

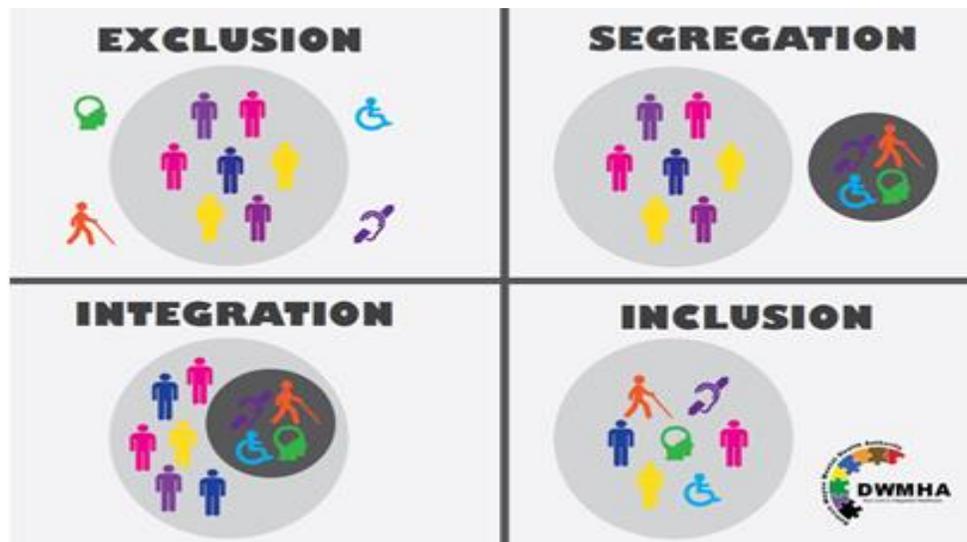
DWIHN Constituents' Voice

The Constituents' Voice (also known as the "CV") is the DWIHN consumer advisory group. The CV members include individuals who have gained valuable experience as recipients of services, and give DWIHN input concerning the design, delivery, evaluation and implementation of policies, procedures and activities, specifically as it relates to community inclusion, i.e., "a personal sense of valued participation and interaction in everyday life."

Since being established in 2014, the CV has impacted the system by:

- Advancing community inclusion via policies, advocacy, educational events and community meetings
- Hosting legislative events to address issues that directly impact people with disabilities
- Rewarding more than \$15,000 in mini grants in increments up to \$500 for consumers to pursue community inclusion goals
- Promoting development of advocates and community leaders within its membership who have raised their voices at the local, state and federal levels

Community Inclusion Graphic



The CV includes primary and secondary consumers, as well as peers and advocates who represent the:

- various types of provider organizations (e.g., substance use, intellectual disabilities, Autism, etc.)
- special interest groups (faith-based, veterans, LGBTQA, ethnicities, etc.), and
- advocacy organizations

The CV is a very active groups and has several projects that it oversees, including the “Dreams Come True” mini-grant program, (formerly George Gaines Roberta Sanders Fund for Community Inclusion) which gives financial awards to service recipients to increase their presence and participation in the community. The body also sponsors various advocacy and community efforts to advance inclusion, such as the “Walk-A-Mile in My Shoes” and other advocacy events in Lansing, MI, voter registration drives and the Reaching for the Stars Gala & Awards Ceremony.

Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month. The meetings are open to the public and are held from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at 707 W. Milwaukee St., Detroit, MI 48202. The CV is staffed by the Customer Services Member Engagement unit under the direction of Donna Coulter, PhD. To learn more information, contact Michael Shaw at 313-344-9099 X 3039.

Hyperlink to Dreams Come True goes to:

The Dreams Come True Fund (formerly the George Gaines and Roberta Sanders Fund for Community Inclusion) is a project of the DWIHN Constituents' Voice consumer advisory group. It was created to support Detroit-Wayne consumers/members who need support pursuing a goal for community inclusion, or a personal sense of valued participation and interaction in everyday life. Awards are up to \$500 per individual. To qualify, applicants must live in Wayne County, MI. and be active recipients of community mental health services. The application submission period occurs at least once a year. Awardees are recognized during the annual “Reaching for the Stars” Gala & Awards Ceremony.

Dreams Come True: A DWIHN Fund for Community Inclusion

For Dreams Come True video click here: <https://youtu.be/B6z2KTrRorQ>

EVOLVE Quarterly Consumer Meeting: EVOLVE stands for “Engaging Voices Offering Love/Laughter/Lessons Validating Experiences.” The meetings occur on the 5th Wednesdays of the year and are open to the public. Meeting locations vary throughout Wayne County.

Walk a Mile In My Shoes is sponsored and designed to enhance public awareness, because legislators need to recognize that people with disabilities matter. Joined by others from the various PIHPs around the state, Detroit-Wayne shows up in the hundreds in Lansing, Michigan at the State Capitol to advocate for:

- putting an end to the stigma related to mental illness, as well as intellectual and developmental disabilities
- ensuring parity (equality) between mental health & physical health care coverage
- promoting whole health and wellness.

Legislative Day: The Legislative Day Event is sponsored by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC) and designed to encourage advocates to meet one-on-one with

their respective lawmakers to discuss issues important to themselves as well as the topics identified within the talking points. The event takes place at the State Capitol.

Next scheduled **Reaching for the Stars:** Reaching for the Stars is an annual event for consumers. It's an evening of dining, dancing and recognition of consumer accomplishments. The events take place in October each year. This year's event is October 18, 2019 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Fellowship Chapel, 7707 W Outer Dr., Detroit, MI 48235.

Healthy Relationships: DWIHN is starting a new trainings series entitled Healthy Relationships. This series is designed to teach adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), and people in their lives about being in relationships. Trained Self-Advocates will cover different types of relationships, appropriate behavior in relationships, sexuality, as well as wanted and unwanted touch. The full series includes 22 sessions that can be customized to the needs of the organization or members, and is available at no cost to the host.

DWIHN Ambassadors: The DWIHN Ambassadors Program includes consumers, family members, advocates and community members who are regionally assigned to promote and educate people who receive services about the supports, services and rights to which they are entitled as service recipients.

DWIHN Community Delegates: DWIHN Community Delegates are a cadre of individuals with life experience receiving community mental health service who are trained and certified to advocate at various levels for their and their peers rights as full citizens.

What are Peer Services?

Peer support services are evidence-based.

Peer Services, both certified and non-certified are Medicaid billable.

Types of Trainings and Certifications:

- Peer Mentors Certification Program ([Peer Mentors: An Emerging Segment of the Detroit Wayne County Health Authority Peer Workforce](#)) For Peer Mentor Video [click here: https://youtu.be/vJv4bZkJrac](#)
- Peer Support Specialist Certification Program
- Recovery Coach Certification Program
- Parent Partner Certification Training Program

- Youth Peer Specialists Training Program
- Community Health Workers Training Program
- Veteran Peers
- Non-Certified Peers