



2022

ANNUAL REPORT

disabilitynetworkwm.org

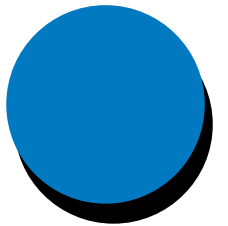
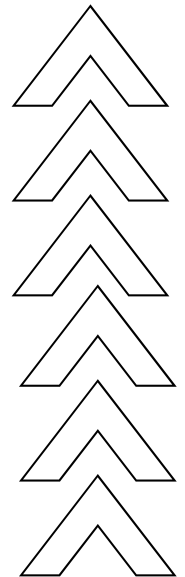


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A WORD FROM OUR INTERIM CEO

As Disability Network West Michigan's Interim CEO, I had the privilege of stepping into the role as successor to Diane Fleser, who spent 5 years serving as the CEO. Thank you, Diane, for your legacy, guidance, and support over the years. While we are sad to see you step down from your role, we are happy to have served with you during this time to fulfill DNWM's mission, and know that you will continue to be our friend. From the entire staff and board at DNWM, we wish you the very best!

Reflecting on the success of 2021-2022, I am reminded of the commitment and passion demonstrated by the DNWM team, supporters, volunteers, and friends. On behalf of the DNWM board, I extend my sincere thanks to all of you.

The past couple of years (due to COVID) have taught us how to be adaptable and identify creative solutions to thrive in an ever-changing environment. As you read through this report, you will see last year's highlights, as well as some challenging areas related to revenue, staffing in rural counties, and continued accessibility concerns.

The DNWM staff continues to raise awareness and visibility in the community through a variety of efforts. The team hosted and actively participated in Parties in the Park 2022 and received feedback from people with and without disabilities, who complimented how accessible the event was due to DNWM's efforts securing and placing MobiMats for wheelchair users, as well as having ASL interpreters for the music and any speaking moments.

As we close out last year with several success stories and ongoing challenges, we invite you to continue with DNWM on this journey of accessibility and inclusiveness for all, in all communities.

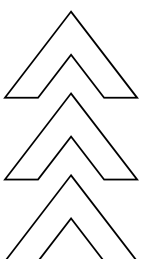
Sincerely,

WILL L. WILSON

INTERIM CEO



Left: Current Interim CEO, **Will L. Wilson** | Right:
Former CEO, **Diane Fleser**
(Annual 2022 Veterans Appreciation Dinner)





Our Mission And Vision



Mission

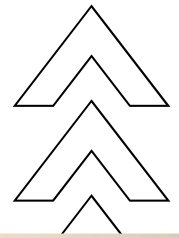
Our mission is to advocate, educate, empower, and provide resources for persons with disabilities. We promote accessible communities, fulfilling our vision of ensuring that accessibility is an accepted civil right.



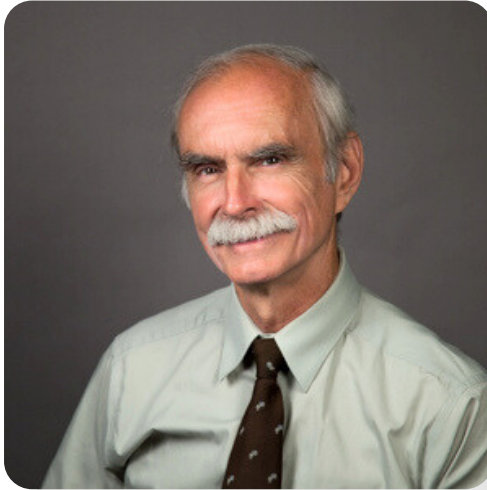
Vision

Accessibility will no longer be an issue; it will be an accepted civil right.

