

PAIMI Advisory Council

Roles & Responsibilities

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National Disability Rights Network

The National Disability Rights Network has a vision of a society where people with disabilities have equality of opportunity and are able to participate fully in community life by exercising choice and self-determination.

The Role of NDRN

NDRN is the membership organization for the Protection & Advocacy (P&A) Network and the Client Assistance Program (CAP).

NDRN...

- Facilitates coordination of its members—the P&A Network.
- Represents the P&A's needs to federal agencies & Congress.
- Provides technical assistance and training to the P&As, which enhances their effectiveness on the state and local level.

NDRN's Primary Work

NDRN vigorously:

- Advocates for the enactment and enforcement of laws to protect the civil and human rights of people with disabilities.
- Lobbies for continued and increased funding for the Network.
- Supports the P&As by providing:
 - Training.
 - Technical Assistance.
 - Legislative Advocacy.
 - Legal Support.

Overview of the P&A Network

The P&A Network is the nation's largest provider of legally based advocacy services for people with disabilities.

- There are P&As in all 50 states and the territories (American Samoa, DC, Guam, Northern Marianas Islands, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands). There is also a Native American P&A.
- All P&As work to monitor, investigate, and attempt to remedy adverse conditions in large and small, public and private, facilities that care for people with disabilities.
- P&A's promote full integration of people with disabilities.

Grant Funding

The Following Grants Fund the P&A's Work:

- Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (PADD)
- Client Assistance Program (CAP)
- Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI)
- Protection & Advocacy for Individual Rights (PAIR)
- Protection & Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT)
- Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)
- Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI)
- Protection & Advocacy for Voting Accessibility (PAVA)

P&A Programmatic Work

- P&As teach people with disabilities about their rights and P&A services.
- P&As monitor providers and provide information, training, and referrals to prevent rights violations and ensure the safety of people in their care.
- P&As use their special investigative access authority to investigate abuse and neglect of people receiving services in facilities or in the community.
 - This authority allows the P&As to access records and information about parents and guardians of people with disabilities (with their consent, that of their legal representative, or where there is probable cause of abuse and neglect and certain other conditions are met).

The PAIMI Act

- President Ronald Reagan signed the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 10801).
- The PAIMI act is implemented through P&A systems nationwide.
- The PAIMI Program is administered by the Center for Mental Health Services, US Department of Health and Human Services.
- A key component of the PAIMI Act was to establish an advisory council whose responsibility was to provide P&A's information about issues relating to individuals with disabilities.

What the PAIMI Act Does

The PAIMI Program is Required to:

- Investigate incidents of abuse and neglect of people with mental illness if the incidents are reported to the system or if there is a probable cause to believe that the incidents occurred.
- Protect and advocate for the rights of people with mental illness.

How:

- P&As use their access authority to investigate incidents.
- P&As can investigate based on direct communications, newspaper articles, telephone calls alleging abuse or neglect.

The PAIMI Advisory Council

The PAIMI Act Established an Advisory Council:

- The PAIMI Advisory Council is charged with providing P&A's information about issues relating to individuals with psychiatric disabilities.
- They provide independent advice and recommendations to the P&A system.
- They work jointly with the Governing Board of the P&A in the development of policies and priorities.
- They submit a section of the P&A system's annual report
- If the governing authority is organized as a private nonprofit entity, the Chair of the Advisory Council shall be a member of the Governing Board.

PAIMI Advisory Council Membership

The PAIMI Act Dictates the Advisory Council Include:

- Attorneys and Mental Health Professionals.
- People who are knowledgeable about mental illness and have demonstrated a substantial commitment to improving mental health services.
- A provider of mental health services.
- People who have received or are receiving mental health services and family members of people who have.

The Advisory Council will make every effort to include members of racial and ethnic minority groups.

Membership Requirements

The PAIMI Act Requires that:

- At least 60% of the membership of the Advisory Council be comprised of people or family members of people who have received or are receiving mental health services.
- The Advisory Council be chaired by person or a family member of a person who has received or is receiving mental health services.
- The Advisory Council Chair have a seat on the P&A Governing Board.
- The Advisory Council Chair must meet no less than three times a year.

Membership Terms

The PAIMI Act Requires that:

- The terms of Advisory Council members shall be staggered and for 4 years except that any member appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term shall serve for the remainder of such term.
- An Advisory Council member who has been appointed for a term of 4 years may not be reappointed to the Advisory Council during the 2-year period beginning on the date on which such 4-year term expired.

