, 2020 and each episode launched each week until the series was complete. The series was viewed over 500,000 times nationwide.   Finally, DRM developed and disseminated candidate questionnaires to all candidates for Federal offices in Michigan (President, U.S. Senate, and 14 U.S. House races). These questionnaires included questions developed by people with disabilities. DRM planned to publish the responses in races where both major candidates responded in October 2020. |
| MN | In FY2020 MDLC completed monitoring visits through virtual means because of the Covid-19 pandemic and state-wide restrictions. MDLC did not limit its monitoring activity in FY 2020 to any one type of facility or service. Instead, the 32 facilities visited covered residential and day programs that varied in size and were located across the state. These facilities included a variety of residential facilities that serve adults and children. No health, safety or rights issues were noted. PADD staff will continue to monitor such facilities in FY 2021and provide both individual and systems advocacy on these issues.   For MDLC’s PAVA polling place monitoring activities in FY 2020, we conducted polling place surveys of 143 separate locations during Minnesota’s August 11, 2020 primary election. These polling place visits resulted in nearly 400 areas of accessibility concern that we, according to our protocol, informed the Secretary of State. We estimate that those areas of concern could negatively impact over 9800 voters with disabilities. We calculated this number by multiplying the number of polling place visits by the average number of eligible voters in the precincts (1500) and then multiplying that number by the estimated percentage of registered voters with disabilities (23%) and finally multiplying that number by 20% to account for those voters with disabilities who are blind, deaf or have physical impairments and therefore who may need assistance need assistance at the polling place. MDLC does not typically do polling surveys on the general election day due to the demands on polling place staff, however, in November 2019, we conducted 20 additional visits on the general election day as there were not many contested or statewide elections. As in the past, DLC trains volunteers to help us to conduct monitoring visits. |
| MN | Overall MDLC conducted outreach events for our PADD, PAAT, PATBI and PAVA work. The far majority of these events were conducted virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We continued to focus on underserved or unserved populations in the determination of the location of these events. For our PADD work, we participated in 18 events that reached an estimated 1100 individuals and their family members. And 3 of those events were targeted at underserved or unserved populations of different racial  groups. During our virtual PADD training and outreach events, we made our materials (brochures, factsheets or other resources) electronically to all participants.   For our PAAT work, we participated in 8 events that reached an estimated 300 individuals and their family members. One event, for staff at community-based non-profit organization, targeted diverse communities. During our PAAT training and outreach events, we made our materials (brochures, factsheets or other resources) electronically to all participants.   For our PATBI work, we participated in 14 events that reached an estimated 2500  individuals and their family members. Two events, one for staff at community-based non-profit organization and another at a local technical/community college, targeted diverse communities. During our PATBI training and outreach events, we made our materials (brochures, factsheets or other resources) electronically to all participants.   Lastly, for our PAVA work, we participated in 16 events that reached an  estimated 250 individuals and their family members Two events, one for staff at community-based non-profit organization and another at a local technical/community college, targeted diverse communities. During our PAVA training and outreach events, we made our materials (brochures, factsheets or other resources) electronically to all participants.   We note that MDLC staff members provided materials and information for multiple areas of our services at the same outreach event so the number of people we reached listed above overlap significantly. For example, during some outreach or exhibitions, MDLC staff provided materials and information about our PAVA work and our PATBI work. The  individuals we reached are included in the summaries for PAVA and PATBI. We  commonly bring information about the broad range of MDLC services to these events.  However, there are times where we do specific events for only one or two grants  (e.g. only PAVA). |
| MN | In FY2020 MDLC completed monitoring visits through virtual means because of the Covid-19 pandemic and state-wide restrictions. MDLC did not limit its monitoring activity in FY 2020 to any one type of facility or service. Instead, the 32 facilities visited covered residential and day programs that varied in size and were located across the state. These facilities included a variety of residential facilities that serve adults and children. No health, safety or rights issues were noted. PADD staff will continue to monitor such facilities in FY 2021and provide both individual and systems advocacy on these issues.     For MDLC’s PAVA polling place monitoring activities in FY 2020, we conducted polling place surveys of 143 separate locations during Minnesota’s August 11, 2020 primary election. These polling place visits resulted in nearly 400 areas of accessibility concern that we, according to our protocol, informed the Secretary of State. We estimate that those areas of concern could negatively impact over 9800 voters with disabilities. We calculated this number by multiplying the number of polling place visits by the average number of eligible voters in the precincts (1500) and then multiplying that number by the estimated percentage of registered voters with disabilities (23%) and finally multiplying that number by 20% to account for those voters with disabilities who are blind, deaf or have physical impairments and therefore who may need assistance need assistance at the polling place. MDLC does not typically do polling surveys on the general election day due to the demands on polling place staff, however, in November 2019, we conducted 20 additional visits on the general election day as there were not many contested or statewide elections. As in the past, DLC trains volunteers to help us to conduct monitoring visits. |
| MO | All individuals served by Mo P&A in the PAVA program qualify as underserved, unserved, or a minority. Specifically, the qualifying acceptance criteria for receiving advocacy or legal services from Mo P&A.   Mo P&A had one (1) advocacy case where probable cause existed to believe that an individual’s disability-related rights was violated and a remedy was available. |
| MS | The COVID-19 pandemic greatly impacted all areas of the agency’s operations in 2020, including that of the PADD, PATBI, PAVA, and PAAT programs. Between the temporary closure of the DRMS office, the transition to teleworking, and restricted access for visitations at facilities, the DRMS team faced unprecedented challenges to their operations. Outreach, visits, and any meetings with officials, legislators, potential clients and other interested parties were unable to occur due to safety concerns. However, the team work diligently to respond to the crisis, quickly adapting to work efficiently in spite of the circumstances and continue to provide needed services as able. While the agency hopes to soon resume more typical operations, including outreach and meetings, DRMS is dedicated to continuing to coordinate and adapt its operations with respect to COVID-19 into FY 2021 and will continue to evolve as needed in order to serve Mississippians with disabilities.   DRMS has restructured as an organization, creating new agency teams and adding new staff members. DRMS is now fully staffed and looks forward to utilizing the team to provide service and innovate in order to best serve people with disabilities who have faced rights violations.   In spite of the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the agency continued to serve clients as well as advocate for the rights of Mississippians with disabilities on the systemic level through litigation and projects.   DRMS is working with Mississippi's Institutes for Higher Learning to conduct site accessibility surveys at major diversity athletic facilities across the state; this project was paused due to COVID-19 but will continue in FY 21. DRMS is also collaborating with the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission to conduct site accessibility surveys for courthouses across the state to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to our justice system. Additionally, DRMS is conducting a sidewalk accessibility survey of sidewalks in the major metropolitan areas across the state; again, this project was delayed during FY20 due to COVID, but will resume and be completed in FY 21.   Through PADD, DRMS has pursued litigation against Barnyard Kids Child Care Center for negligence and abuse; the litigation is in its final stages. The agency is awaiting a hearing on a Motion for Summary of Judgement, but no matter the outcome of that hearing, we will still have pending issues that will either go to trial or settle.   As a result of resolved litigation against JATRAN, DRMS will continue to partner with the Department of Justice to oversee the consent degree requirements placed on the City of Jackson public transit system.   Although delayed due to COVID safety restrictions, DRMS continues to conduct its prison monitoring, including visits with expert consultants to help identify issues of accessibility, conditions, medical care, and mental health care. Investigations are ongoing. |
| MT | Client requested voter registration information. Advocate sent client our PAVA voter packet which includes: A Montana Voter Registration Card, documents required to register, List of County Elections Administrators, Voter accessibilities, COVID 19 and Absentee Voting. Client was grateful for the assistance. |
| MT | October 16-18, 2019 - Montana State Conference on Mental Illness in Butte, MT - Tabled and handed out materials regarding civil rights, voting/PAVA, discrimination, mental health, social security benefits, Vocational Rehabilitation/Client Assistance Program, ADA, disability awareness, and DRM-related materials. 125 participants at the conference. PATBI, PAVA  October 25, 2019 - Disability Awareness Training hosted by A+ Healthcare in Butte, MT. Presentation on DRM, civil rights, voting/PAVA, discrimination, ADA, and accessibility. 16 participants - PADD, PAAT, PATBI, PAVA  November 4, 2019 - Gave presentation to the Highlands College HR Class in Butte, MT. Topics included DRM, civil rights, voting/PAVA, disability awareness, employment, discrimination, mental health, and the ADA. 11 participants - PADD, PAAT, PATBI, PAVA  February 10, 2020 - Clerk/election administrator training for the Montana state Secretary of State's office in Great Falls, MT. Provided accessibility training for the upcoming election. 120 participants - PADD, PAAT, PAVA  February 14, 2020 - Outreach to Mental Health Nursing Care Center in Lewistown, MT. Presented information on DRM, voting rights w/ guardians, and rights of Montanans with mental illness. 40 participants - PAVA  February 18, 2020 - AWARE Awareness - Provided DRM resources regarding Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education (AWARE). Resources covered DRM, civil rights, voting/PAVA, disability awareness, employment, ADA, discrimination, mental health, social security benefits, and VR/CAP. 30+ participants - PADD, PAVA  August 20, 2020 - Long-term Care Ombudsmen Training via Zoom. Topics included DRM, voting/PAVA, and disability awareness. 25 participants - PADD, PAAT, PAVA  September 14-18, 2020 - DRM hosted a virtual conference called Shifting the Narrative: An Intersectional Approach to Mental Health. DRM hosted 12 different dynamic speakers who lead insightful conversations that will have an influence on the future of how Montanans receive better, more equitable and culturally competent access to mental health services in the future. Topics included current state legislative bills that affect Montanans with disabilities, key state and federal policy issues facing Montanans with disabilities, different methods to engage in the political process, and tools to become better self-advocates or advocates for individuals with disabilities. 143 participants - PADD, PAAT, PAVA |
| MT | CORE advocate participated in the PAVA Outreach group. The PAVA group reached out by either email or phone to 104 entities, conducted educational voting webinars, shared social media content regarding voting rights and information, and hosted a virtual conference that included discussions on voting and engaging in the political process.   Individuals with disabilities who are more informed of their voting rights, more likely to register to vote and vote, more informed of different accessible ways to vote, and more likely to actively engage in the political process due to the outreach efforts of Disability Rights Montana. |
| MT | Client contacted our office for information about registering to vote. Advocate mailed our PAVA Voting packet to client which included: Voter registration application and requirements, absentee ballot, voters with disabilities and where to go to register to vote. |
| NH | DRC-NH provided testimony to NH Legislature about ADA Title II requirements to implement accessible ballot marking devices and technology for all state, local and municipal elections in NH. The committee recommended that all NH municipalities should take steps to implement accessible ballot marking technology and develop methods to publicize and encourage the use of these ballot marking devices.   DRC-NH drafted a letter the to NH Municipal Association(NHMA) about the recommendations made by Legislative Subcommittee to provide accessible ballot marking devices for all elections. NHMA shared the letter and the subcommittee’s report and recommendations statewide with its members statewide.  The “Disability Unscripted” project began in early 2019 but culminated prior to the NH primary, and continued to garner attention long into 2020. The project involved interviewing every major presidential candidate about their views on accessibility, employment for persons with disabilities and including persons with disabilities on staff, should they be elected. This project garnered national attention and resulted in DRC-NH winning the NDRN Advocacy Award.   DRC-NH collected and published series of survey questions from all major presidential candidates. Questions touched on 5 different topics related to disability: employment; assistive technology; special education; mental health and he shortage of direct support workers. DRC-NH received national media attention for this as well.  DRC-NH staff arranged for a voter in Hart’s Location, NH and a voter in Dixville Notch, NH to use the one4all accessible ballot marking device during the First in the Nation midnight presidential primary vote to highlight the value of an accessible voting system for people with disabilities. These events were covered by worldwide press.  DRC-NH worked with Future In Sight, an advocacy organization for people who are blind, on voting barriers for the blind community. DRC-NH also let them borrow our one4all Ballot Marking Device (BMD) for use in their trainings throughout NH.   DRC-NH staff participated in Poll Monitoring throughout NH for the presidential primary. Staff traveled to 40 polling locations in New Hampshire to perform physical accessibility survey and interviewed local election officials about the use of the one4all ballot marking device.  DRC-NH met with the Secretary of State’s office to discuss concerns that DRC-NH had regarding COVID-19 and voters with disabilities. Issues included accessibility for voters with mobility impairments, sufficient person protective equipment for voters as well as people assisting voters, education of poll workers about reasonable accommodation and accessibility of the absentee voting process.  DRC-NH staff testified before the NH Secretary of State Select Committee on Voter Security. Testimony outlined the need for ADA accommodations to remain in place despite the pandemic, the potential for accessible absentee balloting, and ensuring continued access for voters who chose to cast their ballots in person.   DRC-NH co-hosted gubernatorial candidate forum on disability issues during the primary election and began planning for a follow up forum before the general election.  DRC-NH coordinated and supported voting advocacy efforts by the NH Coalition of Blind Voters including assisting members to develop a website and advocacy goals.  DRC-NH redesigned, simplified and distributed the “Tips for Creating an Accessible Campaign” brochure to candidates and advocates across the state.  DRC-NH distributed election information in several issues of its e-newsletter. Subscribers increased from 982 to 1,110 (128 new) with an average open rate of 22.8%.  In addition to the media coverage for projects mentioned above, DRC-NH discussed voting issues for people with disabilities in the media as specified below: • October 15, 2019, Concord Monitor, https://www.concordmonitor.com/Concord-settlement-could-nudge-other-cities-towns-to-purchase-accessible-voting-machines-29387638 • February 9, 2020, NHPR, https://www.nhpr.org/post/2020-nh-primary-voters-guide-what-you-need-know-casting-your-ballot#stream/0 • July 15, 2020, NH Bar News, https://www.nhbar.org/publications  • August 21, 2020, NHPR, https://www.nhpr.org/post/covid-19-voting-guide-how-vote-new-hampshires-elections-during-pandemic#stream/0   DRC-NH wrote a blog post for ANCOR (American Network of Community Options and Resources) on how providers can support the voting rights of people with disabilities.  DRC-NH regularly shared voting information on social media. Total Twitter Followers: 1342 (17.5% increase) New Followers: 176 (68% increase) Total # of Tweets: 337 (84% increase) Total # of Impressions: 313,482 (338% increase) Mentions: 779 (147% increase) Profile Visits: 4,546 (121% increase) Total Facebook Followers: 1,911 (16.4% increase) Total Posts: 297 (50.8% increase) Total Lifetime Page Likes: 1,903 (14.4% increase).  DRC-NH provided training on voting rights to 229 people with disabilities, family members, professionals and advocates across the state including peer support members, public defenders, and self advocates.  DRC-NH conducted outreach to 497 people about the PAVA program and voting issues for people with disabilities.  Collaborated with racial justice and equity organizations on voting rights issues impacting people with disabilities.  Supported the development of a mental health town hall for presidential candidates which was held in Manchester NH and broadcast across the country on Facebook Live and Youtube. |
| NM | The majority of DRNM's systemic work on AT in FY2020 revolved around the election process and ensuring access for people with disabilities to related information and and the voting process itself. This work is reported in the included PAVA portion of the FY 2020 OnePPR.   A client with cancer, paralysis, and chronic pain required a fully electronic hospital bed in order to safely transfer. DRNM advocated with the client's Managed Care Organization and then with her Medicare provider, United. United finally provided the hospital bed as prescribed by the client's doctor, and the vendor waived the $25 per month service fee. Although we prepared for Fair Hearing, this result was negotiated without having to take that step.  Client uses a wheelchair and modified vehicle. She contacted DRNM because after 8 months and paying for repairs, United Access, the only modified vehicle repair shop in NM, still had not fixed her vehicle. DRNM advocated with United Access to determine what the delay was. The process of ordering replacement parts in order to effectuate repairs and shipping the damaged parts to the manufacturer is unnecessarily convoluted. According to United Access, these types of delays are 50% attributed to the manufacturer's fault. DRNM is currently investigating why repairs take so long, especially after clients have already paid for repairs. This will involve outreach to other P&As for data on United Access offices in other states. |
| NY | We hosted community roundtable events to discuss voter's concerns about voting during the pandemic. Through these roundtable events, our advocates received reports from over 55 voters with print disabilities across NYS expressing concerns that NYS's Absentee Ballot Program is inaccessible to them because it was not offered in a format other than paper. Voters expressed concerns that they could not vote with any privacy or independence using the absentee ballot, and would risk contracting COVID-19 to vote. With these reports, we wrote a letter to the NYS Board of Elections Office (NYS BOE) demanding implementation of an accessible Absentee Ballot Program. The NYS BOE ignored our letter. Through the PAAT and PATBI programs, we used the information gathered from voters through the PAVA program's roundtable efforts to file a lawsuit against the NYS BOE. |
| NY | We hosted a Voter Hotline staffed with PAVA advocates to field questions in real time from voters across NYS. We directly assisted six voters during the 2020 elections. For example, we assisted voters in the following ways: checking the status of voter registration; contacting County Board of Elections office to resolve issues voters faced at the polls; and assisting voters in requesting accessible absentee ballots. |
