

PAIMI Advisory Council Report to DRM Board September 2022

Chair: Sheryl Eni

Vice-Chair: TBD at next meeting (after the May meeting; two members volunteered. The plan was to nominate them as Co-Vice-Chairs, but they were not present at the beginning of the September meeting. We will revisit at the next PAC meeting).

DRM's PAIMI Advisory Council (PAC) met on September 6, 2022.

Membership

- The Council now has 12 members. One member of the Council will have a term expiring in September.
- In order to maintain Council membership at the required level of between 11 and 15 members, we are in the process of interviewing new PAIMI Council members. The membership committee interviewed two candidates at the end of August. Next steps will be taken to determine whether these two candidates will be recommended for PAC Membership. There are also several more applications for the committee to review.

Staff Reports

- **New Staff** – The Mental Health team has added two new staff members, a new staff attorney and a new advocate. We also have a legal intern who was with us for the summer, a 3L in law school, staying on for the fall.
- **Visitation issues in state facilities**- Based on feedback from patients visited, intakes and the Perkins Friends & Family group, we are working on filing a complaint to the Office of Civil Rights, along with the Developmental Disabilities-Healthcare-VOCA team regarding visitation restrictions in state facilities. Before COVID, the facilities had daily visitation. Since COVID, the facilities have restricted visitation to sometimes once a month, and placed other types of restrictions. The team has recently learned that in some facilities, the restrictions are no longer based on COVID, but on security concerns.
- **Listening session with Perkins Friends and Family Group**- the MH Team held a listening session with the Friends and Family group at Perkins, receiving a lot of feedback about the restrictions in visitation at state facilities
- **Green Prison Case**- DRM's claims survived Defendants' Motion to Dismiss with the Green Case, the lawsuit DRM filed against the state and state actors alleging that the rights of individuals with serious mental illness in state prisons are being violated because they aren't receiving adequate mental health treatment and programming and they are being placed in segregation. The constitutional claims and the ADA and Rehab Act claims stand.

Annual Reporting

- PAC provided feedback on the PAIMI Priorities for the upcoming year
- PAC provided feedback on DRM's 2023 Advocacy and Service Priorities

Advocacy

- The proposed regulations regarding changing the statutory definition of "dangerousness" in the Involuntary Commitment statute were discussed. PAC provided feedback and were encouraged to continue to email the Managing Attorney with feedback to assist with drafting comments.
- ACLU of Maryland, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender and Homeless Persons Representation Project signed onto our comments on the regulations, which were submitted to the regulations committee on September 12.

New Business

- PAC were informed about the following events they may wish to attend:
 1. NARPA Conference in Newark, New Jersey in October
 2. NAIMI Virtual Conference, in October.