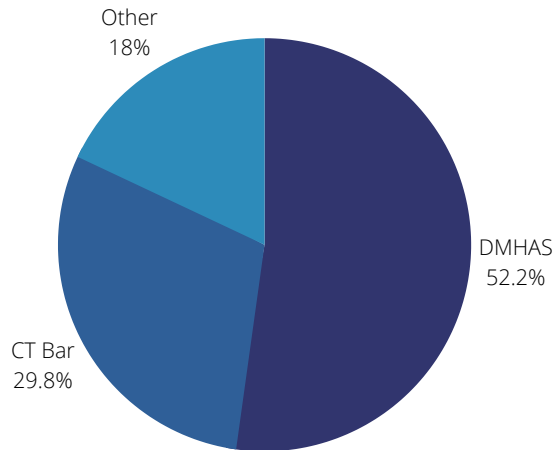
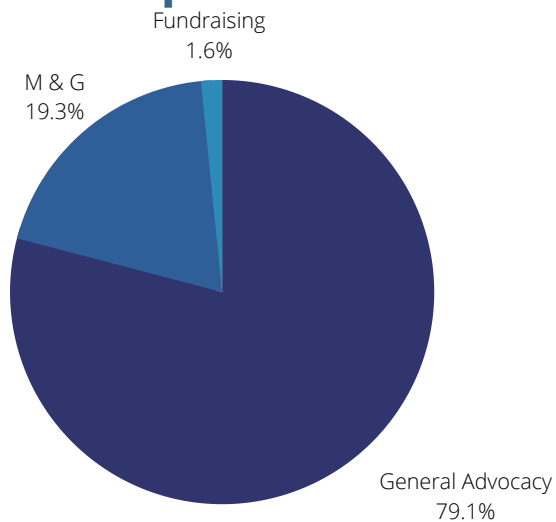


# Financials

## Income



## Expenses



**Net Assets: \$809,926**

# Supporters



IBM Employee Charitable Campaign  
Travelers Employee Charitable Campaign  
PayPal Charitable Giving Fund  
Everyone who has supported our mission

## Board of Directors

Mark Soboslai, Chair  
Dwight Merriam, Vice Chair  
Sarah Gallagher, Treasurer  
Benita Toussaint, Secretary

Cynthia Barlow  
Alan Bowie, Jr.  
Karen DeMeola  
Eliot Gersten  
Daniela Giordano  
Rachel Soboslai



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## Annual Report

7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021



**1-877-402-2299**



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## From the Desk of the Executive Director

### Kathy Flaherty

#### Pivoting in a Pandemic, with an Emphasis on Equity

The concept of time has seemed quite elastic since the world shut down in March 2020. The challenges faced by our clients, especially those in state-operated inpatient facilities, never slowed down. CLRP was able to transition quickly to delivering our services remotely even as the pandemic presented obstacles to our clients' progress in returning to life in the community.

CLRP continued to advocate zealously for our clients' right to receive services in the least restrictive environment appropriate for their needs and to protect their rights under the Patients' Bill of Rights. The litigation brought to address COVID-19 in state-operated facilities was withdrawn in January 2021 once its objectives were accomplished.

There were always exceptions to the broad protections in the eviction moratoria issued to cover tenants, and it seemed as if the landlords of many of CLRP's clients tried to fit their cases into those narrow exceptions. Virtually without fail, once CLRP became involved in a housing case, and either requested a reasonable

accommodation or defended an eviction action, our clients remained housed. Maintaining housing has always been critical to supporting people in mental health recovery; it became even more important during the pandemic.

Probate court proceedings were not put on pause. Individuals with mental health conditions continued to be committed to psychiatric hospitals and face petitions for involuntary conservatorship, forced medication, and forced electroshock. CLRP successfully represented clients in commitment cases from private facilities and has continued to appeal probate court rulings to Superior Court. CLRP has tried to hold conservators accountable for their actions through requesting accountings in Probate Court and filing Superior Court appeals.

CLRP testified at numerous legislative hearings on bills affecting the lives of Connecticut residents with disabilities. CLRP continues to collaborate with Disability Rights Connecticut, the state's protection and advocacy system, to address systemic issues in the forensic mental health system.

The last year has taught us the importance of viewing the work we do through a lens that takes into account all the intersecting marginalizations our clients face: they not only live with mental health conditions, they also live in poverty; they may experience discrimination based on their race, ethnicity, or language difference. Offered mental health services may lack cultural competence regarding issues related to gender identity or be inadequately informed as to the impact of trauma. It is our role as advocates to challenge these systems. We know that these systems must be better if our clients are to have the opportunity to thrive in our communities.

## BY THE NUMBERS

Of the 645 clients served:

203 clients were helped in housing. 99% of all housing clients maintained or had access to housing after representation from CLRP.

188 clients maintained ability to keep self-sufficiency or self determination.

254 clients were represented on inpatient legal issues

CLRP conducted outreach to 1,214 individuals.

CLRP connected 178 callers to other resources.

## CLRP STAFF

- Kathy Flaherty, Esq., Executive Director
- Kirk Lowry, Esq., Legal Director
- Rosemary Marino, Business Manager
- Joanne Bilger
- Lisa Grandjean
- Karyl Lee Hall, Esq.
- Maren Klawiter, Esq.
- Helen Mehm
- Jessica Posada, Esq.
- Adelina Santiago
- Gina Teixeira, Esq.
- Sally Zanger, Esq.