

Disability Rights Wisconsin – PAIMI Advisory Council (rev 8/2022)

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 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 include the parent of a minor child or youth who has received or is receiving mental health services, an attorney; a mental health professional; a provider of mental health services; and a member of the 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. Individuals who are currently in a management position in a governmental entity responsible for providing direct mental health services; or in a management position at an agency that is under contract with any governmental entity to provide direct mental health services are prohibited from becoming members of the Council.

What Are Council Member Expectations?

The PAIMI Advisory Council meets at least three times per year. Members may also meet periodically to fulfill committee assignments. Council terms are for two years; 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. Recent meetings have been virtual due to the pandemic.

The PAIMI Advisory Council is seeking applicants for the following positions:

- Person who receives mental health services.
- A mental health professional. (therapist, nurse, peer specialist, psychologist, psychiatrist)

We are especially interested in candidates who reflect Wisconsin's racial and ethnic diversity, and candidates from Fox Valley, Racine/Kenosha, Milwaukee, or other areas not currently represented.

Interested candidates should complete and submit the application to barbara.beckert@drwi.org.