

**WYOMING
PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH
MENTAL ILLNESS PROGRAM (PAIMI)
STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES**

FISCAL YEAR 2011 PLAN

Priority 1: Persons eligible under the PAIMI Act, including persons served by the Children’s Health Act of 2000, as amended, will live as independently as possible in safe, healthy environments free from abuse, neglect, seclusion, restraint, financial and sexual exploitation, or other violations of their human and legal rights (“rights violations”). Persons living in residential care and treatment facilities have priority for PAIMI program services.

Objective 1: Review, refer to appropriate authorities, investigate, or provide advocacy services resulting from reports of rights violations.

Specific population to be served: Persons eligible for the PAIMI program who are or may be subject to rights violations.

Indicator of success: This objective is exceeded if greater than 1500 reports are reviewed and appropriate action taken.
This objective is met if 1000 to 1500 reports are reviewed and appropriate action taken.
This objective is not met if fewer than 1000 reports are reviewed.

Expected outcome: Persons eligible for the PAIMI program will receive advocacy and representation to live free of rights violations.

Objective 2: Provide advocacy services, investigate, review, or refer rights violations to responsible authorities such as the Department of Family Services, law enforcement, or the Department of Health.

Specific population to be served: Persons eligible for the PAIMI program who are or may be subject to rights violations.

Indicator of success: The objective is exceeded if greater than 30 persons are assisted or if systemic change occurs.
The objective is met if 25 - 30 persons are assisted.
The objective is not met if fewer than 25 persons are assisted.

Expected outcome: Persons eligible for the PAIMI program will no longer be subject to rights violations.

Objective 3: Promote public awareness and understanding of mental health issues as follows:

- a. Provide 15 presentations on Protection & Advocacy System, Inc. (P&A)
- b. Provide 5 training sessions on Clients' Rights and Responsibilities
- c. Distribute 1500 publications
- d. Participate in 4 PAIMI Advisory Council meetings
- e. Participate in 75% of the Division of Mental Health Planning Council meetings
- f. Provide PAIMI publications in alternative formats
- g. Participate in 75% of the Wyoming State Hospital Ethics Committee meetings
- h. Support the P&A Board of Trustees, PAIMI Advisory Council and staff to attend up to 15 training sessions
- i. Provide information and referral to 150 persons
- j. Participate in at least 4 of the Interagency Coordinating Council meetings
- k. Collaborate with the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the Crisis Intervention Teams, and emergency responders to include state, county, and local law enforcement agencies in recognizing and interacting with individuals with mental illness
- l. Participate up to 6 times annually with Wind River Reservation agencies to provide training, information and assistance
- m. Provide information regarding barriers to successful community re-integration following detention or commitment
- n. Collaborate, educate, and inform Legislative standing and select committees on issues relating to persons with disabilities
- o. Attend at least 75% of the Mega Conference Planning Committee meetings and co-sponsor the Mega Conference on Disabilities
- p. Update the P&A Website

Specific population to be served: Persons eligible for the PAIMI program who are or may be subject to rights violations.

Indicator of success: This objective is exceeded if greater than 85% of the subparts are accomplished or if systemic change occurs.
This objective is met if 75% - 85% of the subparts are accomplished.
This objective is not met if fewer than 75% of the subparts are accomplished.

Expected outcome: Persons eligible for the PAIMI program will gain knowledge of their rights under PAIMI and other applicable law.

Introduction: Consistent with P&A's federal mandate to address abuse and neglect in institutional and community settings, P&A's policy on non-duplication of services, and significant resource limitations, Priority 2 shall focus on the following service provisions.

Priority 2: Persons eligible under the PAIMI Act will gain the knowledge or assistance necessary to have appropriate educational services or accommodations.

Objective 1: Provide short-term assistance to parents or students to help them gain the knowledge or assistance necessary to have appropriate educational services or accommodations.

Comment: Short-term assistance will not include contact with schools or attendance at IEP or Section 504 or other similar meetings.

Objective 2: Provide representation or advocacy within the following specific priority areas and only when short-term assistance cannot resolve the issues.

Subject Area A: Initial Eligibility

Our vision is that students will have access to appropriate educational services, consisting of initial evaluations to determine eligibility for students not yet identified as eligible for services or accommodations. P&A may advocate for students to receive timely and appropriate initial evaluations to determine eligibility in cases in which school districts have not conducted appropriate evaluations.