| OK | ODLC’s 2020 PAVA work included efforts to make our election process safe and accessible during the COVID-19 Pandemic. ODLC worked with the State Legislators as well as the State Election Board to ensure voters with disabilities had options for absentee voting that would allow them to minimize their risk of possible exposure to COVID-19. In anticipation of an increase in the use of Absentee Ballots, ODLC more than doubled the number of staff in both offices who are Notary Publics and widely publicized the ability of our staff to notarize ballots. ODLC also worked with the State Election Board and Legislators to successfully establish an alternative to ballot notarization, giving voters the option to submit a copy of their photo ID with their ballot in lieu of notarization, thus reducing another potential point of COVID exposure. We continued to publicize our Voter Hotline and ran PSA announcements on local radio stations alerting the public to their voting rights and the availability of ODLC staff to answer questions, provide training and advocacy in the area of voter rights. |
| PR | The Permanent Inscriptions Boards (PIB’s) are the place where the voters go to make all the registration process. This is the place where persons with disabilities come to request accessible voting, in the Accessible Voting College (AVC). For this reason, it should be accessible of any physical barrier.  After the economic crisis in PR, to reduce budget expenses, SEC established a plan to reduce the number of PIB’s. Some of the PIB’s were consolidated, others are moving to state facilities. This year PAVA Advocates inspected 33 Permanent Inscriptions Boards (PIB’s) in order to eliminate the any physical barrier. PIB´s are the physical locations to register to vote. In each Permanent Inscription Board visited, we orientated inscription officials about accessibility and equal treatment of persons with disabilities in the electoral environment.  Of the 33 monitories, 17 of them were follow up from last fiscal year. The PIB’s inspected this fiscal year were the following:  1. PIB San Juan Central Office SEC 2. PIB Rio Grande (Follow-up) 3. PIB San Juan 3 4. PIB Carolina 5. PIB Catano 6. PIB Guaynabo 7. PIB Caguas 8. PIB Caguas (Follow-up) 9. PIB Guaynabo (Follow-up) 10. PIB Cayey 11. PIB Aguas Buenas 12. PIB Cidra 13. PIB San Juan 5 14. PIB Loiza 15. PIB Canóvanas 16. PIB Las Marias 17. PIB Juncos 18. PIB Quebradillas 19. PIB Morovis 20. PIB San Lorenzo 21. PIB Ceiba 22. PIB Fajardo 23. PIB Patillas 24. PIB Ponce 25. PIB Salinas 26. PIB Jayuya 27. PIB Guayanilla 28. PIB Guánica 29. PIB Yauco 30. PIB Rincon 31. PIB Sabana Grande 32. PIB Maricao 33. PIB Lajas  Summary of important events:  On June 26, 2020, days before closing the Registration Process for the Democratic Party Presidential Primaries; PAVA advocates monitories three PIB’s (SEC Central Office, San Juan 3, and Carolina) to verify accessibility and the availability of the preference line or express line (to comply with Act 297 of 2018 that request the development of a preference turns or express line for people with disabilities). After we discusses with President Davila our findings that includes the lack of complying with Act 297 of 2018, on June 29, 2020, SEC President establishes a procedure for priority turns in PIB’s: persons with disabilities, with more than 60 year, and women pregnant will have priority in the lines of PIB.  On July 15, 2020, days before closing the Registration Process for the local Parties Primaries; PAVA advocates monitories two PIB’s (PIB Cataño and PIB Guaynabo) to verify accessibility and the availability of the preference line or express line (to comply with Act 297 of 2018 that request the development of a preference turns or express line for people with disabilities).  On August 16, 2020, at the second part of the Parties Primaries, PAVA advocates monitories two PIB (Loiza and Canóvanas), looking for the Vote by Phone option. In the polling places of Canóvanas and Loiza, poll workers told us, that the Vote by Phone was in PIB. Regrettably, Vote by Phone briefcase were in PIB, when it should be available in the polling places. Both Loiza and Canóvanas PIB don’t have any accessibility issues.  On September 9, 2020, PAVA advocates receive notification from SEC officials of a new facility, PIB in the Precinct 5 that include electors of San Juan, Guaynabo and Aguas Buenas Counties. PAVA Director made an ocular inspection to the new facility an old school, already close, located in Caimito, San Juan. Fortunately, the facility complies with ADA and HAVA regulations. In the monitory we share information about PAVA, and the importance of an accessible electoral process with one of the Governor Candidates, Alexandra Lugaro, Esq. representing the Movement of Citizen Victory.  On September 14, 2020, the last day before the Registration Process for the local Parties Primaries, that includes the request of Absentee and Advance Vote, PAVA advocates monitories five PIB’s (PIB Guaynabo, PIB Caguas, PIB Cayey, PIB Cidra, PIB Aguas Buenas) to verify accessibility and the availability of the preference line or express line (to comply with Act 297 of 201 that request the development of a preference turns or express line for people with disabilities). In these monitories we investigated and verify the complying of the SEC President memo, that create the procedure of priority turns for electors with disabilities among others.  The performance measure of this objective: Registering people with disabilities to vote, Public and private places/services made more accessible and People with disabilities are better able to participate fully in the electoral process. If each PIB´s is accessible, persons with disabilities will have the opportunity to register in the election and further participates in the electoral process. With these Projects People with disabilities are better able to participate fully in the electoral process. |
| PR | Of the 33 Permanent Inscription Board inspected, 14 had accessibility problems, Rio Grande, Morovis, Caguas, Juncos, Ceiba, San Lorenzo, Fajardo, Patillas, Rincon, Lajas, Ponce, Salinas, Guayanilla and Toa Baja Counties. In the case of Rio Grande and Caguas, both remains opened despite the barriers were addressed in October 2020, so it will be report in next fiscal year. Unfortunately, the other 12 remain inaccessible after September 30, 2020. The main findings were:  1. San Lorenzo - Lack of Accessible Parking, Door Entrance of only 30 inches 2. Ceiba – Completely Inaccessible 3. Fajardo - Irregularities in the accessible route and lack of handrails 4. Patillas - Inaccessible Ramp 5. Caguas - Lack of Accessible Parking 6. Toa Baja - Lack of Accessible Parking  7. Morovis - Step in the entrance 8. Rincón - Lack of Accessible Parking 9. Lajas - Completely Inaccessible 10. Ponce - In a second floor, elevator had problems 11. Salinas - Lack of Accessible Parking 12. Guayanilla - Lack of Accessible Parking and step in the entrance. 13. Juncos - Step in the entrance 14. Rio Grande - Step in the entrance  With an open complaint, PAVA advocates present the situation to the President or the designated person, who will look for either alternative, remove the physical barriers or relocate the PIB to an accessible facility. The PIB’s must be finally accessible for November 2020, General Elections.  The performance measure of this objective: Registering people with disabilities to vote, Public and private places/services made more accessible and People with disabilities are better able to participate fully in the electoral process. If each PIB´s is accessible, persons with disabilities will have the opportunity to register in the election and further participates in the electoral process. With these Projects People with disabilities are better able to participate fully in the electoral process. |
| PR | Before Pandemic PAVA advocates performed two trainings: 1. October 19, 2020 on “Centro Esperanza para la Vejez” in Ponce county, where PAVA Advocates impacted 19 persons, 17 of them, identifies themselves as persons with disabilities. 2. January 27, 2020 on MMM Members Club in Hatillo County, PAVA Advocates impacted 28 persons, 22 of them, identifies themselves as persons with disabilities. Due the COVID 19 Pandemic, PAVA had to innovate to educate our main target, electors with disabilities, and polling workers. In August 19, 2020, PAVA began a radio program named Accessible Vote 2020 that was aired in WIPR 940AM Wednesday at 2pm thru 3pm until General Elections. In terms of this report we will inform the Radio Programs aired until September 30, 2020. The Program was held on August 19, 26, September 2, 9,16,23, and 30, 2020. We understand that this 7 Radio Programs can impact an estimate of 25,000 persons each Program. For a total of 175,000 individuals including persons with disabilities, and another general public. Using the estimate of 21.6%, the impact can be almost 37,800 electors with disabilities. We participate in another 21 radio interviews in different radio stations, including: 1. Five (5) in Radio WISA 1390 AM, Isabela, we an estimate audience of 10,000 in the west area (July 9, 17, 31 August 7, 2020 and September 4, 2020).  2. Three (3) in WAPA Radio 680AM, we an estimate audience of 25,000 island wide (July 17, August 7, September 14, 2020) 3. Six (6) in Radio Victoria 840AM, we an estimate audience of 10,000 in the east area (March 13, 2020, July 7, 2020, August 4, 2020, August 26,2020, September 1, 2020 and September 7, 2020) 4. Two (2) in Radio Oro 92.5FM, we an estimate audience of 50,000 island wide (July 5 and 11, 2020)  5. One (1) in Krystal Radio Virtual FM, we an estimate audience of 5,000 island wide (July 13, 2020) 6. One (1) in Radio WASA 850AM, Aguadilla, we an estimate audience of 10,000 in the west area (August 7, 2020) 7. One (1) in Radio WPAB 550AM, Ponce, we an estimate audience of 10,000 in the south area (August 7, 2020) 8. One (1) in Radio 810AM, the number 1 Program in prime time 6pm Fuego Cruzado we an estimate audience of 25,000 island wide (August 9, 2020) 9. One (1) in Radio Isla 1320, we an estimate audience of 25,000 island wide (August 9, 2020) In each interview performed, PAVA Director covered the following: 1. HAVA Act and the importance of accessibility for electors with disabilities. 2. PAVA Program achievements 3. Accessibility options and alternatives for electors with disabilities, who want to participate in the voting process. 4. Special Accommodations in the Accessible Voting Center (AVC). 5. Sensitivity towards persons with disabilities in an electoral environment. 6. Information about the registration process. 7. Requirement of Vote by Phone to comply with HAVA section 301 (3b)   An estimate of 560,000 audience was reach for all the radio Programs. If we multiple this by 21.6%, the estimate of impacted electors with disabilities should be 120,090.  The performance measure of this objective: People with disabilities trained to become active participants in making decisions that affect their lives, Education and training of people with disabilities on their voting rights. Despite the purposes of this priority is to educate persons with disabilities, we include general public, who´s can spread the information among family or relatives with disabilities. In each radio interview, PAVA advocates promotes the existing accessibility tools available in the electoral process. |
| PR | With outreach activities, PAVA advocates spread the message of the Program, the importance of having an accessible electoral process, where electors with disabilities can cast their vote secretly and with independence.  One example before Pandemic Crisis; on November 20, 2020, PAVA advocates, participates in a Fair at the “Universidad Adventista de las Antillas” on Mayaguez”. In this Fair PAVA Advocates, oriented 17 participants, three of them, identifies themselves as persons with disabilities. PAVA impacted students and professors educating them about PAVA and HAVA provisions. In this fiscal year PAVA distributed 719 flyers with PAVA information.  This year in Puerto Rico due COVID 19 Pandemic we didn’t have other alternative than the use media to disseminate PAVA provisions. We participated in 21 radio programs, described in previous objective. As we established above, we produce our own Radio Program called Accessible Vote 2020, in this fiscal we presented 7 shows, each one aired every Wednesday at 2pm thru 3pm in WIPR 940am. Each Program had different sections: 1. Rights for disabled electors – where we described and explained importance laws regarding the rights of electors with disabilities, including HAVA Act and ADA, among others. 2. Accessible Vote 2020 Answers your question – where we answer questions and doubts that we receive in the week. This was a direct advocacy, for individuals who requested it. 3. History of Electoral Accessibility in Puerto Rico – where a blind advocate of our agency explained his experience and the advances of accessibility in the electoral process in Puerto Rico, since the beginning where blind and disabled couldn’t vote independently until HAVA and Vote by Phone. 4. Electoral School – where we explain the audience how to cast their vote and the electoral provisions provides by HAVA.  We had been covered on written press including TV, Radio and Internet, 62 of them are reported with Internet links, the majority in Spanish, a few in English.  1) On June 30, 2020. Closing date of the Electoral Registration Process. In order to monitory accessibility in PIB and to verify the availability of the preference line or express line (to comply with Act 297 of 2018 that request the development of a preference turns or express line for people with disabilities), PAVA Director sent press release and the result was the following news in internet, tv and radio: a. https://www.univision.com/local/puerto-rico-wlii/elecciones-estados-unidos-2020/defensoria-de-personas-con-impedimentos-pide-facilitar-tramites-electorales-a-votantes-con-capacidades-reducidas b. https://www.primerahora.com/noticias/gobierno-politica/notas/cee-encara-querellas-de-personas-con-impedimentos/ c. https://www.metro.pr/pr/noticias/2020/06/30/abogan-por-personas-con-impedimentos-y-su-derecho-al-acceso-a-sistemas-de-votacion.html d. https://www.tunoticiapr.com/noticias-locales/1347453761--Defensoria-de-las-Personas-con-Impedimentos-aboga-ante-la-CEE-para-mejorar-el-acceso-a-los-votantes-con-impedimentos.- e. http://periodicovision.com/abogan-ante-la-cee-por-personas-con-impedimentos-y-su-acceso-al-sistema-de-votacion/ f. https://www.facebook.com/DPIPRinfo/  2) On July 12, 2020. Democratic Presidential Primaries. In order to monitory accessibility in polling places, PAVA Director sent press release and the result was the following news in internet, tv and radio:  a. https://www.noticel.com/gobierno/ahora/20200713/denuncian-escollos-en-los-procesos-electorales-para-personas-con-impedimentos/ b. https://www.foronoticioso.com/fn/aseguran-que-primaria-democrata-de-ayer-evidencio-cee-debe-mejorar-el-acceso-a-las-personas-con-impedimentos/ c. https://www.metro.pr/pr/noticias/2020/07/13/defensoria-de-personas-con-impedimentos-alerta-de-incumplimiento-de-la-cee-en-primarias-democratas.html d. https://www.sanjuandailystar.com/post/covid-19-fears-likely-cause-of-low-voter-turnout-for-democratic-primaries e. https://www.primerahora.com/noticias/gobierno-politica/notas/detectan-fallas-en-colegios-electorales-para-el-voto-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos/  3) On August 7, 2020. Press reports Vote by Phone Availability in Primaries August 2020. In order to assure the availability of Vote by Phone in the polling places in the Parties Primaries, PAVA Director sent press release and the result was the following news in internet, tv and radio: a. https://www.primerahora.com/noticias/puerto-rico/notas/personas-con-diversidad-funcional-podran-utilizar-el-voto-por-telefono-en-las-primarias/ b. https://puertoricoposts.com/2020/08/07/orientan-a-votantes-con-impedimentos-sobre-sus-derechos-durante-las-primarias/ c. https://www.puertoricoheadlinenews.com/require-the-eec-ppd-and-pnp-to-ensure-the-telephone-vote-of-people-with-functional-diversity/ d. https://www.noticel.com/vida/20200807/orientan-a-votantes-con-impedimentos-sobre-sus-derechos-durante-las-primarias/ e. https://puertoricoposts.com/2020/08/07/orientan-a-votantes-con-impedimentos-sobre-sus-derechos-durante-las-primarias f. https://radioisla.tv/anuncian-sistema-de-voto-por-telefono-para-electores-con-impedimentos/   4) On August 9, 2020. Press reports of the Parties Primaries held on August 9, 2020. In order to verify the availability of Vote by Phone in the polling places in the Parties Primaries, PAVA advocates performs monitories, where unfortunately we don’t find the Vote by Phone option available for disabled electors. PAVA Director advocate sent press release to denounce the disaster of this Parties Primaries for electors with disabilities and the result was the following news in internet, tv and radio: a. https://www.elnuevodia.com/noticias/politica/notas/denuncian-que-no-estaba-disponible-el-voto-por-telefono-para-electores-con-impedimentos/ b. https://www.metro.pr/pr/noticias/2020/08/09/denuncian-proceso-atropellado-los-colegios-electorales-personas-diversidad-funcional.html c. https://radioisla.tv/denuncian-proceso-atropellado-en-proceso-electoral-para-personas-con-diversidad-funcional/ d. https://puertoricoposts.com/2020/08/09/las-primarias-tambien-han-sido-un-desastre-para-las-personas-con-impedimentos/ e. https://www.primerahora.com/noticias/gobierno-politica/notas/denuncian-atropellado-proceso-para-electores-con-impedimentos/ f. https://noticiasprtv.com/las-primarias-tambien-han-sido-un-desastre-para-las-personas-con-impedimentos-denuncia-la-defensoria-que-vela-por-los-derechos-de-dicha-poblacion/   5) On August 14, 2020, PAVA Director, invited all the media to a Press Conference to denounce the lack of Vote by Phone option, violating HAVA and Section 301 (3b). As a strategy, PAVA Director invite media to SEC Operations Center, (where the briefcase with the electoral material including the briefcase with the Vote by Phone option, were packaging and delivering thru security trucks to the Permanent Inscription Board). PAVA Director was interviewed by all the TV, radio and written media of Puerto Rico. The Conference was aired live in the main 7 TV stations of Puerto Rico: WAPA TV, Telemundo, Univision, Canal 13 TeleOro, Notiseis, ABC Puerto Rico, Mega TV and in the top 3 radio stations in Puerto Rico Radio WAPA Radio 680AM, Radio Isla 1320AM, WKAQ 580 AM among others. a. https://www.foronoticioso.com/fn/defensoria-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos-reclama-a-la-cee-y-a-partidos-atencion-al-proceso-de-voto-telefonico-para-la-poblacion-a-la-que-le-sirve/ b. https://laislaoeste.com/dpi-piden-atencion-al-proceso-de-voto-telefonico-para-la-poblacion-con-impedimentos/ c. https://www.metro.pr/pr/noticias/2020/08/13/reclaman-cee-partidos-atencion-al-voto-telefonico-poblacion-diversidad-funcional.html d. https://periodicoelsolpr.com/2020/08/13/dpi-reclama-atencion-al-proceso-de-voto-telefonico/ e. https://www.wapa.tv/noticias/locales/supervisan-labores-en-cee-para-que-se-otorguen-servicios-a-personas-con-impedimentos\_20131122484326.html f. https://www.metro.pr/pr/noticias/2020/08/14/defensoria-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos-reclama-atencion-al-proceso-de-voto-telefonico.html g. https://www.primerahora.com/noticias/puerto-rico/notas/exigen-a-la-cee-ppd-y-pnp-a-velar-por-voto-telefonico-de-personas-con-diversidad-funcional/ h. https://www.elnuevodia.com/noticias/politica/notas/vigilan-el-derecho-al-voto-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos/ i. https://lavozdigitalpr.com/2020/08/15/defensoria-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos-reclama-atencion-al-proceso-de-voto-telefonico/ j. https://puertorico.yocahu.net/08/10/las-primarias-tambien-han-sido-un-desastre-para-las-personas-con-impedimentos-denuncia-la-defensoria-que-vela-por-los-derechos-de-dicha-poblacion/   6) On September 9, 2020. Press reports warning the new President the lack of accessibility in previous electoral events. On September 4, 2020 former President Judge Davila resigns after a disaster historical Parties Primaries, where electors with disabilities did not accessible options like Braille templates and Vote by Phone to comply with Section 301 (3b) of HAVA. On September 9, the Electoral Commissioners of the five Parties select President Judge Rosado as the new SEC President and named an Alternate President Judge Padilla in accordance with new Electoral Code. PAVA Director warns the new Presidents, of HAVA Act and provisions sending a press release, the result was the following news in internet, tv and radio: a. https://radioacromatica.com/index.php/2020/09/09/hacen-llamado-urgente-al-nuevo-presidente-de-la-cee-a-favor-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos/ b. https://www.metro.pr/pr/noticias/2020/09/09/hacen-llamado-urgente-al-nuevo-presidente-de-la-cee-a-favor-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos.html c. https://www.metro.pr/pr/noticias/2020/09/09/hacen-llamado-urgente-al-nuevo-presidente-de-la-cee-a-favor-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos.html d. https://laislaoeste.com/urgen-a-la-cee-facilitar-voto-por-telefono-para-personas-con-impedimentos/ e. https://puertoricoposts.com/2020/09/10/hacen-llamado-urgente-al-nuevo-presidente-de-la-cee-a-favor-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos/ f. https://www.notiuno.com/noticias/gobierno-y-politica/buscan-mejorar-acceso-al-voto-a-personas-con-impedimentos/article\_683b9ba0-f35e-11ea-a4c0-77fa8d644628.html g. https://www.victoria840.com/hacen-llamado-urgente-al-nuevo-presidente-de-la-cee-a-favor-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos/ h. https://esnoticiapr.com/exigen-a-cee-facilitar-el-voto-a-las-personas-con-impedimentos/ i. https://diariodepuertorico.com/2020/09/10/hacen-llamado-urgente-al-nuevo-presidente-de-la-cee-a-favor-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos/ j. https://lavozdigitalpr.com/2020/09/10/hacen-llamado-urgente-al-nuevo-presidente-de-la-cee-a-favor-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos/ k. https://periodicoellaurelpr.com/le-hacen-un-llamado-urgente-al-presidente-de-la-cee-a-favor-de-las-personas-p1752-118.htm l. https://hi-in.facebook.com/NoticiasdePonceOficial/posts/3898047723542709/ m. https://newstral.com/es/article/es/1159901574/hacen-llamado-urgente-al-nuevo-presidente-de-la-cee-a-favor-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos 10sept2020 n. https://www.periodicolaperla.com/hacen-llamado-urgente-al-nuevo-presidente-de-la-cee-a-favor-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos/ o. https://www.tunoticiapr.com/noticias-locales/2115264747--Hacen-llamado-urgente-al-nuevo-presidente-de-la-CEE-a-favor-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos p. https://newstral.com/es/article/es/1159901574/hacen-llamado-urgente-al-nuevo-presidente-de-la-cee-a-favor-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos q. https://www.sanjuandailystar.com/post/ombudsman-calls-on-sec-to-protect-vote-of-those-with-disabilities r. https://issuu.com/thesanjuandailystar/docs/sep-11-20 s. https://periodicoelsolpr.com/2020/09/11/hacen-llamado-urgente-al-nuevo-presidente-de-la-cee-a-favor-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos/   7) On September 14, 2020. Closing date of the Electoral Registration Process, and the last date to request Advance and Absentee Vote for November General Elections. In order to monitory accessibility in PIB and to verify the availability of the preference line or express line (to comply with Act 297 of 2018 that request the development of a preference turns or express line for people with disabilities), PAVA Director sent press release and the result was the following news in internet, tv and radio: a. https://puertoricoposts.com/2020/09/14/defensoria-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos-esta-vigilante-para-que-las-jips-cumplan-con-las-filas-especiales-para-dicha-poblacion/ b. https://laislaoeste.com/defensoria-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos-atenta-a-filas-especiales-en-la-jip/ c. https://puertoricoposts.com/2020/09/14/defensoria-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos-esta-vigilante-para-que-las-jips-cumplan-con-las-filas-especiales-para-dicha-poblacion/ d. https://radioacromatica.com/index.php/2020/09/14/defensoria-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos-esta-vigilante-para-que-las-jips-cumplan-con-las-filas-especiales-para-dicha-poblacion/ e. https://www.tunoticiapr.com/noticias-locales/2007288165--Defensor%C3%ADa-de-las-Personas-con-Impedimentos-est%C3%A1-vigilante-para-que-las-JIP%E2%80%99s-cumplan-con-las-filas-especiales-para-dicha-poblaci%C3%B3n- f. https://www.foronoticioso.com/fn/defensoria-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos-esta-vigilante-para-que-las-jips-cumplan-con-las-filas-especiales-para-dicha-poblacion/ g. https://www.victoria840.com/defensoria-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos-esta-vigilante-para-que-las-jips-cumplan-con-las-filas-especiales-para-dicha-poblacion/ h. https://www.elforodepuertorico.com/vigilantes-para-que-las-jip-cumplan-con-las-filas-especiales-para-impedidos/ i. https://www.periodicolaperla.com/defensoria-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos-esta-vigilante-para-que-las-jips-cumplan-con-filas-especiales-para-dicha-poblacion/ j. http://puertoricotequiero.com/personas-con-impedimentos-hacen-llamado-al-presidente-de-la-cee/   Internet Media covering PAVA stories 1. www.foronoticioso.com 2. www.metro.pr 3. www.univision.com 4. www.periodicovision.com 5. www.tunoticiapr.com 6. www.primerahora.com 7. www.noticel.com 8. www.puertoricoheadlinenews.com 9. www.puertoricoposts.com 10. www.radioisla.tv 11. www.elnuevodia.com 12. www.noticiasprtv.com 13. www.laislaoeste.com 14. www.periodicoelsolpr.com 15. www.wapa.tv 16. www.lavozdigitalpr.com 17. www.puertorico.yocahu.net 18. www.radioacromatica.com 19. www.notiuno.com 20. www.victoria840.com 21. www.esnoticiapr.com 22. www.diariodepuertorico.com 23. www.periodicoellaurelpr.com 24. www.NoticiasdePonceOficial 25. www.puertoricotequiero.com 26. www.newstral.com 27. www.periodicolaperla.com 28. www.sanjuandailystar.com 29. www.issuu.com 30. www.elforodepuertorico.com 31. www.telemundopr.com 32. www.facebook.com/DPI In social media like Facebook, all TV, radio and written press reports were copied to add outreach of PAVA efforts. We also have a web page www.dpi.pr.gov where we have information about PAVA and had 15,828 hits this fiscal year. As we established above due COVID 19, PAVA advocates, used media instead of services fairs and paper brochures used in previous years, to disseminate the information. In each outreach efforts, PAVA advocates explained the importance of giving the specials accommodations to persons with intellectual developmental disabilities and persons with other disabilities in the electoral process, PAVA provisions, HAVA and ADA Act, among other information to developed self-advocacy skills. The purpose of the different interventions in the media is to educate future voters about:  1. Rights of persons with disabilities,  2. The voting process,  3. The accessibility of the polling places and the AVC 4. The alternative Vote at Home, where a designated Board representing the political parties let persons with mobility disabilities cast the vote in their home, dates before the Election Day 5. The alternative Vote in Hospital, where SEC designated a Board representing the political parties let people hospitalized cast their vote in the hospital’s room. 6. The alternative of Vote by Phone System. The performance measure of this objective: Education and training of people with disabilities on their voting rights. The importance of this priority is to educate general public, who´s can spread the information among family or relatives with disabilities. This objective impacts all electors with disabilities. When you used almost all the media in several times, some of them in prime time, you can estimate that all electors with disabilities receive the information. The estimate based in the Census 2019 is 21.6% of the electors available to vote in 2020, 2,355,894 \* 0.216% = 508,873 |
| PR | PAVA advocates provided recommendations and planning strategies for the electoral process, taking consideration the special needs of people with disabilities, having meetings with policy makers. As we educated Policy Makers, we achieve advocacy on behalf electors with disabilities. On Election year, despite COVID 19 Pandemic, PAVA advocates worked with SEC to improves accessibility, and to achieves an electoral process with independently and secretly for electors with disabilities.  Summarize of major events: On October 28, 2019, PAVA Director have a meeting with New Progressive Party (NPP) Commissioner. The purpose was to request the participation as observers of PAVA in the special elections of November 10, 2019, that will fill two vacant of this party, in the Senate. The NPP Commissioner respond affirmative to our request. We also discuss important accessibilities issues for next electoral events.  On November 10, 2019, SEC had a special election to fill two Senates vacant island wide and two mayors of two cities Barranquitas and Humacao. PAVA Director and other advocates performed monitories to 21 polling places. After the monitories PAVA Director went to SEC Central Office to communicate with policy makers specifically we had meetings with NPP Electoral Commissioner Guzman, with Senate President Thomas Rivera Schatz, with DPP Electoral Commissioner Lin Merle and with SEC President Judge Dávila. In the individual’s meetings with policy makers we discuss the importance of the vote of electors with disabilities with emphasis in secrecy and independency of the process. On February 28, 2020, PAVA Advocates, performed monitories, before the Democratic Party Presidential Primaries, to the Permanent Inscription Boards (PIB) of San Juan, Precinct 1. The objective was to verify the compliance of Act 297 of 2018 that creates a priority line or express line in public services, including the registration process in PIB. We find the PIB accessible and orient elections officials about accessibility y and equal treatment to disabled community. On June 26, 2020, PAVA Advocates, performed monitories before the Party Primaries to the Permanent Inscription Board (PIB) of Carolina and San Juan. As a result of reports of lack of compliance with Act 297 of 2018 that creates a priority line or express line in public services, including the registration process in PIB, PAVA advocates, decide to enforce it by monitories. When we find the lack of compliance, we communicate with SEC President and the Electoral Commissioners of the New Progressive Party (NPP) and Democratic Popular Party (DPP). They agreed with PAVA Director, to have a meeting to discuss the situation next day early in the morning. Almost four hours later we received copy of an official memorandum with orders to electoral officials to comply with Law 297 of 2018 among other instructions, to improve the services to electors with disabilities in the registration process. PAVA sent a press release to media to disseminate the order and the achievement. On July 15, 2020, PAVA Advocates, performed other monitories to the Permanent Inscription; the last day to request Advance and Absentee Voting for the Party Primaries. In this occasion we performed monitories to San Juan, Cataño y Guaynabo. In these monitories we ask elections officials about Advance and Absentee Vote option. We announce this kind of voting options in media with the help of SEC officials. Days after we found an historic number of 227,812 electors requesting forms of Absentee and Advance Vote. Electors with disabilities or older than 60 years old (to protect elderly due COVID 19) requested Advance Voting in one of the three methods, Vote by Mail 54,713, Vote at Home 105,331, Early Voting in an accessible polling place 53,195. This historical number was a result of the Pandemic, and PAVA efforts, with SEC officials to include secure options for persons with low immune systems, like cancer, HIV, organs transplant and other diseases. This increase was also a result of PAVA Advocates media efforts to disseminate the options for electors with disabilities whose want to participate in the electoral process but were afraid of COVID 19.  On August 2020, PAVA Director, have several telephones independent meetings with the Electoral Commissioners of the Active Political Parties, New Progressive Party (NPP), Democratic Popular Party (DPP), Citizen Victorious Movement (CVM) and the Independence Puerto Rican Party (IPP). With each meeting we advocate for the following:  1. Analyze alternatives for compliance with accessible voting equipment’s, specifically Vote by Phone and Dominium Voting System used in previous elections. 2. Accessibility of the PIB´s including the open cases of Caguas, Rio Grande, Toa Baja and Morovis Towns, among others. 3. Follow up of the reactivation of the HAVA State Planning Committee, of any other subcommittee like the Education and Training Committee, and our commitment to helps with the participation of the disabled community. 4. New Electoral Code approved in July 2020 and new alternatives like Vote by Mail  5. Braille in each polling place 6. Vote by Phone to comply with HAVA section 301 (3b) 7. Advance Vote for persons with immune systems, like transplants patients, patients with cancer, AIDS or other diseases that can feel insecure due COVID 19. 8. Selecting Accessible Polling Places (at the end of fiscal year, September 30, 2020, SEC didn’t present the official list of polling places) 9. Vote at Home 10. Vote at Hospitals  On September 2020, PAVA advocates continued to advocate with new SEC administration, due resign of former President Davila. The first thing PAVA Director do after knowing the named of President Rosado and alternate President Padilla, was to warns them by a press release about the importance of accessibility issues, asking to comply with HAVA provisions, including section 301 (3b). The Electoral Commissioners with the SEC President forms the Commission, responsible of establish public policy. PAVA advocates for disabled rights in each instance. As a result of all these meeting with Commission members, they committed to follow up the recommendations of PAVA, and to achieve accessibility in the electoral process in compliance with HAVA Act.  The performance measure of this objective are: Education and training of election officials, volunteers and poll workers regarding rights of people with disabilities and best practices, Registering people with disabilities to vote, Public and private places/services made more accessible and People with disabilities are better able to participate fully in the electoral process. With these Project we developed a strategy to educate the main policy maker, the Commission, as a group can enforce the requested of accessibility in the elections process and HAVA Act. |
| PR | PAVA advocates provided recommendations and planning strategies for the electoral process, taking into consideration the special needs of people with disabilities, having telephone and virtual meeting with policy makers (due Covid 19 Pandemic). As we educated Policy Makers, we make system advocacy on behalf electors with disabilities. As we mention in previous objective, PAVA advocates provoked changes, including changes to the new Electoral Code Act 58 of June 28, 2020. On October 2019, PAVA Director had a meeting with NPP Commissioner Guzman. NPP was the party with majority in the Senate, where his President Rivera Schatz was the author of the new Electoral Code. At the time, the new Code was evaluating in the Senate. PAVA Director have access to the documents and made recommendations, including proper vocabulary, for disabled community, the importance of HAVA act 2002, alternatives of Advance Vote among others. When Pandemic began in March 2020, PAVA Advocates continued to ask for the reactivation of HAVA Advisory Committee and their subcommittees. Unfortunately, due COVID 19, the reactivation never occurred. Despite that, PAVA advocates were creative and innovates, using media to educate disabled community. |
| PR | PAVA advocates had several meetings with 4 of the 5 political parties Electoral Commissioners. At the beginning of fiscal year, SEC had only three officials’ political parties, the New Progressive Party (NPP) that have the majority in the Legislature and control the Executive branch, the minorities; Popular Democratic Party (PDP), and Independence Puerto Rican Party (IPP). On February 2020, SEC approved the entry of two new political parties, The Citizen Victorious Movement (CVM) and Dignity Proyect (DP). On March 2020, began Covid 19 Pandemia, that stopped the services in SEC until summer. When we had the opportunity in June 2020, we communicate with SEC Presidency, to know the preparations for the Democratic Party Presidential Primaries. We meet Commissioner Sanchez, of the Democratic Party. We began several telephone meetings with Commissioner Sanchez in order to have an accessible Primaries for disabled electors. Commissioner Sanchez gave us the list of polling places for this Primaries. On July 12, 2020 PAVA Advocates performed monitories in 3 polling places, where we don’t find accessibility issues, except the lack of Braille and Vote by Phone in order to compliance with HAVA section 301 (3b). From July until September 2020, PAVA Director, had several telephones individual meetings with the Electoral Commissioners of the Active Political Parties, New Progressive Party (NPP), Democratic Popular Parties (DPP), Citizen Victorious Movement (CVM) and the Independence Puerto Rican Party (IPP). In the NPP, Commissioner change in three occasions, Juan Guzman until June 2020, Maria Santiago until august 2020, and at this time Commissioner Hector Sanchez. In the DPP, Commissioner change after Party Primaries in August, Lin Merle was the Commissioner until August and former SEC Vice President, Nicolas Gautier was named late in August as DPP Electoral Commissioner. In the IPP the Commissioner Roberto Aponte stay in his position all year, so we don’t need to reeducate him about HAVA Law. In the case of the new political parties, the CVM, has the same Commissioner since the beginning in February, Orlin Valentin, we had several meetings to educate of HAVA provision. In the case of Dignity Proyect unfortunately, we tried to communicate with the Commissioner Edwardo Guzman, but it was infructuous. Later we realizaed that he resigns, and the party named late in October a new Commissioner. In each meeting our goal was to educate them as policy makers in order to achieves full compliance of HAVA and an electoral accessible process, where disabled can vote independently and with secrecy.  Summarize of issues discussed with SEC Electoral Commissioners: 1. Analyze alternatives for compliance with accessible voting equipment’s, specifically Vote by Phone and Dominium Voting System used in previous elections. 2. Accessibility of the PIB´s including the open cases of Caguas, Rio Grande, Toa Baja and Morovis Towns, among others. 3. Follow up of the reactivation of the HAVA State Planning Committee or any other subcommittee like the Education and Training Committee, and our commitment to help with the participation of the disabled community 4. New Electoral Code approved in July 2020 and new alternatives like Vote by Mail  5. Braille in each polling place 6. Vote by Phone to comply with HAVA section 301 (3b) 7. Advance Vote for persons with immune systems, like transplants patients, patients with cancer, AIDS or other diseases that can feel insecure due COVID 19. 8. Selecting Accessible Polling Places (at the end of fiscal year, September 30, 2020, SEC didn’t present the official list of polling places) 9. Vote at Home 10. Vote at Hospitals  With these Meetings we educate the main policy maker, the Commission, as a group can enforce the requested of accessibility in the elections process and HAVA Act.  The performance measure of this objective are: Education and training of election officials, volunteers and poll workers regarding rights of people with disabilities and best practices, Registering people with disabilities to vote, Public and private places/services made more accessible and People with disabilities are better able to participate fully in the electoral process. With these Project we developed a strategy to educate the main policy maker, the Commission, as a group can enforce the requested of accessibility in the elections process and HAVA Act. |
| PR | PAVA advocates, updated the training for polling workers, including “Unit Coordinators”, and we were ready to train them. The elections officials (poll workers) in Puerto Rico, are designated by the political parties. The problem of this situation is that these elections officials are voluntaries from the political parties. With current apathy to work for political parties, they have much difficulty to recruit volunteers. So, the reality is that most of them are recruited just weeks before election. As we established in the Priority, units’ coordinators are voluntaries of the political parties. With the economic crisis the political parties don’t longer received governments funds to employ, so we just have voluntaries. If we add COVID 19 Pandemic, to all the reasons described above, unfortunately we we’re unable to perform the workshops.  Meanwhile, PAVA advocates worked directly with the SEC officials, including the President giving them the information about the rights of persons with disabilities in the voting process. As we established above, we innovate, using media in historical proportions to impact disabled communities, polling workers, unit coordinators, registration officials and general public. |
| PR | As part of our Strategic Plan, PAVA advocates wanted to educate new voters. PAVA Advocates, jointed efforts with SEC Education and Training Office to educate high school students in special education programs. PAVA advocates was ready to offer trainings with SEC officials to high school students with developmental and intellectual disabilities or other disabilities, about voting rights for disabled electors and information about the electoral process, but COVID 19 stopped it. As part of our Strategic Plan, PAVA advocates wanted to educate new voters. PAVA Advocates, jointed efforts with SEC Education and Training Office to educate high school students of special education schools. To empower high schools’ students and to encourage them to participate in the election process, PAVA advocates tried to offer trainings and workshops. Unfortunately, COVID 19 began in March 2020, we were ready to start the trainings in April, but we couldn’t do it. To disseminate information as we established above, we use mass media efforts to impacts students and educate them about: registration process, special accommodations available for electors with disabilities, voting rights, among other, to educate them with self-advocacy tools. |