Advisory Council Purpose

PAIMI Advisory Council Members Act as a Link Between the P&A and the Mental Health Community

Specifically, they:

- Assist the P&A in identifying issues that are of most importance to the mental health community.
- Provide feedback to the P&A staff and the Board of Directors to develop the annual objectives and priorities for the PAIMI program.
- Educate the public about the mission and purpose of the P&A.

Advisory Council Duties

The PAIMI Advisory Council:

- Create and update Council Operating Procedures that determine how the Advisory Council will run.
- Elect a Chair and Vice Chair who should be an individual receiving or have received mental health services or a family member.
- Get support from the PAIMI Coordinator for PAIMI Advisory Council activities and meetings.

Advisory Council Officer Duties

The Officers of the PAIMI Advisory Council:

- The Chair runs the meetings, sets a regular schedule with the full Council, sets the agendas for each meeting, and is responsible for the program performance report. The Chair serves on the Governing Board—and holds the same legal responsibility as all other Board members.
- The Vice Chair prepares the meeting minutes, monitors the attendance record for each meeting, and assists the Chair with setting the agendas.
- The Secretary is responsible for reviewing and submitting the minutes, and maintaining the Advisory Council's policies and procedures.



An Additional Obligation is to report on your activities

- This happens in a report you write to federal government officials known as a PPR. This Program Performance Report details what goals you've accomplished and what you are still working on. It provides information to the government that helps them justify continued funding for the program.

The Coordinator & Advisory Council

The PAIMI Coordinator's Work with the Advisory Council:

- The Coordinator provides the Advisory Council with reports, materials and financial data so that the Advisory Council is able to assess existing program policies, priorities, and performance outcomes.
- The Coordinator should support the work of the Advisory Council and keep them informed of relevant information.

The PAIMI Coordinator is not directed by the Advisory Council, but reports the program's outcomes. The Priorities direct the work of the P&A.

PAIMI Funding Rules

- The Coordinator will annually provide the Advisory Council with a financial report of expenses for the past two fiscal years, and the next fiscal year, by budget category (salaries, contracts, administrative expenses).
- Budgets should include training for the Council, Board, and staff.
- PAIMI funds may be used to pay for all or a part of the expenses incurred by members of the Advisory Council in order to participate in its activities.
- P&As must have reimbursement policies for Advisory Council member expenses, that factor in the needs of individual Advisory Council members, available resources, and restrictions on use of grant funds.

How the Advisory Council Advocates

PAIMI program priorities and policies are established annually by the Governing Board with feedback from the PAIMI Advisory Council

- The PAIMI Advisory Council may hold public input meetings to gather information for priorities.
- The PAIMI Advisory Council may develop other activities that support goals of the priorities of the PAIMI program.
- The PAIMI Advisory Council may educate the public about the services provided by the P&As.

Serving on the Advisory Council

As a Member of the Advisory Council, You Can:

- Assist in the setting the PAIMI priorities.
- Educational opportunities to learn self advocacy skills.
- Opportunities to educate the public and people with mental illness on the rights of people with mental illness and the PAIMI program services.
- Ability to work with the PAIMI program to meet their goals.
- Supporting people that are receiving services to be safe and free from harm.
- Taking on a leadership role in advocacy.
- Assisting to change the mental health system.

Advisory Council Code of Conduct

What are the characteristics of a member in good standing?

Here are some examples:

- Attendance
- Participation in trainings
- Actively engaged in priority setting

Advisory Council Work plans

Strategic Planning for the Advisory Council:

- What are the critical issues you would like to work on in the next year?
- How can you get feedback from the community?
- How can you address issues identified through your P&A goals and priorities?
 - What activities can you do (think of a step by step process) to address these issues?
 - What will be the deadlines and who will take leadership?
 - What support do you need from P&A staff and/or NDRN to enable you to reach your goals?

Questions?

“I am a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let him down...”

- Abraham Lincoln

Thank you for being part of the PAIMI
Advisory Council.



Resources

- **National Disability Rights Network**
 - <http://www.ndrn.org>
- **Bazelon Center**
 - <http://www.bazelon.org>
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**
 - <http://www.samhsa.gov>

Thank You!

*If you would like to talk about how I can help your
PAIMI Advisory Council, please contact me!*

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