MEET *the* BOARD



Carl Occhipinti
President



Frank Hollister
Vice President



Caryn Vennema
Secretary



Lynne Bosma
Treasurer



Jane Tuls
Member



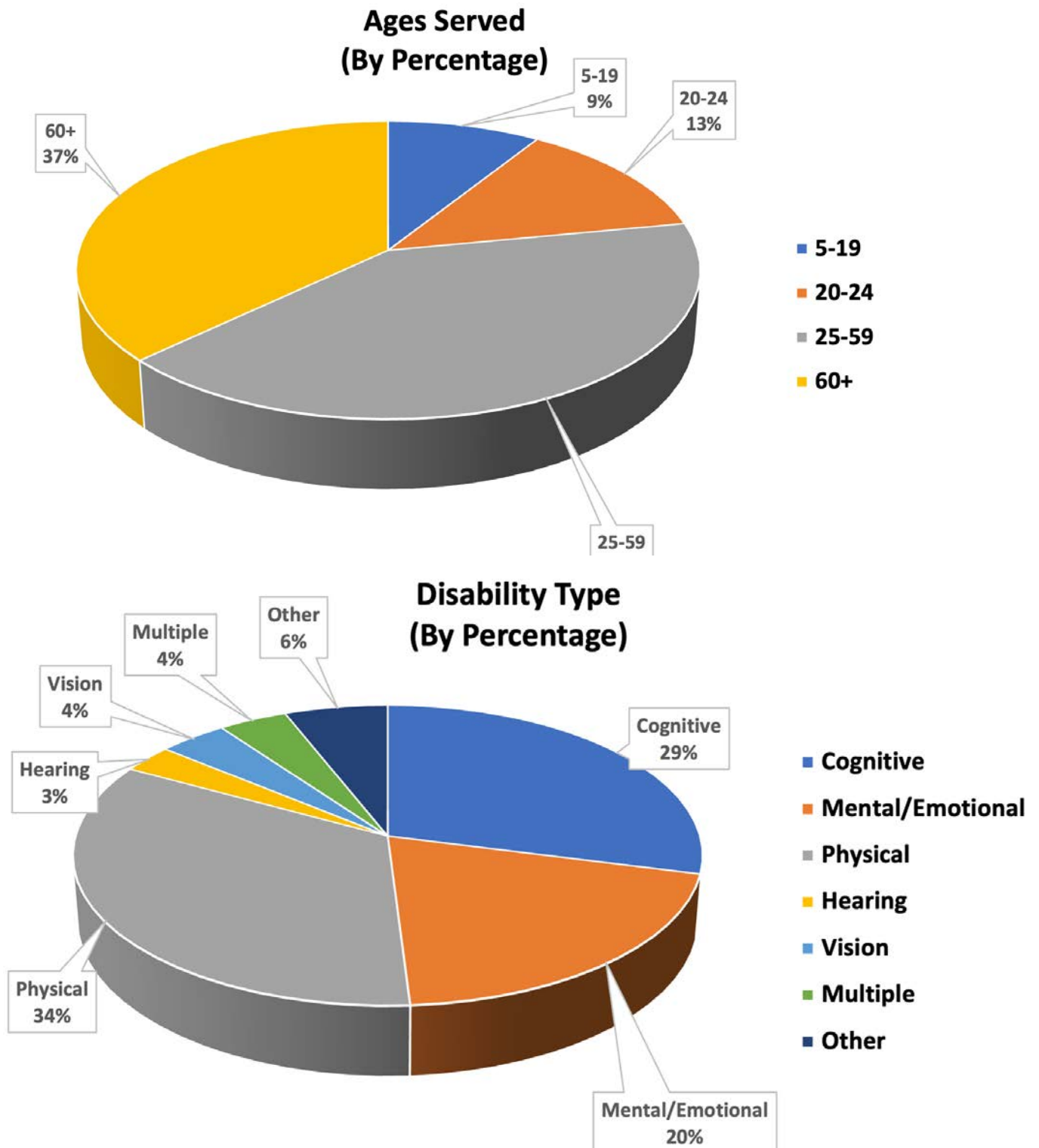
Chris Cole
Member

Disability and Age Demographics

3,652 People Received Services

3,441 Information and Referrals

We serve people with disabilities of ANY age and ALL disability types.



By the Numbers

Disability Decorum Trainings

- We hosted **8** Disability Decorum Trainings.
- **2** of our trainings were open to the public and hosted via Zoom.
- **6** of our trainings were hosted by private entities for staff professional development.

Accessibility Reviews

- We provided **11** Accessibility Reviews to educate entities on the barriers present in their facilities.
- We provided design reviews and letters of support for **4** grant projects to increase accessibility.

This year, we've dedicated **5,806** hours to community and systems advocacy, collaboration, equal access, and community education.