| PR | PAVA advocates updated the training for registration’s officials of the SEC. The first one was held on November 19, 2020, where we impacted 15 SEC officials. We prepare to offer training to registration officials, then COVID 19 Pandemic, comes and paralyzed our efforts to trains them. As we established, PAVA advocates looked for innovate alternatives to train, including our one-hour Radio Program, Accessible Vote 2020, where we educated all sectors, disabled communities, poll workers and registration officials.  Meanwhile, PAVA advocates worked directly with the SEC officials, including the President giving them the information about the rights of persons with disabilities in the voting process. As we established above, we innovate, using media in historical proportions to impact disabled communities, polling workers, unit coordinators, registration officials and general public. PAVA advocated in each PIB's monitories (33 this fiscal year), with information to all election’s officials, about equal treatment of persons with intellectual developmental disabilities and persons with other disabilities, whose will participate in the electoral process. This Projects contributes to reach our goal of an accessible election, guarantee the secretly and independence for electors with disabilities in all the process.  With these Projects People with disabilities are better able to participate fully in the electoral process. |
| PR | In Puerto Rico, we don’t have any mid-term election, and we must wait for a special procedure, like Presidential Primaries (July 12, 2020) political parties’ primaries (August 2020) or the General Elections (November 2020). As we don’t had elections, electors with disabilities don’t opened complaints of voting rights.   After a disaster in the Primaries, late in August we received one complaint about the lack of Braille templates and Vote by Phone option. This case filled by a blind elector in Bayamon. The result of this case will be described in next fiscal year PPR. Another case that we received, was about PIB Caguas accessibility. This case was solved later in October, so it will be included in next PPR. The third and fourth case were about registration process, the first of a young 18-year-old lady with auto-immune disabilities and the second a 63-year-old male with orthopedics disabilities. Due Covid 19, registration officials initially denied the registration process, fortunately, with PAVA advocacy, the electors completed the registration process, both cases will be reported next fiscal year. |
| PR | PAVA Advocates, offered 23 technical assistance to 23 individuals, including electors with disabilities and organizations mostly SEC officials.  Technical Assistance Example: A SEC electoral official requested PAVA, a copy of the 2010 ADA Accessibility Guidelines. She informed us that they are working with Corrective Actions Plan for Polling Places with physical barriers. PAVA advocates, not only provide the requested information, we explain the specific requirements of physical accessibility, including width door, accessible parking’s, and Accessible Voting College without steps in the entrance. Most of the technical assistances provided by PAVA advocates, were to SEC staff, including SEC Presidency, Political Parties Commissioners, Advance and Absentee Board officials, Education and Training Officials and Press Release Officials. PAVA advocates gave technical assistance in different issues: 1. Vote by Phone 2. Braille templates 3. Polling Place Accessibility 4. PIB Accessibility 5. PIB obligated to compliance with Act 297 of 2018 (express line for persons with disabilities) 6. Education and Training election officials 7. Advance and Absentee Vote for Electors with Disabilities, including new alternatives to deal with COVID Pandemic 8. Curb-side Voting 9. Vote by Mail 10. Vote in Hospital 11. Vote at Home  Technical assistances to SEC officials improve compliance with our Objective of having an accessible, secretly and independently electoral process. |
| PR | I/R Example: A woman with orthopedics disabilities of Aguada County, contacts PAVA advocates, asking for alternatives to vote in Advance, for Parties Primaries of August 2020 and General Elections of November 2020. The client expressed that she had mobilities difficulty to move from her house and PAVA advocates, informed her about Advance Voting options including Vote at Home. PAVA advocates, communicated with the Permanent Inscription Board of Aguada County and asked for help with this elector with disabilities. PIB’s officials an PAVA advocates agree to help her with Vote at Home option, as an Advance Voting. After local Party Primaries, the client call PAVA offices and report success in her voting alternative, she Voted at Home, thanks to PAVA provisions.   This fiscal year we offered 36 information and referral services to individuals about their rights. The majority were received near the event Political Parties Primaries held on August 2020. The Electors with disabilities asked information about the following topics: 1. Polling Places accessibilities 2. Registrations issues 3. Vote by Phone information 4. Advance and Absentee Voting   The performance measure of this objective: People with disabilities are better able to participate fully in the electoral process, People with disabilities receiving information, technical assistance and referral services. With each information distributed, persons with disabilities increase their knowledge in order to achieves been self-advocates. |
| PR | PAVA advocates performs 74 inspections in key dates to assure accessibility and compliance with HAVA provisions. Special Election November 10, 2019: 1. Ana Roque Duprey School in Humacao 2. Community Center Antonio A, Roig in Humacao 3. Carlos Rivera Ufret School in Humacao 4. Meraldo Carazo School in Trujillo Alto 5. Child Care Center in Humacao 6. Gabriela Mistral School in San Juan 7. La Labra School in San Juan 8. Rufino Vega School in Humacao (NPP Polling place) 9. Rufino Vega School in Humacao (DPP Polling place) 10. Community Center El Llano in Barranquitas 11. Community Center Helechal in Barranquitas 12. Antonio Vázquez Ramos School in Humacao 13. El Farallon School in Barranquitas 14. Federico Degetau School in Barranquitas 15. Jose Colon Gonzalez School in Barranquitas 16. Pablo Colon Berdecia School in Barranquitas 17. Petro America Pagan School in Barranquitas 18. Pablo Fuentes Rivera School in Barranquitas  19. Ramon T. Rivera School in Barranquitas 20. Sinforoso Aponte School in Barranquitas 21. Luis Munoz Marin School in Barranquitas  Monitories before electoral year, December 5 thru 17, 2019 1. Leónides Morales Rodríguez school in Lajas 2. Polé Ojea school in Cabo Rojo 3. Severo E. Colberg Ramírez school in Cabo Rojo 4. José Gautier Benítez school in Mayagüez 5. Elpidio H. Rivera school in Mayagüez 6. Indiera Fría school in Maricao 7. La Carmen school in Maricao 8. Mildred Arroyo Cardoza school in Cabo Rojo 9. Manuel González Melo school in Rincón 10. Manuel García Pérez school in Rincón Monitories Democratic Party Presidential Primaries, July 12, 2020 1. Ines Maria Mendoza School in San Juan 2. Isaac Rosario School in Cataño 3. Gilberto Concepción de Gracia in Carolina Monitories before Parties Primaries, August 5 thru 6, 2020 1. Luis Muñoz Rivera school in Quebradillas 2. Honorio Hernández school in Quebradillas 3. Lorenzo Coballes Gandía school in Hatillo 4. Ralph W. Emerson school in Camuy 5. Luis Felipe Rodriguez school in Camuy.  6. Rafael Rexach Dueño School, in Rio Grande 7. Luis Hernaiz Veronne School in Canóvanas 8. Casiano Cepeda School in Rio Grande 9. La Ponderosa Head Star in Rio Grande 10. Bernardino Cordero Bernard school in Ponce 11. Jaime L. Drew school in Ponce 12. Loaiza Cordero school in Yauco 13. Inés María Mendoza school in Yauco 14. Barrio Quebrada community center in Peñuelas  Monitories local Parties Primaries, August 9, 2020 1. Meraldo Carazo School in Trujillo Alto 2. San Antonio Community Center of Multiple Uses in Caguas  3. Miguel Such School in San Juan 4. Ecologic and Recreative Park in Dorado 5. Jose Hernandez Landrón School in Toa Baja 6. San Jose Academy in Guaynabo 7. Isaac Rosario School in Cataño (reinspection) 8. Jose Davila School in Bayamon 9. Antera Rosado School in Rio Grande 10. Edmundo Del Valle School in Rio Grande 11. Rafael De Jesus School in Rio Grande 12. Rosa Bernard School in Rio Grande 13. William Rivera Betancourt School in Canóvanas 14. Edmundo del Valle (reinspection) in Rio Grande 15. Pedro Albizu Campos School in Canóvanas 16. Ramon T. Rivera School in Barranquitas  Monitories in local Parties Primaries August 16, 2020 1. Bautista College in Carolina 2. Meraldo Carazo School In Trujillo Alto (reinspection) 3. San Antonio Community Center of Multiple Uses in Caguas (reinspection) 4. Recreative and Community Center Maricao in Vega Alta 5. Jaime Collazo School in Morovis 6. Ana Burgos School in Orocovis 7. Antonio R. Barceló school in Canóvanas 8. Belen Blanco school in Loiza 9. Rafael de Jesús school in Rio Grande  10. Guillermina Rosado school in Loiza As part of our Strategic Plan for next election process, including Political Parties Primaries in June 2020 and the General Elections, November 2020, PAVA advocates seeks to select the better polling places. PAVA Advocates, all years, selected a sample of previously used polling places and inspected them to verify their accessibility. These ocular inspections give us the opportunity to educate the facilities employees, about PAVA provisions and accessibility awareness. In each polling place inspected, PAVA’s advocates recommends to the persons in charge of the facility, an Accessible Voting Center with an accessible route. To be an Accessible Voting Center, it must have a reserved parking for persons with disabilities. This parking must be next to the accessible entrance of the polling place. All the paths must be full accessible, in order to give independence for voters with disabilities in the whole process.  After each ocular inspection, if PAVA Advocates find any accessibility problem, we sent a writing report to SEC. In these reports for example, if PAVA advocates found a step in the entrance, we inform to SEC, so they can provide portable ramps.  The performance measure of this objective: Public and private places/services made more accessible. PAVA advocates, inspected surveying polling places to prevent any failure in the electoral process. If the polling place is not accessible at the date of the event, is very difficult to provide accessibility. As a preventive action, PAVA advocates performed 74 ocular inspections to polling places. This preventive activity helps to determinate if the facility is the correct one for the election day, in terms of physical accessibility. If the polling place is accessible, electors with disabilities are better able to participate fully in the electoral process. |
| PR | In each polling place inspections, PAVA advocates recommended an Accessible Voting Center. To be an Accessible Voting Center, it must have a reserved parking for persons with disabilities. This parking must be next to the accessible entrance of the polling place. All the paths must be full accessible, in order to give independence for voters with disabilities in the whole process. In the polling places where there are steps in the entrance, the SEC, will provide portable ramps recommended by PAVA advocates.  PAVA’s advocates recommended to SEC officials and to the persons in charge of the facility, the place to locate the Accessible Voting Center in an accessible route. On August during local Parties Primaries, we made monitories to polling places to verify accessibility, in three of the inspected polling places, Isaac Rosario School polling place in Cataño County and Rufino Vigo School, polling place in Humacao County, Rafael De Jesus School polling place in Rio Grande we found physical barriers in the Accessible Voting College (AVS). We found steps in the entrance, but the polling place had accessible options, so PAVA advocates recommends moving the AVC to a place without steps. We plan to monitor these polling places in next general elections in November 2020.  The performance measure of this objective: Public and private places/services made more accessible. PAVA advocates, inspected surveying polling places to prevent any failure in the electoral process. If the polling place is not accessible at the date of the event, is very difficult to provide accessibility. As a preventive action for General Elections, PAVA advocates performed 74 ocular inspections to polling places. This preventive activity helps to determinate if the facility is the correct one for the election day, in terms of physical accessibility. If the polling place is accessible, electors with disabilities are better able to participate fully in the electoral process. |
| PR | The principal policy maker about any issue in the Elections Process is his President. The President is part of the Commission. The Electoral Commissioners with the SEC President are the Commission, responsible of establish public policy. PAVA advocates for disabled rights in each instance we had a meeting with any Commissioner and the President. As PAVA advocates, we developed a personal communication with former President Davila to discussed and look for alternatives to comply with HAVA provisions. In reference to HAVA Law Section 301, 3 (b) that establishes the requirement of “use of at least one direct recording electronic voting system or other voting system equipped for individuals with disabilities at each polling place”, SEC President and PAVA Director have meeting on November 10, 2019 to look for alternatives besides Vote by Phone. In the meeting we agreed the following: 1. Be opens to consider new options to compliance with Section 301 (3b) 2. We commit to investigate alternatives used in other states, compliance with our SGP. 3. The Commission and their Information System Office will help to study the alternatives. 4. We agree to have a follow up meeting in April.  Unfortunately, COVID 19 Pandemic and Government lockdown arrives, and we don’t have other option to reschedule until summer. In summer, was too late, SEC had important electoral events, like the Democratic Party Presidential Primaries originally schedule for March, was moved to July and then the Political Parties Primaries, that were reschedule from June to August. We don’t have other alternative; we decide to advocate for Vote by Phone in all the electoral events. From June thru August, we had several telephone communications with SEC President to achieve compliance with HAVA Section 301 (3b). As we report above, unfortunately the crisis in SEC impacted Vote by Phone, and we don’t find it in the monitories held in August.  On August 9, 2020, at the Political Parties Primaries, there was an historical crisis, where electors don’t receive the ballots in almost half of the island, and electors with disabilities do not had accessibility options, like Braille templates and Vote by Phone in the polling places. This forced a second part of Primaries, on August 16, 2020, where electors with disabilities do not have, again any accessibility option. On September 4, SEC President Judge Davila resigns. Days later the Commission (Electoral Commissioners of the 5 active political parties) select Judge Rosado as President ad Judge Padilla as Alternative President in compliance with new Electoral Code (Act 58 of June 28, 2020). We tried to have meetings with the new administration, this goal was met in October, it will be covered in next fiscal year PPR. As a result of those meeting, the President committed to follow up the recommendations of PAVA, and to achieve accessibility in the next electoral process (2020) in compliance with HAVA Act. The performance measure of this objective is: People with disabilities are better able to participate fully in the electoral process. With these Project we developed a strategy to educate the main policy maker, the President, who can enforce the requested of accessibility in the elections process and HAVA Act. |
| PR | As we established above, we could not evaluate the equipment, however, in meetings that we had with SEC President and the Electoral Commissioners, we advocate for compliance with HAVA Section 301 (3b). Due economic crisis and COVID 19 Pandemic, SEC select the cheaper and easier option, reusing the Vote by Phone alternative, with the existing special accommodations in accessible polling places. This option was not sponsored by disabled community with only a few electors using it in the past elections process, back in 2016. The Commission do not have any other alternative for disabled community that can attach to their limited budget due Overseas Fiscal Authority, also known as PROMESA ACT. When Senate Project 1314 converts in the new Electoral Code, Act 58 of June 28, 2020, the Code include Vote by Phone as the option to comply with Section 301 (3b), PAVA advocate for this inclusion, since the Project was release in Senate in 2019. Unfortunately, we don’t find the Vote by Phone option in the Presidential Democratic Party Primaries held in July, neither the local Parties Primaries on August 9 and 16, 2020. PAVA Advocates do not have other option, to demand it in public, achieving it by mass media efforts to achieve Vote by Phone in the November 2020 General Elections. |
| PR | At the begin of fiscal year, PAVA advocates seek information of alternative equipment’s to compliance with Section 301 (3b) of HAVA. In other States we discover the uses of several electronic equipment’s that complies with HAVA. Unfortunately, when COVID 19 began in March 2020, SEC determinate to continue the use of Vote by Phone option. The determination was included in Senate Project 1314 that creates a new the Electoral Code. Late in this fiscal year in June 28, 2020 the Act was signed, the new Electoral Code included Vote by Phone as the only option to comply with HAVA requirements. After this, PAVA advocated for the compliance of having Vote by Phone in the electoral events. |
| SC | The PAVA Coordinator provided ongoing guidance to individual counties about polling place accessibility. The State Election Commission contacted the Coordinator many times asking for clarification of accessibility issues and the DOJ checklist. A hotline was monitored for both the November 2019 and February 2020 elections. |
| SC | The PAVA Coordinator assisted a number of callers in registering to vote. This included assistance filling out forms, sending registrations forms and stamps to individual voters, and connecting voters with the offices of voter registration in their respective counties. We were not able to specifically target voters under 30 but that has been continued as a priority for 2020-2021. |
| SC | Priorities changed pretty quickly when pandemic voting became the priority. However, the PAVA Coordinator was able to pivot quickly to virtual education events and start recording videos educating voters that could be reposted by our various community partners. Five videos were produced. We prioritized absentee voting and were able to educate many voters on that process, whether mail in or in person. The goal was met by a combination of 6 live presentations in addition to the videos. The intake and referral team were updated almost weekly on changes that were happening in the state regarding absentee voting and they were able to advise callers about their options. |
| SC | The PAVA Coordinator chaired 8 meetings of the SC Disability Voting Coalition and the members were involved in much of the outreach done over the year. |
| SC | P&A utilized an on line survey to solicit information from individuals with disabilities and their families. The survey was made available at several conferences P&A attended throughout the fiscal year. The proposed priorities were also published online and sent out through P&A's newsletter on June 24. Comments were due back by September 1, prior to the September 12 Board meeting when the goals and priorities for FY 21 were reviewed and adopted. The survey was announced by a P&A e-blast to over 900 individuals and organizations including disability advocacy organizations . The survey also was placed on Facebook with over 1100 followers and on Twitter with nearly 400 followers. It was also included as a tag line on outgoing staff emails during the period, including communication with DD/TBI/AT/PAVA-eligible clients. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the group sessions normally held with residents of the two state mental health hospitals were cancelled this year; these hospitals have residents who are TBI and DD-eligible and most would be of voting age. Throughout the year P&A sends satisfaction surveys to individuals who have been provided with information and referral services or clients whose cases are being closed. The survey includes a section requesting problem issues the individual believes P&A should work on. Also our existing goals and priorities are on our website and include a notice requesting comments. |
| SD | DRSD PAVA Program was invited to assist the Minnehaha County Auditor to conduct a polling site ADA Compliance review. PAVA, PADD, and PAIR Program Leads collaborated with the Minnehaha County Auditor and Sioux Falls City Election Official to conduct ADA compliance review of all polling sites. Seventy polling sites were monitored for ADA accessibility compliance. County Auditors collaborate with local communities in utilizing a variety of local buildings during elections. Buildings used include county courthouses, city offices, churches, community (town) halls, schools, and fire stations. In rural/frontier areas and Native Nations, satellite voting and private homes are utilized. Eleven sites were found to have some form of access issues, including lack of accessible parking signs, elevated spaces from parking lot to sidewalk, and lack of designated accessible parking. PAVA provided findings to the Minnehaha County Auditor and Sioux Falls City Election Official and continues to collaborate with them to ensure these concerns are being rectified.  DRSD PAVA, PADD, and PAIR Program Leads collaborated with County Auditors to conduct polling site reviews for ADA compliance in Moody, Turner, Lake, and Lincoln Counties. The Flandreau Tribal Nation resides within Moody County. Thirty-Five sites were monitored for designated accessible parking, parking lot condition, curb cuts, pathways, ramps, door openers, and threshold height. PAVA staff also monitored accessibility inside buildings when open. Indoor monitoring included lighting, pathway obstruction, and for elevators/ramps if voting is not conducted on the ground floor level. County Auditors collaborate with local communities in utilizing a variety of local buildings during elections. Buildings used include county courthouses, city offices, churches, community (town) halls, schools, and fire stations. In rural/frontier areas and Native Nations, satellite voting and private homes are utilized. Seven sites were found to have some form of access issues, including lack of accessible parking signs in designated parking spots, uneven path of travel in parking and poor lighting inside hallway. PAVA provided findings to local County Auditor(s) and continues to collaborate with them to ensure these concerns are being rectified. |
