



- **Do you want to improve mental health care in Maryland?**
- **Have you or a family member ever received mental health services?**
- **Are you concerned about the safety of people with psychiatric disabilities, especially those who are admitted to psychiatric hospitals?**
- **Are you currently admitted to a psychiatric hospital?**
- **Are you passionate about the rights of people with psychiatric disabilities?**

**If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then you should apply to become a member of Maryland’s PAIMI Advisory Council!**

Membership on the Council provides a unique way for people in Maryland who have contact with the mental health care system to advocate for change while supporting the protection of consumer rights.

## **What is the PAIMI Advisory Council?**

The council is a group of volunteers who serve as advisors for a Maryland-based federal program, called PAIMI, which advocates for people with psychiatric disabilities in order to ensure that they are not being abused or neglected and that their rights are not being violated. PAIMI stands for the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness. Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) operates the PAIMI program in Maryland and largely uses its PAIMI resources to focus on the rights of adults in the five state psychiatric hospitals and children in private and public residential treatment centers.

## **What does the council do?**

PAIMI Advisory Council provides independent advice and recommendation to the state PAIMI program, work with the DRM team to develop PAIMI policies and priorities, and submits an annual report of DRM's PAIMI work.

Members meet regularly, at least four times per year, to discuss issues impacting people in Maryland who are living with a mental illness and are being provided in institutional care instead of community-based care. In-person attendance is encouraged, but joining by telephone via DRM's conference line is also permitted. Expenses incurred traveling to the meeting are reimbursable. The activity level of the Council depends on the members' skill set, passion, and energy. Thus, we are seeking committed advocates who want to support PAIMI work across the state.

## **Who can be a part of the council?**

The strongest councils have members with diverse skills, experiences, and backgrounds. By law, at least 60% of the PAIMI Council must be receiving or have received mental health services or must be a family member of such individual receiving or having received mental health services. At least one family member shall be a primary care giver for an individual who is

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currently a minor child or youth who is receiving or has received mental health services.

DRM values diversity. People of color, individuals with disabilities, and LGBT individuals are especially encouraged to apply.

### **How can I join the council?**

Anyone who is interested should complete and send a PAIMI Advisory Council application to:

Disability Rights Maryland  
ATTN: PAIMI Advisory Council Membership  
1500 Union Avenue  
Suite 2000  
Baltimore, MD 21211