



Protection & Advocacy System, Inc.

The Protection and Advocacy System for the state of Wyoming

7344 Stockman Street • Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

Voice or Relay: (307) 632-3496 • Assistance Requests Only: 1-800-624-7648

FAX: (307) 638-0815

wypanda@wypanda.com www.wypanda.com

Member of the National Disability Rights Network

Protecting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Deadline for Comment: May 28, 2019

Comment Submission: By e-mail, telephone, FAX, mail, in person or alternate method

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Fiscal Year 2020 Proposed Priorities

Protection & Advocacy System, Inc. ("P&A") is the non-profit corporation authorized by Congress for 42 years to protect and advocate the civil and human rights of Wyoming's citizens with disabilities. We submit for your comment the following proposed priorities for fiscal year 2020 for the four P&A programs which are required to set annual priorities. P&A must set these priorities both because federal law requires it and inherent resource limitations make it necessary. Funding for P&A programs is limited by Congressional appropriations. Not all of the work needing attention can be accomplished. 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. All program services are subject to P&A's General Policy on Case Acceptance and other agency policies and procedures. Other factors used in determining the draft goals and objectives include addressing unmet needs; non-duplication of services; 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.

This document is designed for public comment on the following P&A Programs which set annual priorities.

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Program	PAIDD	42 U.S.C. §§15001 and following
Individuals with Mental Illness Program	PAIMI	42 U.S.C. §§10801 and following
Individual Rights Program	PAIR	29 U.S.C. §794e
Assistive Technology Program	PAAT	29 U.S.C. §§3001 and following

The following program goals and objectives are designed to primarily assist persons in institutional settings whose primary purpose is to provide services to persons with disabilities rather than institutions whose primary purpose is educational or correctional. Services will be prioritized at the Wyoming State Hospital, Wyoming Life Resource Center, the Wyoming Pioneer Home, and the Wyoming Retirement Center. As resources allow, services will be provided for persons residing in or receiving services from Home and Community Based Services providers or in community settings.

FREEDOM FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT (PAIR, PAIDD, AND PAIMI)

Priority 1: P&A will improve health and safety for persons at prioritized institutions or in Home and Community Based Services or community settings when facilities or community settings are notified of investigation findings and receive recommendations for correction.

Priority 2: P&A will monitor reports of incidents of suspected abuse, neglect, exploitation or death at prioritized institutions or in Home and Community Based Services or community settings.

Priority 3: P&A will provide individual advocacy or undertake systemic advocacy to enforce rights of persons residing at prioritized institutions.

Priority 4: P&A will provide individual advocacy or undertake systemic advocacy to enforce rights of persons residing in Home and Community Based Services or community settings.

COMMUNITY LIVING (PROGRAMS AS INDICATED BELOW)

Priority 1: P&A will assist with requests involving people with disabilities seeking to live or maintain living in the most integrated setting (PAAT, PAIR, PAIDD, AND PAIMI).

Priority 2: P&A will assist with prevention of and diversion from unnecessary institutionalization and homelessness (PAAT, PAIR, PAIDD, AND PAIMI).

Priority 3: P&A will assist with requests involving people with disabilities seeking housing accommodations (PAAT, PAIR AND PAIDD).

Priority 4: P&A will assist with requests involving people with disabilities seeking employment accommodations (PAAT, PAIR AND PAIDD).

ACCESSIBILITY (PAAT AND PAIR)

Priority 1: P&A will assist with requests to improve access to assistive technology devices and services throughout the lifespan in prioritized institutions and in Home and Community Based Services or community settings.

Priority 2: P&A will assist with requests to access barrier-free transportation including bus stops, paratransit, ground carrier and air carrier.

**SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING AND ALTERNATIVES TO GUARDIANSHIP
(PAIDD, PAIR AND PAIMI)**

Priority 1: P&A will have representation on the Guardianship Task Force and other venues to advance supported decision-making and alternatives to guardianship.

Priority 2: P&A will provide individual advocacy or undertake systemic advocacy to expand supported decision-making options in Wyoming.

Priority 3: P&A will provide individual advocacy or undertake systemic advocacy to address legal and constitutional issues involving the Wyoming Guardianship Code.

Priority 4: P&A will provide information and training to advance and support self-advocacy by persons with disabilities who do not have guardians to avoid unnecessary guardianship or unnecessary restriction of rights.