| SD | Education/Training activities were limited due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. When possible DRSD PAVA staff provided virtual trainings and outreach to various agencies regarding voting rights and HAVA. Agencies receiving training and information via outreach included Domestic Violence Shelters, Community Support Providers, Conflict Free Case Managers, Nursing Facilities, Transition Services Programs, Senior Information Network, and Community Mental Health Providers regarding voting rights and election participation during the pandemic.  DRSD did not receive any calls requesting assistance in filing a complaint during the FY20 Primary Elections. |
| SD | DRSD was invited to assist the Minnehaha County Auditor to conduct a polling site ADA Compliance review. PAVA, PADD, and PAIR Program Leads collaborated with the Minnehaha County Auditor and Sioux Falls City Election Official to conduct ADA compliance review of all polling sites. Seventy polling sites were monitored for ADA accessibility compliance. County Auditors collaborate with local communities in utilizing a variety of local buildings during elections. Buildings used include county courthouses, city offices, churches, community (town) halls, schools, and fire stations. In extremely rural/frontier areas and Native Nations, satellite voting, and private homes are utilized. Eleven sites were found to have some form of access issues, including lack of accessible parking signs, elevated spaces from parking lot to sidewalk, and lack of designated accessible parking. DRSD provided findings to the Minnehaha County Auditor and Sioux Falls City Election Official and continues to collaborate with them to ensure these concerns are being rectified. |
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| SD | These are agency-wide priorities applying to all DRSD programs, not just the four ACL programs. I&R priorities were repeated or apply across all goal areas. It is therefore unclear how we are to use the "performance measures" listed at the end of this and other I&R/Technical Assistance entries, also given the fact that performance measures are asked for in other places in the PPR. It is also not clear that any of the performance measures available apply, yet one must be chosen to eliminate a validation error. As a result, we chose a performance measure and placed a zero (0) for a numeric value.  DRSD’s Intake Team provides Information and Referral or Self-Advocacy Assistance (which we referred to as “Technical Assistance” at the time of developing the FY 2020 goals and priorities) on all intakes that are not assigned as cases. DRSD takes pride in being able to provide all callers with at least some helpful information or guidance when we cannot assign the caller to an advocate or attorney. PAVA had 7 I&Rs in FY 2020, which were provided to 7 individuals.  DRSD Bridging South Dakota (BSD) Liaison received requests for technical assistance from three domestic violence shelters-information provided included other agency resources, guardianship, absentee voting and obtaining a protection order.   DRSD staff attorney presented information to the South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault (The Network) on a new South Dakota state law regarding Informed Consent for testing following a sexual assault.  DRSD PAVA Lead worked with Secretary of State office to provide information to Crisis shelters on how to assist individuals with absentee voting while maintaining victim’s safety. |
| SD | See PAVA Goal 1, I&R or Technical Assistance.   In addition, DRSD staff conducted outreach to increase awareness of DRSD among military veterans. The staff from DRSD made outreach visits to twelve county Veteran Service Officers across the state in an effort to increase awareness of the programs and services that are offered by DRSD and are available to military veterans with disabilities. Staff provided information and informational material to each County VSO to pass along or make available to the veterans that they serve. Information provided included information on voting rights and how to participate in the electoral process in South Dakota. Outreach projects were slowed down after March of 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the efforts to prevent the spread of the virus. |
| SD | See PAVA Goal 1, I&R or Technical Assistance.  Specific electoral activities include: DRSD Intake Specialists asked all new callers if they were registered to vote. If callers indicated they were not, a voter registration packet would be offered and sent if requested. Six individuals requested a voter registration packet be sent. Voter registration packets included: South Dakota Voter Registration form; Voting, Everything You Need to Know DRSD voting brochure; voting rights wallet card; Vote, The Real Power bracelet; and DRSD phone wallet. |
| SD | See PAVA Goal 1, Collaboration.   In addition, DRSD PAVA staff conducted a mass email outreach to disability service agencies. Agencies contacted include Community Mental Health Centers and residential care facilities, Conflict Free Case Managers and Community Support Providers. Information was provided to agencies on voting rights and the process for assisting individuals to register to vote and how to vote by absentee ballot. Included with the emails were a voter registration form, absentee ballot application, and a voting 101 informational sheet. |
| SD | See PAVA Goal 1, Outreach/Training.  Outreach activities and access to individuals with disabilities were limited due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Prior to the shutdowns due to the Pandemic DRSD PAVA staff provided in-person trainings on DRSD services with a focus on voting rights, the importance of participating in the electoral process, and the voting requirements for South Dakota. Teachwell Transitions allowed DRSD PAVA and PAIR Staff to provide in-person training to teachers and students receiving transition services through Teachwell Transitions during COVID-19. This training included disability voting rights (utilizing a Jeopardy Style game), electoral process participation, being an election worker, and a mock voting session.   When possible DRSD PAVA staff would provide virtual trainings and outreach to various agencies, including Domestic Violence Shelters, Community Support Providers, Conflict Free Case Managers, Nursing Facilities, Transition Services Programs, Senior Information Network, and Community Mental Health Providers regarding voting rights and election participation during current pandemic.  There are four agencies which provide Conflict Free Case Management in South Dakota. DRSD PAVA staff conducted a mass email outreach to Conflict Free Case Mangers (CFCM) at all four facilities. Information was provided to CFCM’s on voting rights and the process for assisting individuals to register to vote and how to vote by absentee ballot. Included with the emails were a voter registration form, absentee ballot application, and a voting 101 informational sheet.  DRSD PAVA staff conducted a mass email outreach to disability service agencies, including Community Mental Health Centers and residential care facilities. Information was provided to agencies on voting rights and the process for assisting individuals to register to vote and how to vote by absentee ballot. Included with the emails were a voter registration form, absentee ballot application, and a voting 101 informational sheet. |
| SD | DRSD Partners in Policymaking (PIP) program provides continuing education classes for past PIP graduates during the final yearly session/graduation held in April. PAVA staff was scheduled to provide training during a continuing education session in April on voting rights, registering to vote, the importance of voting and participating in the electoral process by being an election worker. PAVA staff was unable to provide the support/training for a Year 28 continuing education session as the final session of PIP was cancelled due to COVID-19. 25 individuals graduated in Year 28. |
| SD | See PAVA Goal 1, Collaboration.  In addition, DRSD PAVA Staff collaborated with the Transition Services Liaison Project to provide virtual training to Special Education Directors and Teachers on the importance of including voting rights and voter registration during transition services planning for students on an Individualized Education Plan.  DRSD PAVA and PAIR Staff provided in-person training to teachers and students receiving transition services through Teachwell Solutions with the East Dakota Educational Cooperative. This training included disability voting rights (utilizing a Jeopardy Style game), electoral process participation, being an election worker, and a mock voting session. |
| SD | See PAVA Goal 1, Collaboration.   In addition, PAVA Staff partnered with Rock the Vote to promote their non-partisan democracy class to be incorporated into South Dakota High School curriculum. The ability to reach schools was impacted by closures/remote learning due to COVID-19. |
| SD | PAVA did not have any individual cases in FY 2020. |
| SD | See PAVA Goal 1, Outreach/Training.  In addition, there are four agencies which provide Conflict Free Case Management in South Dakota. DRSD PAVA staff conducted a mass email outreach to Conflict Free Case Managers (CFCM) at all four facilities. Information was provided to CFCMs on voting rights and the process for assisting individuals to register to vote and how to vote by absentee ballot. Included with the emails were a voter registration form, absentee ballot application, and a voting 101 informational sheet. |
| SD | See PAVA Goal 1, Collaboration.  In addition, there are four agencies which provide Conflict Free Case Management in South Dakota. DRSD PAVA could not work directly with Conflict Free Case Managers to assist in voter registration due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead, staff conducted a mass email outreach to Conflict Free Case Managers (CFCM) at all four agencies. Information was provided to CFCMs on the voting rights of Individuals with Guardians, the process for assisting individuals to register to vote, and how vote by absentee ballot. Included with the emails were a voter registration form, absentee ballot application, and a voting 101 informational sheet which includes South Dakota State Law language regarding individuals with a guardian retaining the right to vote. |
| SD | See PAVA Goal 1, Outreach/Training.  In addition, PAVA staff are invited by the Secretary of State to participate in a scheduled training meeting for all the county auditors. They are the local election officers responsible for conducting voting. This event is held bi-annually, and attendance is expected by all 66 county auditors or their representatives. Since HAVA legislation, the meeting is held the fall before general or statewide elections. The meeting is a way to address and share the impact of proposed HAVA-directed changes. The county auditors take the information/instructions back to their counties and apply them to the local environment. Their responsibilities include the training of local paid staff and volunteers involved in the voting process. PAVA did not have any cases in this area in FY 2020. |
| SD | See PAVA Goal 1, I&R or Technical Assistance.  In addition, specific electoral activities include: DRSD Intake Specialists asked all new callers if they were registered to vote. If callers indicated they were not, a voter registration packet would be offered and sent if requested. Six individuals requested a voter registration packet be sent. Voter registration packets included: South Dakota Voter Registration form; Voting, Everything You Need to Know DRSD voting brochure; voting rights wallet card; Vote, The Real Power bracelet; and DRSD phone wallet. |
| SD | DRSD PAVA Program was invited to assist the Minnehaha County Auditor to conduct a polling site ADA Compliance review. PAVA, PADD, and PAIR Program Leads collaborated with the Minnehaha County Auditor and Sioux Falls City Election Official to conduct ADA compliance review of all polling sites. Seventy polling sites were monitored for ADA accessibility compliance. County Auditors collaborate with local communities in utilizing a variety of local buildings during elections. Buildings used include county courthouses, city offices, churches, community (town) halls, schools, and fire stations. In extremely rural/frontier areas and Native Nations, satellite voting, and private homes are utilized. Eleven sites were found to have some form of access issues, including lack of accessible parking signs, elevated spaces from parking lot to sidewalk, and lack of designated accessible parking. PAVA provided findings to the Minnehaha County Auditor and Sioux Falls City Election Official and continues to collaborate with them to ensure these concerns are being rectified.   DRSD PAVA, PADD, and PAIR Program Leads collaborated with County Auditors to conduct polling site reviews for ADA compliance in Moody, Turner, Lake, and Lincoln Counties. The Flandreau Tribal Nation resides within Moody County. Thirty-Five sites were monitored for designated accessible parking, parking lot condition, curb cuts, pathways, ramps, door openers, and threshold height. PAVA staff also monitored accessibility inside buildings when open. Indoor monitoring included lighting, pathway obstruction, and for elevators/ramps if voting is not conducted on the ground floor level. County Auditors collaborate with local communities in utilizing a variety of local buildings during elections. Buildings used include county courthouses, city offices, churches, community (town) halls, schools, and fire stations. In extremely rural/frontier areas and Native Nations, satellite voting, and private homes are utilized. Seven sites were found to have some form of access issues, including lack of accessible parking signs in designated parking spots, uneven path of travel in parking and poor lighting inside hallway. PAVA provided findings to local County Auditor(s) and continues to collaborate with them to ensure these concerns are being rectified. |
| SD | See PAVA Goal 1, Outreach/Training.  Outreach activities and access to individuals with disabilities were limited due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Prior to the shutdowns due to the Pandemic, DRSD PAVA staff provided in person trainings on DRSD services with a focus on voting rights, the importance of participating in the electoral process and the voting requirements for South Dakota at Community Support Provider programs. Teachwell Transitions allowed DRSD PAVA and PAIR Staff to provide in-person training to teachers and students receiving transition services through Teachwell Transitions during COVID-19. This training included disability voting rights (utilizing a Jeopardy Style game), electoral process participation, being an election worker, and a mock voting session.   When possible, DRSD PAVA staff would provide virtual trainings and outreach to various agencies, including Domestic Violence Shelters, Community Support Providers, Conflict Free Case Managers, Nursing Facilities, Transition Services Programs, Senior Information Network, and Community Mental Health Providers regarding voting rights and election participation during the pandemic. Informational packets were sent to facilities to provide to individuals supported to ensure they were aware of their voting rights and how to participate in the electoral process. |
| SD | See PAVA Goal 1, Outreach/Training.  In addition, there are four agencies which provide Conflict Free Case Management in South Dakota. DRSD PAVA staff conducted a mass email outreach to Conflict Free Case Managers (CFCM) at all four facilities. Information was provided to CFCM’s on voting rights and the process for assisting individuals to register to vote and how to vote by absentee ballot. Included with the emails were a voter registration form, absentee ballot application, and a voting 101 informational sheet.  DRSD PAVA staff conducted a mass email outreach to disability service agencies, including Community Mental Health Centers and residential care facilities. Information was provided to agencies on voting rights and the process for assisting individuals to register to vote and how to vote by absentee ballot. Included with the emails were a voter registration form, absentee ballot application, and a voting 101 informational sheet.  SDCL 12-19-9.1 requires South Dakota County Auditors, or their representative, to go into any Nursing facility, assisted living center, or hospital which has multiple (5 or more) absentee ballot requests to conduct onsite absentee voting at the facility during general elections. To ensure safety of their residents during COVID-19 Pandemic, South Dakota Nursing Facilities stopped allowing individuals who were not staff access to their facilities.  DRSD PAVA, PADD and PAIR program leads collaborated calling nursing facilities to ensure residents were able to exercise their right to vote. DRSD staff provided information to nursing facility staff regarding conducting absentee voting and provided suggestions on ways a County Auditor could conduct absentee voting safely. DRSD staff contacted 103 facilities which fall under SDCL 12-19-9.1, determining a total of 1,855 individuals were able to vote via absentee ballot. |
| SD | DRSD's approach to Monitoring begins by selecting facilities/service providers. DRSD identifies facilities and service providers to monitor by evaluating information from DRSD intake staff and case handlers, information from public sources/service providers, incident reports, client reports, and other sources. Monitoring teams generally include two staff and they typically monitor a total of three times over a three-month period. The first day of monitoring is an announced visit, as we want to make sure the administrator will be available to provide a tour and to interview. Subsequent visits may be announced or unannounced. In addition to meeting with individuals with disabilities, monitoring staff also meet with non-administrative staff, using interview forms DRSD has created to steer the conversation to obtain information about the agency's practices in several areas. Monitoring staff also complete an Observation Checklist that looks at many areas of potential safety concerns. Monitoring takes place at an agency's main facility, as well as at individual residences (with the individuals' permission). An important element of monitoring is developing relationships between DRSD staff and the people living or working in that facility. These relationships promote contact and future calls to DRSD by participants to address concerns. DRSD also offers to provide rights training for individuals and staff. As a result of Monitoring, DRSD shares findings, concerns, and recommendations with the facility/service provider and follows-up as needed. If working with the agency does not resolve concerns, DRSD may open an investigation or forward the concerns to applicable regulatory agencies.  PADD, PAAT, PATBI, and PAVA each participate in Monitoring. While PADD is limited to providers serving individuals with developmental disabilities, PAAT may participate at any location, PAVA may participate at any provider with individuals at or near voting age, and PATBI may participate at any provider that may serve individuals with a TBI.   In FY 2020, DRSD's ability to monitor facilities/service providers was significantly impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Some monitoring had to be completed through virtual means, such as via Zoom. |
