

Disability Rights Wisconsin - PAIMI Advisory Council (rev 10/2017)

Disability Rights Wisconsin is Wisconsin's Protection and Advocacy agency, part of a nationwide network of disability rights agencies mandated by Congress to provide advocacy services and legal representation on behalf of all persons with disabilities. DRW services include information and referral, short-term assistance, selected individual and legal representation, systemic advocacy, monitoring, and training. DRW has offices in Madison, Milwaukee, and Rice Lake.

What Is the PAIMI Advisory Council?

Since 1986, DRW and other Protection and Advocacy agencies have worked through the PAIMI program (Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness) to protect the human and civil rights of children and adults with serious mental health conditions. This work is supported by a PAIMI Advisory Council. The PAIMI Advisory Council helps staff and board of directors of DRW set priorities for the PAIMI program and advises the board on policies and issues that affect people with mental illness. The Council also serves as a liaison to the communities its members represent.

Who Can Serve on the PAIMI Advisory Council?

The Council is committed to maintaining a strong consumer voice, and requires that at least 50% of its members be people with the lived experience of mental illness, who are receiving or have received mental health services. The Council must also include the parent of a minor child or youth who has received or is receiving mental health services. In addition, the Council must include an attorney; a mental health professional; a provider of mental health services; and a member of the general public who is knowledgeable about mental illness; advocacy needs of persons with mental illness; and has demonstrated a substantial commitment to improving mental health services.

What Are Council Member Expectations?

The PAIMI Advisory Council meets at least three times per year, generally on a Friday afternoon prior to a DRW Board meeting. Members may also meet periodically to fulfill committee assignments. Council terms are for two years and members may be re-appointed for a second term. Council bylaws require us to recruit members from each region of the state so that the Council can have a statewide voice, and to have membership that reflects the racial and ethnic composition of the state. Travel, meals, hotel and other meeting expenses are reimbursed for Council members.

The PAC seeks new members who want to advance positive change in working to protect and advocate for the rights of Wisconsinites with mental health diagnoses. Current members are from La Crosse, Milwaukee, Dunn, Outagamie, Oneida, Dane and Racine Counties. We have openings for the positions listed below. We are especially interested in candidates from counties **not** currently represented, as well as candidates who reflect Wisconsin's racial and ethnic diversity.

- Person who has received or is receiving mental health services or the family member of a person who has received or is receiving mental health services.
- Mental health provider

Interested candidates should complete and submit the DRW PAC Application.

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RICE LAKE

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 715 736-1252 FAX

disabilityrightswi.org

800 928-8778 consumers & family