



disability**rights** | WISCONSIN




Criminal Justice Program

Disability Rights Wisconsin Priorities in the area of Criminal Justice

- ▶ Overarching principles
 - ▶ Increase deflection of individuals with mental health needs from the criminal justice system
 - ▶ Improve treatment for individuals with mental health needs in the criminal justice system



Disability Rights Wisconsin Priorities in the area of Criminal Justice

- ▶ Abuse and neglect of people with mental health needs in prisons and jails
 - ▶ Access to mental health services
 - ▶ Use of isolation and restraints
- ▶ Access to programming and services in prison for people with mental health needs



What can DRW do to address these priorities?

- Information and Referral
- Individual Case Advocacy
- Systems Advocacy
- Investigations
- Training
- Legal Support and Representation

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- Prison
 - Jail
 - Police
 - Juvenile Justice
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Prison

- ▶ Issues:
 - ▶ Abuse and neglect
 - ▶ Access to appropriate mental health care
 - ▶ Use of restricted housing or isolation
 - ▶ Restraints
 - ▶ Access to programming and services
- ▶ DRW actions:
 - ▶ Reviewing individual cases and providing advocacy
 - ▶ Meeting with DOC officials

Jail

- ▶ Issues:
 - ▶ Continuity of mental health services, including medication
 - ▶ Use of force by jail staff
 - ▶ Instances where death has occurred
- ▶ DRW actions:
 - ▶ Reviewing individual cases and providing advocacy
 - ▶ Investigation into instances where death has occurred

Contacts with police

- ▶ Issues:
 - ▶ “Criminalization” of people having a mental health crisis
 - ▶ How police interact with people in a mental health crisis
- ▶ DRW actions:
 - ▶ Systems Advocacy to re-envision the role of law enforcement and community resources
 - ▶ Participation in Criminal Justice Committee – Wisconsin Council on Mental Health
 - ▶ Statewide reforms to police response

Juvenile Justice issues

- ▶ Issues:
 - ▶ Lincoln Hills / Copper Lake closure
 - ▶ Returning 17-year-olds to the juvenile justice system
- ▶ DRW actions:
 - ▶ Meeting with DOC officials and other stakeholders

Referrals to DRW

- ▶ Conditions of confinement
 - ▶ Access to medication and treatment
 - ▶ Access to programming and services
 - ▶ Abuse or neglect while in custody

Questions?

- ▶ Mike Soukup, Staff Attorney
- ▶ 608-267-0214
- ▶ Email: mikes@drwi.org