| UT | IMPACTING POSITIVE VOTING STATUTE FOR ELECTIONS HELD DURING THE PANDEMIC: The legislature met for a special session to consider issues and government activities impacted by Covid-19 and the need for social distancing. Due to our advocacy and technical assistance efforts, the final version of the bill included provisions for voters with disabilities who have difficulty reading or marking a paper ballot independently, to access accommodations for voting. In some areas, accommodation options were expanded to fit the unique needs of the voter, rather than the one choice of voting on a ballot marking device at the county clerk’s office. A few counties began offering electronic ballot transmittal and some would deliver a ballot marking device to the voter’s home. We were also successful in adding a requirement that each county must inform voters about the availability of accommodations and how to access them through: the county website, public notices, and with the mailed ballots.  ADVISED VOTING OFFICIALS THROUGH ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE: Invited to join the County Clerks Association Taskforce to develop guidance for the upcoming election, we sent written recommendations regarding voting to all county clerks. The State supported our position on every point, including the practice of offering accommodations to voters with print disabilities during the full period that other voters have access to their printed ballot, not just on Election Day. Through continued communication efforts prior to the election, we discovered that some counties only planned to offer accommodations on Election Day, reasoning that the Legislature had eliminated early voting for this election. Our PAVA team drafted a letter that was sent to the State Elections Office. We asserted that offering accessible voting options over an extended period is an appropriate accommodation under the ADA. The State agreed and committed to providing this training to the clerks.   VOTER REGISTRATION IN CARE FACILITIES DURING THE PANDEMIC: We promoted voter registration within care facilities by developing and distributing voter information to recreation directors. Our voter registration binder included information about the National Voter Registration Act, HAVA, and the ADA. We provided Utah-specific voter registration information as well as registration and absentee ballot request forms. In many cases, we also walked through the registration process with care facility staff and answered their questions. In all, we reached staff from 15 assisted living and care facilities. This is an ongoing project that we hope to expand during the coming year.  ACCESSIBLE PARTY CONVENTIONS: We developed resources for political parties planning caucus meetings and conventions. The information was well-received when we met with party leaders.   VOTING COMMUNICATIONS  Our voting team examined the communication practices of each county in Utah. Specifically, we looked at website accessibility and content. While the websites were generally accessible with a screen reader, the information on accommodations and other accessibility info were either absent or difficult to find. We also looked at general voting information such as early voting, same-day voter registration, dropbox and vote center locations, how to access accommodations, and; the availability of accessible voting equipment. Beyond the website information, we looked at press releases sent, social media posts, information mailed with or separately from the ballot, posts at government and community buildings, etc. Once the information was compiled, our findings were disappointing in many areas such as efforts to communicate with voters about accommodations, voting machines, and accessible features. Many counties did not even have current election dates and information on their website. We sent a report to the State Elections Office and each county clerk. It is also available in the original and an accessible format for the public to review on our website. Some counties responded by requesting our technical assistance to improve their websites. Other communication issues were improved when we worked with legislative sponsors to develop temporary voting statutes for elections impacted by Covid-19. |
| VA | Sharing Information  dLCV distributed 489 voter information business cards when participating in various dLCV outreach events and facilitating educational trainings.   We also sent mailings to all 78 Registrar offices across the Commonwealth of Virginia addressing systemic concerns with statewide curbside voting issues. We created a fact sheet on the topic and distributed it in advance of both elections to educate them about proper procedures for curbside voting for the public.  Volunteers Assemble!   dLCV created an online survey for volunteers to use for surveying polling sites. dLCV provided training to prepare volunteers for doing the survey work. Between both elections, we had one hundred twenty (120) volunteers participate in surveying precincts in Richmond, Roanoke, King George County and Blacksburg.  Let’s Hit the Polls  Using our staff and volunteers, dLCV surveyed more than 300 polling sites for physical accessibility during the November 2019 and March 2020 elections. In the November election, dLCV also re-surveyed 18 locations identified in prior elections with accessibility issues. On Super Tuesday, we surveyed 25 new locations and 15 previously problematic locations. The most frequent issue we encountered is no signage for parking and curbside voting. dLCV sent corrective action letters to the registrars who had accessibility issues in their localities, and 10 registrars have agreed to make the needed changes.  Educating the Public   Following successful litigation we brought using other funding, dLCV educated the public about our suit which successfully argued that the failure of Virginia to provide an accessible way for persons with print disabilities to vote absentee in a private manner violates the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Once the order came down, it required Virginia to provide a ballot which can be delivered and completed electronically.  We then utilized PAVA to communicate with Registrars and on how to they planned to create and distribute the ballots. We also received 4 complaints from the community and monitored their situations to ensure they in fact received their accessible ballots. All of the individuals we followed did in fact receive accessible ballots. We are continuing to utilize PAVA to provide education and outreach on the case to the public which benefits approximately 178,000 Virginians with visual disabilities.   Getting the Word Out  dLCV incorporated PAVA voting rights training in multiple outreach and training activities throughout the year to many groups of parents, students, veterans, and advocates. The groups included: Endependence Centers in Arlington and Norfolk, William and Mary, parents groups in Danville and Charlottesville, the Community Services Board (CSB) state conference, Denbigh House, Bridgeline Place, Kenmore Club, MillHouse, Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Veterans Benefits Clinic, Virginia Veterans Care Center, Mason Veterans and Service members Legal Clinic, VDVS Henrico Benefits Office, Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS) Virginia Veterans and Family Services, and Department for Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) Military and Veterans Affairs.   One particularly noteworthy training at the Virginia Board’s Training Alumni Association urged the participants to survey their polling places and covered multiple topics including Virginia’s practices regarding curbside voting as well. The Training Alumni Association offered a statement in opposition to Virginia’s statement that a person seeking to vote curbside must bring a “helper” with them. A member of the Department of Elections was also on the presentation, and he promised to change that statement on the website as soon as possible. We received a response on the issue in early FY 21 and will report the outcome in next year’s PPR. 362 people viewed the event on Facebook Live and an additional 30 persons via zoom.  We reached over 1,892 attendees over the course of these trainings!  dLCV provided case services for 5 individuals this fiscal year on a variety of issues including voting absentee, accessible ballots, and general education about the right to vote. Here are two examples:  Puzzle Solved  Ms. Perez is an individual with a disability who is also Latino. She reached out to dLCV from a dLCV presentation and conversation on a Hispanic radio station. She had questions about her voting rights, voting absentee and how to effectively understand the process. dLCV carefully walked her through the entire process and helped her reach the polls confidently to cast her vote!  Let’s Figure this Out  Beth is a Virginia resident who contacted dLCV with questions about how to access new absentee ballot options for voters with a print disability. dLCV reviewed the new guidelines from the Virginia Board of Elections we helped to create regarding how she should be able to access a print-disability accessible ballot and detailed instructions on how to complete and submit it. Beth expressed concern that her local registrar office does not know anything about these new rules and that they have not even received her original absentee ballot mailed out weeks ago. Using this knowledge, she can vote using new print-accessible ballot options in November.  In FY 20, dLCV created 9 voting rights publications we used to promote the PAVA program and early efforts to advocate for voter education in advance of the November 2020 election. These publications included: a new voting brochure explaining how to vote and general voting accessibility requirements, a voting laws 2020 fact sheet, an exercising your right to vote fact sheet, ID requirements 2020 fact sheet, and an absentee voting fact sheet explaining what absentee voting is, how to vote absentee, and the changes to absentee voting in 2020. Staff utilized these publications in voter education visits to Assisted Living Facilities and many other community groups in the fourth quarter and beginning of FY 21. Next Year’s PAVA PPR will provide a complete report of the impact of these numerous outreach activities to support the November 2020 election. |
| VT | DRVT staff has continued to work closely with the Vermont Secretary of State’s Election Division (SOS) on areas including educating the public and voting officials about the rights of voters with disabilities, accessible voting technology, disability etiquette and resources to assist voters with disabilities. DRVT’s collaboration with the SOS Election Divisions has been helpful by increasing the exposure, through the SOS Elections Division, of our voting support and services to even more Vermonters than we would be able to reach without the SOS’s support.  With important financial support and planning input from the Vermont Secretary of State’s (SOS) Elections Division, DRVT initiated a Focus Group Project to learn more about existing barriers to voting faced by Vermonters with disabilities as part of our continuing mission to increase voting access among Vermonters with disabilities. The Focus Group Project was intended to identify whether previous efforts to improve access and turn out have been effective, as well as to identify new proposed solutions people with disabilities themselves recommend to eliminate the existing barriers to voting. DRVT contacted various disability-related organizations around the state to obtain their assistance and convened 10 Focus Groups in FY20. There were 126 participants representing many individuals with a wide variety of disabilities, gender identities, ethnicities including refugees for whom English was a second language, and of different socio-economic statuses.  1. The link for the report is https://disabilityrightsvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Barriers-to-Voting-and-Proposed-Solutions.pdf 2. DRVT issued a joint press release with VT SOS office about our PAVA Focus Group project as well. https://disabilityrightsvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/DRVT-SOS-Press-Release-Voters-with-Disabilities-Focus-Group-Project.pdf 3. DRVT staff were interviewed or featured on local newspaper. See links below:  • https://www.benningtonbanner.com/archives/group-discusses-barriers-to-voting-with-disabilities/article\_0850b365-f929-5832-ab8e-f41b6f749481.html • https://www.mychamplainvalley.com/news/local-news/focus-groups-highlight-barriers-to-voting-for-people-with-disabilities/ |
| VT | DRVT staff conducted 12 polling place accessibility surveys this fiscal year, discussed issues relating to accommodating, produced written report to the town with any ADA violations, and discussed findings with Town Clerk to educate on accessibility issues. The aforementioned DRVT work on polling place accessibility surveys and the collaboration with our SOS and town clerks are examples of the work DRVT did with Vermont and local voting officials. Regarding accessibility surveys, DRVT staff continued to work with local officials to identify effective remedies to inadequacies identified by the access surveys.  DRVT worked with the VT SOS office a for our PAVA Focus Group project from. DRVT staff had several email, telephone, and zoom consultations with SOS Elections Division staff prior to the August Primary Election and leading up the November General Election to help develop and disseminate accessible voting materials and remedy issues of concern regarding new voting processes as a result of COVID-19.   DRVT staff created and distributed a Non-Partisan Voter's Guide for People with Disabilities, providing information and education on voting rights, electoral processes, and candidates running for office to individuals with disabilities and the general public throughout Vermont.  DRVT staff gave training on a NDRN Webinar called "How to Win Friends & Influence Elections Administrators: A Guide to Collaboration". DRVT staff also attended trainings, including but not limited to:  1. The Leadership Conference” Facebook Live discussion, including NDRN and DRPA speakers regarding to barriers to the ballot facing voters with disabilities; 2. “Elections 2020: Are You Ready?” NDRN annual conference closing plenary. |
| WI | Goal 7: Protect the rights of people with disabilities in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic.   Everything was made more difficult in FY 2020 because of COVID.  The COVID-19 outbreak presented us with many opportunities for systemic and individual advocacy. The principal part of state government responsible for policy regarding access to COVID treatments and vaccinations was the Department of Health Services’ State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee-SDMAC. Many of our activities were directed at that entity.   Priority 1: Prevent discrimination against people with IDD and other disabilities in rationing and other policies related to the COVID-19 pandemic.  Litigation  Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers et., al., v Tony Evers, et., al., 2020 AP 687-OA: One of several plaintiffs in original action before Supreme Court of Wisconsin requesting emergency relief of appointment of special master to help reduce the prison population through early or conditional release at high risk for contracting Covid-19.  Case Example  Assisted a woman with autism obtain job coaching services through a new provider after her former support agency abruptly dropped her due to COVID. Client was able to maintain her employment at an essential business throughout the pandemic.   Other Advocacy  State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC). Early in the pandemic DHS convened its SDMAC to address policy issues related to the pandemic. The first issue addressed was the possibility that ventilators would have to be rationed. DRW monitored all meetings of the SDMAC on behalf of ourselves and the Survival Coalition as the Committee discussed the possibility of creating statewide rationing policies. We submitted multiple letters to the Committee Chair and the DHS Secretary offering comments on various aspects of the SDMAC’s make-up and its deliberations. We were successful in advocating for the addition of two members to the Committee who possessed expertise in disability in general and IDD in particular, including the Director of the UCEDD and a nurse who specialized in advocating for people with IDD when they required hospitalization. The disability perspective was entirely lacking in the initial membership of the SDMAC. We also commented whenever the Committee issued draft policy or guidance, weighing in extensively on the various proposals for rationing ventilators. Ultimately, the SDMAC abandoned the attempt to issue prescriptive policy on how hospitals could allocate ventilators and opted for a statement of general guidance applicable to ventilators and other treatments that might become available and might be scarce. The final guidance reflected many of the priorities DRW advocated and did not include several draft principles we had objected to.  Letters to Wisconsin Hospitals: After failure of SDMAC to issue definitive policy on ventilator allocation, DRW wrote to every hospital in Wisconsin (127 total) explaining how they could avoid discriminating against people with disabilities if they found it necessary to ration ventilators. Letter was needed because DHS did not issue guidance on how to ration (see above). Letter also addressed visitation issue-accommodations from COVID visit restrictions in order to accommodate patients with disabilities-particularly those with communication disorders.   SDMAC Ethics Subcommittee. DHS subcommittee of State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC) tasked with developing an ethical framework for guiding DHS in developing distribution priorities for COVID vaccines and therapeutics. DRW representative appointed to represent the disability perspective at twice-weekly meetings for six weeks. Ethical principles adopted by the subcommittee reflected a clear and unequivocal statement of nondiscrimination based on disability in the final framework. This was adopted because DRW was on the subcommittee. Early versions of the statement of nondiscrimination initially omitted disability, then made it conditional. Final version placed disability on equal level with other protected classes (race, age, religion, etc.). Subcommittee was tasked with ensuring that ethical principles would also address issues of health inequities in underserved populations.   Maskless NEMT drivers: DRW complained to DHS after receiving several complaints from people who were being assigned to nonemergency medical transport (NEMT) drivers who were ignoring mask requirements when transporting people to and from medical appointments DHS agreed that NEMT drivers could be required to wear masks and other PPE while transporting NEMT patients. DHS amended contract with statewide NEMT contractor.  ABA Therapy Provider Misconduct: Contacted DHS Medicaid prior authorization unit to  complain about major Behavioral Treatment provider using COVID outbreak as a reason to terminate children from their program and replace them with children from their waitlist who were not concerned with the risk of virus transmission. If a family attempted to suspend in-home therapy due to COVID, provider was issuing termination notices and telling families they could seek services as new clients when they wanted to resume service. But the provider has a waitlist for services, meaning there would likely be a significant delay in resuming services once the pandemic passed. DHS issued letter to provider advising them to cease practice of terminating clients who sought to protect themselves from spread of virus. Family that anonymously complained and caused our DHS contact was able to negotiate a resolution with provider following issuance of DHS letter.  DD Center PPE Complaint: Followed upon anonymous complaint that D Center was insufficiently supplied with PPE in early stage of pandemic. Center responded with evidence that it had sufficient PPE to maintain safe operation.   Isolation Policies: Reviewed and commented on three DHS isolation policies: FDD/SNF; Mental Health Facilities; Secure treatment and correctional facilities.   Priority 2: Ensure students with disabilities are provided with a Free Appropriate Public Education during school closures and in the virtual learning environment.  Case example  Represented fifteen-year-old student with an intellectual disability who was unable to wear a mask due to sensory issues related to her disability. School district was providing 2 days in person and 3 days of virtual instruction. But District wanted parents to sign a waiver of FAPE due to student’s inability to wear a mask. DRW advised against signing waiver of FAPE rights. Met with student’s Special Ed team to ensure that parents’ concerns were heard and team collaborated on suitable solution. The parents and Special Ed team arrived at suitable learning environment arrangement for student which provided 3 days virtual with classmates per week; 2 days work on her own from home; 5 days of school total. No FAPE waiver signed. Student was permitted to ease into doing days in-person at school if she wants.  Other Advocacy  Racine Unified School district COVID-19 Reentry Plan: Participated in planning for re-entry back into school to ensure special education students individual needs are considered along with safety for students. Creating a plan for in-person learning, virtual learning and a hybrid model. DRW was involved in the planning for the following workgroups: Flexible Scheduling, Technology, Instructional Framework, and Special Education. Students were offered in-person learning when necessary as well as AT for students who required it in the virtual platform, support and accommodations for students during all virtual and hybrid models.  Priority 3: Ensure people with disabilities' access to the right to vote during the COVID-19 pandemic.  The 2020 elections held during the pandemic created new challenges, as many people with disabilities have high vulnerability for COVID 19 and were reluctant to vote at their polling place. Social distancing also reduced opportunities for DRW to provide in person assistance with voter registration, photo ID requirements, and education about voter rights and resources. DRW recalibrated our PAVA work to protect the rights of people with disabilities during the pandemic, as noted below.   This work was done in partnership with:  • The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition (DVC), a cross disability coalition that includes disability and aging agencies, and self advocates, coordinated by DRW and the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. Key partners include the 8 Independent Living Centers, WI Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging, People First Wisconsin, and NAMI Wisconsin and affiliates, and the League of Women Voters WI.  • Wisconsin Voting Rights Coalition. A coalition of voting rights, civil rights, and other agencies that emerged in response to the challenges of voting during the pandemic and increased our capacity to reach communities of color.  We identified the following priorities related to COVID-19:  • Ensure people with disabilities' access to the right to vote during the COVID-19 pandemic and advocate for safe voting policies.  • Provide training and support materials for service providers, including direct care providers and care facilities, to support their members to safely assert their voting rights during the pandemic, and in the absence of Special Voting Deputies.   Activities to support these priorities:  • Provided COVID related testimony and recommendations to the Wisconsin Election Commission five times to address voting rights, accessibility, and public health concerns during the pandemic. DRW provided ongoing consultation to/ and with WEC staff on a weekly basis. Voting in care facilities was an area of particular concern given the high vulnerability of residents to COVID 19 and restrictions on outsiders entering care facilities. DRW worked with WEC to provide input on training and reference materials to facility staff, and also partnered on providing virtual trainings that were promoted to facility staff. Planned polling place accessibility audits conducted by WEC and DRW were cancelled due to the pandemic. DRW worked with WEC to develop other strategies to address accessibility. This included updating the DRW Accessibility Checklist which is posted on the WEC website; provision of free accessibility supplies such as signature guides; van accessible signs; wireless doorbells for curbside voting, and curbside voting signage; ne guidance on Wisconsin’s requirements for curbside voting s, provide info about absentee voting; and input on training content for poll workers and clerks. DRW and other disability advocates were speakers for the WEC webinar for municipal clerks on Polling Place Set-up, which addressed a range of accessibility and accommodation issues. 482 individuals viewed the webinar.   • The DRW Voter Hotline saw a significant increase in calls for assistance from voters with disabilities, family members and providers who were concerned about voting safely during COVID. A high percentage of contacts requested assistance with absentee voting. The Milwaukee Election Commission provided DRW Voter Hotline information on their mails which resulted in a high call volume from Milwaukee, Wisconsin’s most diverse community with the greatest number of people with disabilities.  • Developed and/or updated 10 voting fact sheets to include information about safe voting during the pandemic, and the frequent COVID related changes in voting. Materials were available on our website, Facebook page, and mailed at no charge to community members and agencies. We used new methods to distribute materials – for example “Make Your Plan to Vote” was included in food boxes distributed by the Hunger Task Force and by an independent living center.  • Since in-person trainings and outreach events could not be offered during the pandemic, we offered virtual training events, and also developed a series of videos about how to vote safely. Dozens of training and outreach events reached thousands of people with disabilities and their allies. The 7 new videos, as well as videos of some trainings were available on our website, social media and shared by coalition partners. • Since our ability to directly reach voters was limited by the pandemic, we launched a new initiative, “Voting in the Time of Pandemic” to train more services providers including Aging and Disability Resource Center staff, long term care providers, residential providers including nursing home staff, and mental health providers. Training and resources were also provided to staff at psychiatric and IDD facilities operated by the state of Wisconsin. Because voting was now a public health issue, service providers were encouraged to assist their residents and members to vote safely. During the reporting period, 17 trainings were held to inform providers about how to support members with voting safely. Thousands of providers participated.   • To inform voters and service providers during the pandemic, we increased the frequency and reach of the DVC e-newsletter. During the reporting period, 18 issues were released that addressed COVID related concerns. The e-newsletter reaches thousands of services providers, community partners, and voters. In addition to the DVC email list, the e-newsletters are shared by the Department of Health Services (DHS) to their listservs (over 11,000 people), the Wisconsin Aging Network, and the Mental Health Task Force / Make It Work Milwaukee listservs, BPDD, and other coalition partners.  • COVID-19 increased barriers for people with disabilities to obtain a photo ID for voting. DMV offices were closed due to the pandemic and open by appointment only. Limited access to transportation, especially lift equipped transportation, has been an ongoing barrier to obtaining photo ID; the need to isolate during the pandemic further exacerbated transportation barriers. DRW worked with the Dept. of Transportation and the Governor’s office to elevate the need to expand access to options to obtain photo ID.  DRW increased awareness of voting rights and safe voting through media coverage during the pandemic. Two press events were held; nine press statements were released that related to voting and the pandemic, and nine media stories included DRW perspectives regarding COVID and voting. |
| WI | Priority 1: Assist people with disabilities to exercise their rights under the law to fully participate in the electoral process.   The reporting period included four statewide elections: February, April, and August, as well as outreach, training, and policy advocacy in advance of the November election. The 2020 elections held during the pandemic created new challenges, as many people with disabilities have high vulnerability for COVID 19 and were reluctant to vote at their polling place. Social distancing also reduced opportunities for DRW to provide in person assistance with voter registration, photo ID requirements, and education about voter rights and resources. Finally, the process for voting, especially absentee voting, changed repeatedly as a result of litigation and evolving guidance. DRW recalibrated our PAVA work to protect the rights of people with disabilities during the pandemic, as explained in this narrative.   This work was done in partnership with:  \*The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition (DVC), a cross disability coalition that includes disability and aging agencies, and self advocates, coordinated by DRW and the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. Key coalition partners include the 8 Independent Living Centers, WI Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging, People First Wisconsin, NAMI Wisconsin and affiliates, and the League of Women Voters WI, in addition to DRW and BPDD.  \*Wisconsin Voting Rights Coalition. A coalition of voting rights, civil rights, and other agencies that emerged in response to the challenges of voting during the pandemic and increased our capacity to reach communities of color. Key members include All Voting Is Local, ACLU, Common Cause, Souls to the Polls, Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, Voces de la Frontera, League of Woman Voters of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Conservation Voices, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, and others.    Provide direct assistance and education to voters with disabilities regarding voter registration, absentee voting, casting a ballot at their polling place, and voter rights including development of a new video training curriculum.   The DRW Voter Hotline is open year round. Call volume during the reporting period was higher than usual for the April and August elections, largely in part due to barriers caused by COVID and confusion about change in voting law/ guidance. Absentee voting related calls were especially high with confusion about how to request an absentee ballot, struggles with the process for uploading photo ID or lack of photo ID, challenges with the witness requirement, and ballots that were late arriving. Callers included providers and case managers seeking guidance and resources on how to help their members/ residents to vote. We also received a number of calls from people with questions about guardianship and voting. For those voting in person, topics included the need for, or denial of accommodations such as curbside voting or assistance with completing a ballot; changes in polling places, long lines, communication challenges, transportation, and major confusion during the April election. DRW also received referrals from other voter hotlines, including Souls to the Polls, and we worked together with our coalition partners, as well as WEC and local clerks to meet voter needs. In addition, we received some referrals from Wisconsin Election Protection and from the network of on site observers coordinated by LWV. We were able to obtain information to support our callers from the on-site observers.    Outreach and Training  From October 1 – mid March, DRW conducted in-person outreach and training events, reaching approximately 2865 people. After mid-March, we shifted to virtual events using the Zoom and Facebook live platforms to reach over 2000 people, as well as sharing information on our Facebook and the DVC website, and providing information by mail. For example, in advance of the April election, we provided three Zoom events on the topic “Voting and COVID 19: Learn the Latest.” Training stressed voting safely during the pandemic voting rights and accommodations, and updates on changing law and practice. Regular virtual updates were provided to People First Wisconsin, the BPDD Living Well self-advocates and agencies, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, long term care agencies, the Mental Health Task Force, and independent living centers.  To support voters and providers with voting during the pandemic, a number of new videos were developed and shared on our website, Facebook, and promoted in our email newsletter. Topics included the following:  \*“Consider Becoming a Poll Worker” to encourage more voters with disabilities to serve as poll workers, how poll workers with disabilities can contribute to creating a welcoming accessible voting experience.  \*Wisconsin Youth Voices on voting, featuring youth with disabilities encouraging other youth to vote. \*Absentee voting: how to videos as well as video from voter with a disability \*A series of videos on the ADA 30th featuring Wisconsinites with a disability reflecting on the impact of the ADA including on voting rights, and the continued challenges to accessibility, including the need for an accessible absentee ballot.  \*2020 election instruction video series. A series of 5 instructional videos on the following topics: Absentee Voting, People First Voting Basics, Voter Registration and Photo ID, In-Person Voting, Voting Rights.  The DVC developed and distributed a new poster to increase awareness in the disability community of the 2020 elections and of voting resources. The poster features 4 of our Voter Spotlights - Wisconsinites with disabilities sharing why they vote.  DRW redesigned the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition website (https://disabilityvote.org/) to provide full accessibility and a new look, with updated content. All coalition fact sheets and videos are posted on the website, as is the DVC e-newsletter, policy updates, and current news.  Our postcard campaign continued with free postcards available in English and Spanish to provide the basics for voters with disabilities. ADRCs, disability organizations, the Living Well project, and others partnered with us to distribute postcards. Over 50,000 postcards were distributed. We developed and/or updated ten fact-sheets to support voters with participation in the 2020 elections. Fact sheets were available on the DVC website to be viewed or printed, and we also mailed copies of materials. The “Make Your Plan to Vote” fact sheet was shared in food boxes by the Milwaukee Hunger Task Force, and the Milwaukee CIL, Independence First. The fact sheets included the following:  -Supreme Court Fact Sheet -Election day Accessibility Checklist -Supporting Voters as Residential Providers -DVC Frequently Asked Questions– updated -Census Fact Sheet -Make Your Plan to Vote November 3rd - Milwaukee area -Make Your Plan to Vote November 3rd - Statewide -Absentee Voting Fact Sheet – 2020 Elections -Guardianship and Voting- Restoring your Right to Vote -Voting Rights Fact Sheet  To inform voters and service providers during the pandemic, we increased the frequency and reach of the DVC e-newsletter. During the reporting period, 18 issues were released that addressed COVID related concerns. The e-newsletter reaches thousands of services providers, community partners, and voters. In addition to the DVC email list (649), the e-newsletters are shared by the Department of Health Services (DHS) to their listservs (over 11,000 people), the Wisconsin Aging Network, and the Mental Health Task Force / Make It Work Milwaukee listservs (868), BPDD (2500), and by other coalition partners.  During the pandemic, DRW worked to protect the voting rights of residents of care facilities. Because of the high vulnerability of residents to COVID 19 and restrictions on outsiders entering care facilities, the WEC decided not to move forward with dispatching special voting deputies to conduct in-person absentee voting. DRW supported this decision, but recommended a menu of alternative options to support voting in care facilities. DRW worked with WEC to provide input on training and reference materials for facility staff, and also partnered on providing virtual trainings that were promoted to facility staff.    Work with the Disability Vote Coalition to grow the coalition and increase the number of organizations and individuals around the state working to advance our mission and to engage voters statewide.   \*The Disability Vote Coalition increased our impact and partnerships this year. Our partnership with the Independent Living Centers great and strengthened with regular participation from each of the CILs, and coalition leadership roles from three CILS.   \*DRW participated in the new Wisconsin Voting Rights Coalition (explained earlier in this narrative) which expanded the number of organizations advocating and educating about disability related voting rights and accommodations, and provided new opportunities to engage with diverse communities.   \*Since our ability to directly reach voters was limited by the pandemic, we launched a new initiative, “Voting in the Time of Pandemic” to train more services providers including Aging and Disability Resource Center staff, long term care providers, residential providers including nursing home staff, and mental health providers. Training and resources were also provided to staff at psychiatric and IDD facilities operated by the state of Wisconsin. Because voting was now a public health issue, service providers were encouraged to assist their residents and members to vote safely. During the reporting period, 17 trainings were held to inform providers about how to support members with voting safely. Thousands of providers participated. Service providers also accessed the DRW Voter Hotline, and helped to distribute our postcards, fact sheets and posters to voters.   Increase awareness and usage of the Wisconsin Election Commission complaint process and support voters to make complaints.   In response to recommendations from DRW and other disability advocates, the WEC developed a new online form for votes to report accessibility related concerns. We used a variety of strategies to promote the options for making a complaint, both informal and formal, and promoted these with regular social media posts, covered in trainings, and in several factsheets (FAQ and Voter Rights). We also mentioned the options to make a complaint to Hotline callers. The number of reported complaints to WEC remained low during the reporting period and we will continue our efforts to see that more disabled voters who contact us with a complaint, also report that concern to the WEC so the problem can be addressed. For example, one blind voter reported her concern that only one headset was available for the accessible voting machine with no provisions for sanitizing. We helped guide her on how to make a complaint to her municipal clerk, as well as to WEC. The local clerks took action to address this at all polling places, and the WEC addressed it statewide in guidance to clerks. .   \*Provide outreach and education regarding voting rights for individuals under guardianship and the process to petition for restoration of voting rights. With the leadership of Managing Attorney Mitch Hagopian, DRW developed a new fact sheet to explain the process for individuals under guardianship who have lost the right to vote to petition for their right to vote to be restored. Circuit Court judges review the document and provided feedback. Two virtual trainings were held to educate people with IDD and their allies about the process to retore voting rights.   \*Provide resources for voters with disabilities to be informed voters.  DRW/ DVC held a Milwaukee County Executive Candidate Forum January 14th at IndependenceFirst which focused on disability, mental health, and aging issues. The forum was moderated by DRW’s Barbara Beckert with a panel of community advocates asking questions. WUMM and Wisconsin Health News covered the forum. We provided Key Questions for Congressional Candidates, and Key Questions for State Candidates for voters with disabilities members to ask the candidates. They were promoted on social media, and at virtual trainings. Virtual trainings and social media posts addressed how to be an informed voter. One of the key resources we promoted is the LWV VOTE411 website.  \*Provide resources to educate candidates about the disability vote and priorities for the disability community and engage the grassroots to educate candidates.  In partnership with Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations, the DVC contributed to a news resource to educate candidates about disability issues: Issues that Impact People with Disabilities in Wisconsin: Background Papers. The document provided background and policy recommendations to candidates on a wide range of issues includes home and community based long term care, Medicaid, employment, education, mental health, supporting children with disabilities, transportation, voting rights, and workforce. The document was disseminated to people with disabilities, family members, advocates and service providers to share with candidates for office.    Voter Experience Surveys  To gather information from voters with disabilities and their allies about their voting experience to inform our advocacy and training, DRW helped to administer the following surveys:  \*Disability Vote coalition Voter Experience survey regarding the April 2020 election.  \*Wisconsin Election Protection 2020 Spring Election Report: Report from Non-Partisan Observers of Voting in the April 7, 2020 Presidential Primary and Spring Election.   \*DRW also served on the planning committee for the SABE GoVoter Survey.   Media  DRW increased awareness of voting rights and safe voting through media coverage. During the reporting period, four press events were held; fifteen press statements were released, and 16 media stories included DRW perspectives regarding voting rights and accessibility.    Priority 2: Improve the accessibility of Wisconsin elections for voters with disabilities.     Work with coalition partners and policy makers to provide voters with disabilities to equitable access to absentee voting by implementing an ADA compliant screen reader accessible absentee ballot.   The pandemic elevated Wisconsin’s inequitable access to absentee voting for voters with print disabilities. With the leadership of our coalition partner Wisconsin Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired, DRW educated the WEC and legislators, voters with disabilities, and our coalition partners about the need to provide equitable access to absentee voting.   WEC staff moved forward with testing an accessible ballot that could be requested, and provided by e-mail. However, In June of 2020, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago issued a unanimous decision that banned most voters from having absentee ballots mailed to them.   DRW continued our work with coalition partners to provide education about the need to change Wisconsin law. The lack of equitable access to absentee voting was highlighted in our ADA video series, in a virtual event “A Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Its Impact on Voting Rights” hosted by All Voting Is Local”, and in a virtual training for voters with vision loss.    Engage in systems advocacy to increase access to Wisconsin DMV locations to improve access to state photo ID for voting for voters with a disability. This includes expanded hours of operation and locations, as well as lack of ADA accessibility at some locations.   