

# MENTAL ILLNESS

Together we can change HOW people perceive mental illness.

## Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Advisory Council

### ABOUT DRWV

Disability Rights of West Virginia (DRWV) is a private, non-profit agency dedicated to protecting and advocating for the legal rights of West Virginians with disabilities. We are designated as West Virginia's Protection and Advocacy System (P&A).

### THE PAIMI ACT

- President Ronald Reagan signed the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 10801).
- The PAIMI act is implemented through P&A systems nationwide.
- The PAIMI program is administered by the Center for Mental Health Services, US Department of Health and Human Services.
- A key component of the PAIMI Act was to establish an advisory council whose responsibility was to provide P&A's information about issues relating to individuals with disabilities.
- The PAIMI program investigate incidents of abuse and neglect of people with mental illness.
- Protect and advocate for the rights of people with mental illness.

### PAIMI ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

- The PAC is charged with providing P&As information about issues related to individuals with mental illness.
- They provide independent advice and recommendations to the P&A system.



- They work jointly with the Board of Directors of the P&A in the development of priorities and objectives.
- They participate in the P&A's annual reporting process.
- The Chair of the Advisory Council shall be a member of the Governing Board.

## PAC MEMBERSHIP

### PAC members shall include:

- Attorneys
- Mental Health Professionals
- Individuals from the public who are knowledgeable about mental illness, the advocacy needs of persons with mental illness, and have demonstrated a substantial commitment to improving mental health services.
- A provider of mental health services
- Individuals who have received or are receiving mental health services
- Family members of individuals who have received or are receiving mental health services.

### Membership Terms:

- The terms of council members shall be staggered and for 4 years except that any member appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term shall serve for the remainder of such term.
- A member who has been appointed for a term of 4 years may not be reappointed to the council during the 2-year period beginning on the date on which such 4-year term expired.

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## PAC MEETINGS

### Regular Meetings:

- The Council shall hold a minimum of four (4) meetings, one each quarter of the federal fiscal year. All meetings must be held at a location that is accessible to people with disabilities.
- All meeting notices, agenda items, and materials shall be distributed to Council members at least one (1) week prior to each of these meetings and shall be provided in accessible formats upon request.
- If a regularly scheduled meeting cannot be held as scheduled, the meeting may be rescheduled or cancelled with a minimum of a one (1) week notice to the Council members.



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