Subject Area B: Early Childhood Education

Our vision is that children from birth through transition to Kindergarten will receive appropriate early intervention and educational services or accommodations. P&A may advocate for appropriate early intervention and educational services or accommodations for children from birth through transition to Kindergarten.

Subject Area C: Restraint and Seclusion

Our vision is that students will not be abused or neglected or receive injuries resulting from inappropriate seclusion or restraint in educational settings. P&A may advocate for the elimination of inappropriate restraint or seclusion of students.

Subject Area D: Discipline

Our vision is that students will not be subjected to inappropriate long-term suspension or expulsion. P&A may advocate for the elimination of inappropriate long-term suspension or expulsion.

Subject Area E: Extended School Year

Our vision is that students will be considered for and receive appropriate extended school year services. P&A may advocate for appropriate extended school year consideration and services.

Subject Area F: Transition

Our vision is that students will receive appropriate transition planning to assist them in living independently, working, and succeeding as adults. P&A may advocate for appropriate school-to-work transition planning.

Subject Area G: Assistive Technology

Our vision is that students will have access to assistive technology, including assistive technology evaluations. P&A may advocate for access to assistive technology, including assistive technology evaluations.

Subject Area H: Accessibility

Our vision is that students will have reasonable accommodations required to gain physical access to buildings or educational facilities or programming. P&A may advocate for reasonable accommodations required for students to gain physical access to buildings or educational facilities or programming.

Subject Area I: Systemic: Policy, Procedure, Practice

Our vision is that significant systemic changes may benefit substantially more students than addressing issues on a case-by-case basis, and that selectively addressing systemic issues is consistent with P&A's policies and funding limitations. Solely within its discretion, P&A may advocate for educational issues having significant legal merit that are likely to produce systemic changes in school districts or statewide.

Specific population to be served: Persons eligible for the PAIMI Program, who need advocacy for one or more of the educational services described above, and who do not have access to other representation or assistance.

Indicator of success: The priority is exceeded if greater than 30 persons are assisted or if systemic change occurs.
The priority is met if 20 to 30 persons are assisted.
The priority is not met if fewer than 20 persons are assisted.

Expected outcome: Persons eligible for the PAIMI Program who reside in Wyoming gain the knowledge or assistance necessary to receive free and appropriate educational services or accommodations.

Priority 3: Pursue legal, administrative or other remedies to promote systemic reform within the Wyoming State Hospital and Wyoming communities providing treatment and services to persons with mental illnesses in Wyoming.

Objective 1: Continue monitoring of and coordinating with the state of Wyoming regarding issues as related to the Chris S. Stipulated Settlement Agreement and P&A v. Freudenthal decision and access agreement to ensure compliance as accepted by all parties and within the time frames as indicated, including pursuing all available remedies as appropriate.

Specific population to be served: Persons eligible for the PAIMI program who are or may be protected by the Chris S. Stipulated Settlement Agreement and P&A v. Freudenthal decision and access agreement.

Indicator of success: The objective is exceeded if greater than 5 persons are assisted or if systemic change occurs.
The objective is met if 3 to 5 persons are assisted.
The objective is not met if fewer than 3 persons are assisted.

Expected outcome: Persons eligible for the PAIMI program will be afforded their rights under the Chris S. Stipulated Settlement Agreement and P&A v. Freudenthal decision and access agreement.

Objective 2: Protection & Advocacy System, Inc. will explore partnering with state, county and other agency personnel, including joint training, and may consider seeking other forms of relief, including legal relief, toward elimination of the use of jails to detain individuals with mental illness under Title 25 pursuant to W.S. §§ 25-10-109 to 110.

Specific population to be served: Persons eligible for the PAIMI program who are or may be protected by the Chris S. Settlement Agreement.

Indicator of success: This objective is exceeded if P&A achieves a resolution beneficial to persons at risk of unnecessary incarceration.
This objective is met if P&A explores partnering with other agencies and, if warranted, seeks other resolutions.
This objective is not met if P&A does not explore partnering with other agencies.

Expected outcome: Persons eligible for the PAIMI program will no longer be unnecessarily detained in jails.