DMV sites are the only location for non-drivers to obtain access to a photo ID for voting. A high percentage of Wisconsinites with disabilities are non-drivers, and many experience barriers to obtaining a photo ID for voting. Limited access to transportation, especially lift equipped transportation, has been an ongoing barrier to obtaining photo ID; the need to isolate during the pandemic further exacerbated transportation barriers. In addition, DMV offices were closed due to the pandemic and open by appointment only. To address these barriers, DRW worked with the Dept. of Transportation (DOT) and the Governor’s office to elevate the need to expand access to options to obtain photo ID. In response to our advocacy, DMV opened a new location in Dane County, re-opened a number of DMV locations, and added some Saturday hours in advance of the fall election.   DRW was also appointed to serve on a new Non-Driver Advisory Committee established by DOT. It has provided a forum to elevate concerns about access to DOT for photo ID.    Improve the accessibility of Wisconsin polling places by providing education and resources on accessibility for Wisconsin clerks and poll workers, through partnering with the Wisconsin Election Commission to develop and enhance training and resources.  DRW continues to serve on the WEC Accessibility Advisory Committee, and to take an active role in providing recommendations to WEC to address accessibility and voter rights, including recommendations on training content for clerks and poll workers DRW provided COVID related testimony and recommendations to the Wisconsin Election Commission five times to address voting rights, accessibility, and public health concerns during the pandemic. DRW participated in ongoing consultation to/ and with WEC staff on a weekly basis.  DRW updated our Election day Accessibility Checklist which is a resource for Wisconsin clerks and poll workers. The Checklist is posted on the WEC website and noted as a resource in communications to Wisconsin clerks and in WEC trainings.   DRW and other disability advocates were speakers for the WEC webinar for municipal clerks on Polling Place Set-up, which addressed a range of accessibility and accommodation issues. 482 individuals viewed the webinar.  Planned polling place accessibility audits conducted by WEC and DRW were cancelled due to the pandemic. DRW worked with WEC to develop other strategies to address accessibility. This included updating the DRW Accessibility Checklist which is posted on the WEC website; provision of free accessibility supplies such as signature guides; van accessible signs; wireless doorbells for curbside voting, and curbside voting signage; updated guidance on Wisconsin’s requirements for curbside voting, a mailing of absentee ballot applications to all registered voters who don’t have a request on file, guidance on the absentee voting process including who can qualify as an indefinitely confined voter; and input on training content for poll workers and clerks.    Work with Wisconsin Voting Rights Coalition and Disability Vote Coalition to monitor voting and address rights violations on election day.   DRW was a part of Wisconsin Election Protection efforts, as the designated resource to provide technical assistance on disability related issues. In addition, under the umbrella of the Wisconsin Voting Rights Coalition, the LWV of WI organized a state wide network of election day observers. DRW provided input on the checklist and protocol for observers to include accessibility and voting rights concerns. We were part of the online group of observers that used an App to report concerns and flag polling place problems and helped with a rapid response strategy. For example, in the April election, we were able to get guidance from observers at the five Milwaukee polling places to support disabled voters to access curbside voting.    Other policy achievements to increase access  \*WI Act 48. On November 22, 2019, Governor Evers signed into law Wisconsin Act 48 (AB-168), relating to the requirement for stating name and address prior to voting. This change in the law allows individuals who cannot state their name and address to have an election official or another individual selected by the voter state the name and address for them. The need for this change was based on complaints from contacts made to the DRW Voter Hotline regarding voters who experienced discrimination at their polling place related to this requirements. The bill signing in River Falls was well attended with a sea of blue Disability Vote Coalition Shirts. Past BPDD Board member Ramsey Lee had the honor of introducing Governor Evers.   \*Voters with criminal convictions. DRW worked with WEC and the Dept. of Corrections (DOC) to improve the communication regarding voting right for individuals who committee a felony and had their voting rights restored. WEC made changes to MyVote so it no longer shows “felon” as the voter status. DOC is working with the Division of Community Corrections staff to advance additional language for the discharge certificate, making it very clear not only where they go to register to vote, but also the fact that they are required to re-register. DOC will continue to update that certificate to clarify their rights post-discharge.  \*2020 Census. DRW took an active role in promoting participation of people with disabilities in the census. DRW’s Barbara Beckert was appointed by Governor Evers to serve on the state’s 2020 Census Complete Count Committee and provided guidance on outreach to people with disabilities. The DVC “Census Guide for People with Disabilities” was released in February and has been widely distributed. In partnership with self-advocates, DRW participated in a video on Why the Census Is Important which was shared on the BPDD Self Determination You Tube channel to promote full participation in the Census. |
| WI | PADD, PATBI and PAAT Planning Process  STEP 1: DRW Board conducted virtual listening sessions in conjunction with board meetings during 2020. Notes from those listening sessions were reviewed by the PADD coordinator.  STEP 2: The School & Civil Rights and Community & Institutions teams met virtually in August to review team goals and priorities. Since the teams have multiple funding sources, this process included discussion of, and adoption of, goals and priorities for DRW clients with physical disabilities, mental illness and/or traumatic brain injury in addition to people who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. Discussion of AT issues was woven throughout the meetings. This process involved discussion of data received during the year related to priority areas. Case experience and trends were considered. Following the team meetings, the PADD Coordinator reviewed the notes from the meetings and identified which particular goals and priorities were aimed in whole or in part at people with IDD.   STEP 3: The PADD Coordinator, the PAAT Coordinator, and the PATBI Coordinator reviewed the notes from the listening sessions and team meetings, examined case data derived from DAD, and considered information received during the calendar year from our service on various administrative agency committees and workgroups, including: Long Term Care Council (Department of Health Services-DHS), Children’s Long Term Support Advisory Committee (DHS), IRIS Advisory Committee (DHS) Quarterly Meetings with DHS, PT/OT and SLP providers (DHS), Children with Disabilities in the Child Welfare System Standards and Training Workgroup (DCF), Act 185 Programming Workgroup and Girls Committee, Children and Youth Committee of the Mental Health Council (DHS), Office of Children’s Mental Health’s Collective Impact Executive Council (DHS, DCF, DPI, DOC), Coalition for Expanding School Based Mental Health, and Children Come First Advisory Committee (DHS). The Coordinator then drafted an initial group of PADD Goals and Priorities.  STEP 4: The PATBI and PAAT plans were completed at this time.   STEP 5: The initial draft of the PADD plan was then circulated to all employees who are supported by PADD funding or who regularly work with PADD eligible clients with the support of other funding (Public Policy Director, FCIOP program staff, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) coordinator, and the SSI Managed Care Program Manager). Their comments were considered and, where appropriate, incorporated into the “Draft PADD SGP” which would be made available to the public for comment.  STEP 6: On October 6, 2020 we presented our “Draft PADD SGP” to the University Center for Excellence, Developmental Disabilities consumer advisory committee. Consensus was that the Draft SGP was good and the committee supported it as written. Individual advisory committee members were also encouraged to comment on the document.  STEP 7: Our “Draft PADD SGP” was formally released for a 48-day public comment period on October 13, 2020. It was posted to our website on that date. The document included instructions for how people could provide comments and the deadline to ensure that their comments would be considered (November 30, 2020). In addition, we sent the document to the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, the membership of the Survival Coalition (statewide coalition of disability organizations), the Independent Living Centers, The ARC Wisconsin, and Save IRIS. This year we received one comment on our proposed plan. That comment was detailed and supported our propsed goals and priorities.  STEP 8: Presented our Draft PADD SGP to the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (Wisconsin's CDD) at its November meeting (November 18, 2020). BPDD engaged in a lively dialog regarding our proposed plan and the issues facing people with IDD and endorsed the Draft SGP.  STEP 9: Made final changes to Final Draft of our PADD SGP.  PAVA Priority Setting and Plan Development   Because of the nature of the work done through PAVA, we have a separate plan development process.  DRW develops and tracks an annual PAVA plan, which is developed with input and collaboration from the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition and other partners. The PAVA plan and priorities are informed by input from the following coalition partners and resources.  DRW coordinates the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition (DVC), in partnership with the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD). We develop a Coalition plan of work, which is incorporated within the DRW PAVA plan, in addition to DRW specific activities. The coalition meets monthly and has an annual planning meeting. This cross-disability coalition includes voters with disabilities, advocates, and service providers. In addition to DRW and BPDD participating organizations include People First Wisconsin, the 8 Wisconsin independent living centers, Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, NAMI Wisconsin, Wisconsin Association of the Deaf, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, and many others.  In March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the significant impact on the 2020 elections, we added an additional goal to assist voters with disabilities in participating in the electoral process. The goal included the need to address health and safety concerns, as well as the constraints and changing election rules due to COVID-19.  The unique challenges created by COVID 19 required that we be nimble and adapt our plans to include an increased focus on absentee voting, develop new resource and training materials, and train service providers to support their members and residents with voting safely during the pandemic. We used monthly coalition meetings to recalibrate and update our plan and outreach strategies. In addition, we participated in a new coalition, Wisconsin Voting Rights Coalition which met on weekly basis for much of the year, to address the ongoing COVID related changes and advocate for policy changes. The Coalition advocates for the rights of voters including but not limited to votes with disabilities, voters from underserved communities, and other marginalized groups. Partners include ACLU of Wisconsin, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, All Voting Is Local, Wisconsin Conservation Voices, Wisconsin Voices, Souls to the Polls, and Voces De La Frontera.  As input for our planning process, DRW and the DVC used several surveys: • Results of Disability Vote coalition surveys conducted regarding voter experiences in August 2018 election, November 2018 election, and April 2020 election. • A May 2020 survey of DVC members to get their concerns and priorities to guide our planning. • Wisconsin Election Protection 2020 Spring Election Report: Report from Non-Partisan Observers of Voting in the April 7, 2020 Presidential Primary and Spring Election  Calls to the DRW Voter Hotline are an important input for our PAVA plan. We log and track calls and identify concerns barriers reported by callers to guide priorities for the plan. Call volume was especially high this year because of the pandemic; barriers identified by callers were vitally important to informing changes in our plan and in our outreach and training methods. In addition, we received input from community members through social media, including the Disability Vote Coalition and DRW Facebook pages.  DRW participates in the Wisconsin Election Commission Accessibility Advisory Committee which has quarterly meetings. Issues and barriers identified by this Committee were used to develop the PAVA priorities and plan.  DRW also receives input for the PAVA plan from other coalitions and committees regarding voter experiences and barriers, and these are used to inform our PAVA plan. These include the Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations, Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR), Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force, Wisconsin Council on Mental Health, Shelter and Transitional Housing Task Force, and Aging & Disability Professionals of Wisconsin (ADPAW). Input is also provided from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services including from staff that oversee state psychiatric hospitals, long term care facilities, and other residential providers.  We collaborate on our voting advocacy with organizations representing diverse communities and their perspectives inform our plan. These organizations include the Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin, Alianza Latina Aplicando Soluciones, Souls to the Polls, Wisconsin United Coalition of Mutual Assistance Associations (WUCMAA), and Voces de la Frontera.  DRW P & A staff had the opportunity to provide input to the PAVA plan at the annual planning meeting in August. DRW specific goals were included in the plan, including our role in conducting polling place accessibility audits, providing direct advocacy assistance to voters with disabilities, and staffing the DRW Voter Hotline. Planned accessibility audits were not able to move forward due to COVID 19 restrictions. |
| WV | DRWV assisted 10 individuals, through service requests, regarding voting rights. 4 of these individuals were hospitalized in either a private or state psychiatric hospital, 2 lived in nursing homes, and 2 lived in the community. During each of these service requests, DRWV provided education on voting rights.  In FY 2020, the PAVA Advocate conducted exterior monitoring of 126 polling sites in 5 WV counties. Findings letters, which includes suggestions for ADA compliance, were sent to the County Clerks. Issues found included: • Unstable gravel parking facility surface. • Ramps with incomplete handrail systems • Doorknobs • No access aisle connecting designated accessible street parking • Deteriorated pavement on entrance route • Debris between parking facility and entrance route • Lack of ramp to entrance |
| WV | Numerous posts related to voting are shared on our Facebook page, including important dates for voting registration and absentee ballots.  Vote for Access is a series of five short advocacy videos on the barriers that many disabled voters still face when trying to vote. This non-partisan project is produced by Rooted in Rights and Block by Block Creative, in collaboration with a number of Protection and Advocacy agencies across the country, including DRWV. The goal is to “push for better resources, funding, and awareness to improve accessibility and outreach for disabled voters”. Each episode showcases a specific issue that directly impacts voters with disabilities: attitudinal barriers; access to information; access to the polls; access to alternative voting options; and voter suppression. The host introduced considerations that often aren’t included in conversations about voting rights. She is joined by 16 guests from around the country who speak to their experiences as voters, poll workers, and researchers who can help us understand a better way to ensure equality at the polls. DRWV worked with a state psychiatric hospital and interviewed a long-term forensic patient which was included in the 4th video of the services: Alternatives to Polling Places. He discussed his experience voting absentee and why it is important. They can be found at: https://www.facebook.com/pg/drofwv/videos/?ref=page\_internal   DRWV created another video about how to request an electronic absentee ballot for people with physical disabilities in WV and included a demonstration on how to submit an electronic absentee ballot. It can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIPhMFslQY4&feature=youtu.be   To ensure that nursing home staff and residents were aware of important voting rights information, an Advocate pulled a list of all licensed nursing homes and assisted living facilities to offer information about voting rights including absentee and electronic voting. The Advocate reached 123 of these facilities. DRWV followed up with a mailing that included information about PAVA, flyers with important voting dates, a voting rights poster, absentee voting details, and materials about Democracy Live. A letter and resources about absentee voting to I/DD Waiver service providers through the state.  Because DRWV staff regularly monitor state psychiatric hospitals, an Advocate worked to ensure our voting dates flyers were displayed on the units of at least 1 of the hospitals.  DRWV provided voting rights training to: • 17 people, most of whom were blind, during the Members at Large Chapter Meeting for the National Federation of the Blind of WV (NFBWV) • 85 people during the Fair Shake Network’s Annual Legislative Training Day • 29 people, including at least 11 individuals with disabilities, during a WVATS Advisory Council meeting; this included a demonstration of Democracy Live • 5 inmates at one state prison to better understand when they are again eligible to register and vote after being discharged • 17 agency representatives during a Reentry Council meeting in Mercer County, WV • 39 staff from an agency who serves I/DD Waiver recipients (upon their request) • 31 attendees of the Mountain State Conference on Disabilities |
| WV | We did not have the opportunity to set up our outreach display and/or present for many events beyond March 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. We did however seek out as many opportunities to provide virtual presentations as possible.  DRWV staff set up an outreach display and/or explained all of our federal programs, including PADD, PATBI, PAAT, and PAVA, during 24 events in FY 2021. During all of these events, we attempt to reach individuals that we have not yet served as well as people from diverse ethnic and minority communities.  DRWV’s Program Director was interviewed by People First of WV for a Facebook Live event. She explained each of our federal programs. The video has had 199 views. |
| WV | DRWV presented employment rights training to staff from the Veterans Administration (VA). The event was held at the Roark Sullivan Lifeway Center’s Community Center. Roark Sullivan runs a shelter that serves homeless individuals including veterans. A general outreach about our programs and services was also provided. This training was requested by the VA after DRWV reached out several times. The purpose was for VA staff to better  understand the rights of the homeless veterans they serve and what DRWV can offer. After the presentation, several veterans came in and asked questions about their rights.  DRWV provided training about DRWV’s programs including PADD, PAAT, PATBI, and PAVA, the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services (WVDRS), Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA), and work incentives to 27 individuals, some are veterans, who were accessing a winter freeze shelter in Northern WV. Volunteers and staff were also present.  DRWV promotes employment related training and outreach events through our Facebook page as well. Including posts throughout National Disability Employment Awareness Month.  DRWV worked with Rooted in Rights and other Protection and Advocacy Agencies to create a video about Reasonable Accommodations for Employment of People with Disabilities that was shared on our Facebook pages. It can be found at: https://www.facebook.com/drofwv/videos/1910172849128563/ |
| WY | PAVA staff worked with a County Clerk in testing voting equipment, assessing accessibility in polling places, and preparing an article for the P&A monthly newsletter on the new voting machines in Wyoming which included a picture of the County Clerk. In another county, PAVA staff worked with a County Clerk on curbside voting options for people with disabilities and general accessibility considerations. PAVA designed a flyer on the availability of its Voter Hotline on Primary Election Day and distributed multiple flyers to all 23 County Clerk offices in Wyoming and various providers of services. PAVA staff participated in a virtual open lab in collaboration with the UCEDD in which voting and accessibility were discussed. In addition, a demonstration of voting equipment was provided. PAVA staff responded to various requests from some other County Clerks in which PAVA informational materials were requested, such as the "Voting and Homeless" brochure, "Voting Etiquette," and general "Voting Information". |