2020/2021 Issues Survey

Disability Rights Connecticut (DRCT) is a statewide non-profit organization serving people with disabilities. As Connecticut’s “protection and advocacy system”, DRCT works to eliminate barriers that people with disabilities of all ages face in exercising their civil, legal and human rights. If you would like assistance in completing this survey or would rather speak to a staff member directly to provide your input, please contact us at (860) 297-4300 (voice) or 1-800-842-7303

This survey has been revised to provide more choice and better capture your input.

We hope you will spend a few minutes helping us to identify issues that are most important to the disability community in Connecticut. This will help DRCT to determine the focus of our work for 2020 and 2021.

I am a ...

☐ Person with a disability ☐ Relative or friend of a person with a disability
☐ Parent of a minor child with a disability ☐ Service provider/professional/advocate
☐ Parent of an adult child with a disability ☐ Other ________________________________

To give us a better idea about concerns of various disability groups within Connecticut, please indicate your disability or the disability you are using to base your answers: _____________________________

Optional

Name: ☐ Phone:
Address: ☐ City/State/Zip:
E-mail: ☐ County:

Race/Ethnicity: Optional – you may check more than one

☐ African American ☐ Hispanic/Latino
☐ Native American ☐ Asian American
☐ Pacific Islander ☐ White
DRCT **Monitors and Investigates** complaints and conditions in facilities. Please pick up to **FOUR** places that are most important to monitor and investigate.

- Day Programs
- Department of Corrections facilities
- Group Homes
- Intermediate Care facilities for individuals with I/DD
- Residential Care Homes/Boarding Homes
- State operated and private psychiatric facilities
- Segregated work environments
- Juvenile detention facilities
- Other (please specify) ______________________________________________________

For people who are in **facilities, institutions or shared living environments** (such as community living arrangements), please pick the **THREE** most important issues you would like DRCT to address:

- Human rights issues (informed consent, medical issues, visitation, etc.)
- Right to effective discharge planning to an appropriate community placement
- Right to be free of restraint/seclusion
- Rights of prisoners with disabilities (access to reasonable accommodations, medical and mental health care)
- Rights of children and youth with disabilities in juvenile detention facilities (access to educational, behavioral and mental health services)
- Right to appropriate treatment or quality services & supports
- Rights of people who lack opportunities to participate fully in the community.
- Inadequacies of service system complaint processes to address serious civil and human rights complaints.
- Other (please specify) ______________________________________________________

For people who live in the community, please pick the **THREE** most important issues about **Community Living**:

- Access to community based services (including provider choice, lack of services, difficulty obtaining services)
- Quality of services from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
- Quality of services from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)
- Quality of services from the Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Accessible buildings and parking lots
- Bringing Service Animals into places of public accommodation/housing
- Voting access
- Other (please specify) ______________________________________________________
Please choose the **THREE** most important issues to you in providing **Education** to students with disabilities:

- [ ] Appropriate behavioral supports instead of the use of restraint and/or seclusion.
- [ ] Educating students in the most inclusive, least restrictive environment possible.
- [ ] Securing appropriate transition services for students ages 14-21 moving from secondary to post-secondary education or employment.
- [ ] Rights of special education students who are suspended, expelled or out of school for more than 10 days for reasons related to their disabilities.
- [ ] Rights of special education students to assistive technology including augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)
- [ ] Rights of students who need an accommodation in their college academic environment.
- [ ] Other (please specify) ______________________________________________________

Please choose the **TWO** most important issues that DRCT should address in the area of **Healthcare**:

- [ ] Access to durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, communication devices in homes/community residences, etc.)
- [ ] Access to effective communication (ASL, communication devices, large print, etc.) in health care settings.
- [ ] Access to assistive technology devices necessary for community participation for Medicaid recipients.
- [ ] Access to medical transportation for Medicaid recipients.
- [ ] Lack of accommodations provided in order to access medical information.
- [ ] Other (please specify) ______________________________________________________

From the list of **Employment** issues below, please pick the **THREE** most important issues you would like DRCT to address:

- [ ] Denial of disability-related accommodations needed to maintain/preserve employment.
- [ ] Access to competitive integrated employment (at least minimum wage)
- [ ] Transitioning from sheltered workshop or other segregated employment to working in the community.
- [ ] Disability related discrimination in employment during hiring, advancement or discharge.
- [ ] Access to appropriate vocational rehabilitation services with the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) or the Bureau of Education & Services for the Blind (BESB)
- [ ] Other (please specify) ______________________________________________________

From the list of **RIGHTS** issues below, please pick the **FOUR** most important types of issues DRCT should address systemically:

- [ ] Access to places of public accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (restaurants, hotels, stadiums, offices, etc.)
DRCT promotes self-advocacy through **education and training**. Please choose up to **THREE** topics you would like to see DRCT provide training on:

- Employment and reasonable accommodations
- Rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Alternatives to Guardianship (such as Supported Decision Making)
- Voting Access for people with Disabilities
- Assistive Technology
- Other (please specify) ____________________________________

Looking forward, how much of DRCT’s work do you feel should be **Individual Cases**, versus **Systemic Advocacy**?

*Pick only ONE:*

- DRCT should mostly do cases for individuals
- DRCT should do mostly systemic advocacy
- Other (please specify) ____________________________________

What is the number one thing you want to see DRCT do in the coming years?

______________________________________________________________________________

Please provide any other comments or suggestions about DRCT’s work.

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