



## Protection & Advocacy System, Inc.

The Protection and Advocacy System for the state of Wyoming

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Member of the National Disability Rights Network

Protecting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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### REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

#### Fiscal Year 2019 Proposed Priorities

**Deadline for comment: June 1, 2018**

Protection & Advocacy System, Inc. (“P&A”) is the non-profit corporation authorized by Congress for 41 years to protect and advocate the civil and human rights of Wyoming’s citizens with disabilities. We submit for your comment the following proposed program goals and objectives for fiscal year 2019 for the four P&A programs which are required to set annual priorities. This document provides you with an overview of the services we plan to provide and the issues we will address during the upcoming fiscal year.

Funding for P&A programs is limited by Congressional appropriations. Not all of the work needing attention can be accomplished. Congress mandates that P&A protect persons in institutional settings from abuse, neglect and exploitation before undertaking other work in certain of the P&A programs. If remaining resources allow, Congress permits P&A to protect persons in community settings. Federal laws require priority-setting in various P&A programs and public comment regarding proposed activities.

Program issues brought by individuals with disabilities, their legal representatives, or in some instances, pursuant to probable cause, must meet criteria of each specific P&A program. Factors used in determining the draft goals and objectives include addressing unmet needs; non-duplication of services; service requests; consistency with funding requirements; the degree of compatibility with the P&A mission; potential for positive change affecting more than one person; and agency resources.

We welcome your comments at any of the contact information listed above. Comments will be accepted through June 1, 2018. Alternate formats are available upon request.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in and support of the work of P&A.

**FISCAL YEAR 2019 PROPOSED PRIORITIES/AREAS OF FOCUS  
WYOMING PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEM, INC.**

The following areas of focus/priorities are proposed for the following P&A Programs which set annual priorities:

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Program	(PAIDD)
Individuals with Mental Illness Program	(PAIMI)
Individual Rights Program	(PAIR)
Assistive Technology Program	(PAAT)

**RIGHTS IN FACILITIES/ABUSE, NEGLECT & EXPLOITATION**

**PRIORITY 1:** Monitor care and treatment facilities such as the Wyoming State Hospital, Wyoming Life Resource Center, public and private facilities including nursing homes, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities, investigate complaints of abuse, neglect, exploitation and rights violations, and provide representation to enforce rights.

Objective: Investigate reports or incidents of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation (PAIDD, PAIMI, PAIR)

Objective: Make recommendations for corrective action and pursue legal remedies in instances of abuse, neglect, exploitation (PAIDD, PAIMI, PAIR)

Objective: Advocate for services and supports, including the pursuit of legal remedies, designed to reduce the risk of homelessness, unnecessary institutionalization, reinstitutionalization, and inadequate discharge planning (PAIDD, PAIMI, PAIR, PAAT)

Objective: Provide representation, including the pursuit of legal remedies, to individuals who are subject to unwarranted seclusion and restraints, including mechanical, physical and drug or medication based methods of restraints (PAIDD, PAIMI, PAIR)

**PHYSICAL AND PROGRAM ACCESS**

**PRIORITY 2:** Represent, by advocating for or pursuing legal remedies, to improve access to public or private programs, services, facilities, places of public accommodation, or businesses

Objective: Eliminate access barriers in places of public accommodations and facilities, businesses, and in government programs (PAIDD, PAIR, PAAT)

Objective: Improve access to transportation including bus stops, paratransit, ground carrier and air carrier (PAIDD, PAIR, PAAT)

Objective: Assist in securing needed assistive technology devices and services, including the rights to assistive technology throughout the lifespan (PAAT)

## **COMMUNITY INTEGRATION**

**PRIORITY 3:** Represent people with disabilities by advocating for or pursuing legal remedies, to assure adequate community services, supports and inclusion

Objective: Represent people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to have adequate community services and supports, including assistive technology (PAIDD, PAAT)

Objective: Represent people with psychiatric disabilities to have access to a full range of community mental health services and supports, appropriate discharge planning, and assistive technology (PAIMI, PAAT)

Objective: Represent people with disabilities to engage in integrated competitive employment, be free from employment discrimination, and have access to reasonable accommodations (PAIDD, PAIR, PAAT)

Objective: Represent people with disabilities who are receiving Social Security benefits by assisting with issues regarding work incentives, barriers to employment and problems with representative payees (PAIDD, PAIR, PAAT)

Objective: Represent people with disabilities in acquiring accommodations in access to and provision of housing (PAIDD, PAIR, PAAT)

## **SELF-ADVOCACY, INFORMATION, TRAINING, OUTREACH AND PUBLICATIONS**

**PRIORITY 4:** Improve the self-advocacy skills of people with disabilities through legal representation, training, material development and outreach

Objective: Advocate for independence of self-direction and judgment and supported decision-making, including legal representation to prevent unnecessary substituted judgment (PAIDD, PAIMI, PAIR)

Objective: Train people with disabilities, their advocates and family members/legal representatives on disability related topics (PAIDD, PAIMI, PAIR, PAAT)

Objective: Develop and distribute materials and conduct outreach activities to ensure that information is available for self-advocacy (PAIDD, PAIMI, PAIR, PAAT)