

Advocates Needed: Improving Lives of People with Mental Health Disabilities

Maryland's Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Advisory Council provides a unique way for people in Maryland who have contact with the mental health system to advocate for change while advocating for consumer rights. The PAIMI program is operated by Disability Rights Maryland (DRM), the state's designated Protection & Advocacy agency dedicated to advancing the legal rights of Marylanders with disabilities.

DRM is currently accepting applications for PAIMI members:

- ❖ **Would you like 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 and residential treatment centers?**
- ❖ **Are you passionate about the rights of people with psychiatric disabilities?**

If you answered "yes" to any of the questions above, you should consider applying to become a member of Maryland's PAIMI Advisory Council!



Interested persons 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

Disability Rights Maryland · 1500 Union Ave., Suite 2000 Baltimore, MD 21211 ·
Phone: 410-727-6352 Fax: 410-727-6389
www.DisabilityRightsMD.org

What is the PAIMI Advisory Council?

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. The Council is a group of volunteers who serve as advisors for a Maryland-based federal program, called PAIMI, that advocates for people with psychiatric disabilities to ensure that they are not facing abuse, neglect, or other civil rights violations.

What does the Council do?

The PAIMI Advisory Council:

- Provides independent advice and recommendations to the state PAIMI program.
- Works with DRM to develop PAIMI policies and priorities.
- Submits an annual report of DRM's PAIMI work.

Members meet regularly, 4-6 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 members may also join by telephone via DRM's conference line if necessary. Expenses incurred traveling to the meeting are reimbursable. 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 PAIMI 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 caregiver for an individual who is currently a minor child or youth who is receiving or has received mental health services. DRM values diversity. People of color, individuals with disabilities, LGBTQI individuals and others who contribute to diversity are especially encouraged to apply.

How can I join the Council?

Complete the PAIMI Advisory Council application (found on our website under [PAIMI Advisory Council](#)) and mail it to Disability Rights Maryland, ATTN: PAIMI Advisory Council Membership 1500 Union Avenue, Suite 2000, Baltimore, MD 21211