Financial Information

Revenue	
Federal and State Grants	\$ 827,469.00
Local Grants	\$ 153,561.00
Contributions	\$ 34,803.00
Fee For Service Programs	\$ 356,609.00
Interest Income	\$ (26,214.00)
Other Income	\$ 5,760.00
Total	\$ 1,351,988.00

Expenses	
Program Services	\$ 1,025,216.00
Admin/Fund Development	\$ 153,561.00
Total	\$ 1,178,631.00

Making An Impact

DNWM In The Community

Disability Decorum Presentations

In the fiscal year 2021-2022, our Advocacy and Community Education team began developing trainings and delivering them to the community. The first training we focused on was titled "Disability Decorum" which then became "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility." (DEI&A) This training emphasizes the fact that for communities to truly be diverse, equitable, and inclusive, they also need to be accessible to people with disabilities. It discusses the definition of disability, how disability fits into DEI&A, respectfully interacting with people with disabilities, Inclusion, Ableism, and gives an introduction to Centers for Independent Living and the Independent Living Philosophy.



Pictured: Peer Mentor, **Jeffrey VanDyke**
(Muskegon State Park Beach)



Left: ADA Coordinator, **Brad Hastings** |
Right: Peer Mentor, **Jeffrey VanDyke**
(DEIA Presentation)

Track Chair

Disability Network West Michigan staff had the opportunity to work with Visit Muskegon and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to promote the use of the Action Track Chair that is available via reservation, for free, and can be used at Muskegon State Park beach or the Muskegon Luge Adventure Sports Park. In our service region, there are also Action Track Chairs available at Ludington State Park as well as many other Michigan State Parks.

Making An Impact

Parties In The Park

In 2022, Disability Network West Michigan was fortunate enough to be selected to host a Party in the Park, at Hackley Park in Downtown Muskegon. This awesome community event is a fundraiser for the hosting nonprofit organizations and allowed DNWM to raise some unrestricted funds to direct towards expenses and programs that lack grant support. Our party featured local bands Flexadecibel and Aaron Benjamin, and we put some extra focus on being inclusive by having American Sign Language Interpreters, an accessible seating area, and a sensory-friendly pop up tent for people to cool off or get away from the hustle and bustle of the event.



Pictured: **Flexadecibel**
(Parties In The Park | Hackley Park)

Veterans Dinner

Our annual Veteran's Appreciation Dinner was very successful. Our staff raised over \$4000 to support the dinner, including sponsorships and prize donations from 15 local businesses. Photographer Jill Jablonski also donated her time and talents to document the evening. We had 80 people attend including veterans and their guests. It is an honor to recognize, support, and serve those who have served our country.



Pictured: Attendance for 2022 Veterans Dinner

Success Stories

Making a Connection

A 22-year-old who is legally blind, due to a brain aneurysm at the age of 20, came to Disability Network West Michigan and wanted an Independent Living Plan. In this plan, she wanted to connect with the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) to start learning to do things on her own, including taking care of her toddler, using a cell phone, walking on her own, and so much more. Her plan also included applying for Social Security Disability as a source of income because she is currently homeless and wants to find housing. This consumer has been having a difficult time connecting with BSBP due to not having a permanent residence or cell phone number. Once she knew she'd be working with the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, DNWM was able to provide a space for her and the BSBP representative to meet in person. DNWM also assisted with reminder text messages for her, but she has mostly stayed on top of her responsibilities on her own, by keeping in contact with DNWM staff. Through these efforts, she was able to connect BSBP, and will start her program April 3rd, 2023.

Success Stories

Transportation Program

Story #1

"The transportation program has really helped me get out and about more. It has particularly helped with my anxiety and social isolation. I am becoming more comfortable with driving, and little by little, I am able to drive farther. I typically don't drive very far, but it does help me be more independent. It's so nice to get out and go where I need to go. This past week I was able to go to the dentist, which is the farthest I have driven."

Story #2

"We are very appreciative of the transportation program. We typically go to Rockford, which opens the door to being involved in volunteer opportunities or therapeutic horseback riding. I wish there was public transportation in Newaygo County but right now there is not, so this program helps my daughter be able to get out, engage in the community, and do things that she enjoys a little bit more or therapeutic horseback riding. I wish there was public transportation in Newaygo County but right now there is not, so this program helps my daughter be able to get out, engage in the community, and do things that she enjoys a little bit more."

Thank You To Our Incredible Event Sponsors!



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