



We have the legal right of way.

MENTAL ILLNESS: DRO's PAIMI Advisory Council

About Disability Rights Ohio

Disability Rights Ohio is a non-profit corporation designated under state and federal law as the protection and advocacy system for the state of Ohio. Our mission is to advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities in Ohio.

About the PAIMI Program

The Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) program serves all people with mental illness - no matter how old they are or where they live. We help people with mental illness to understand their human, civil, and legal rights, and we help them enforce their rights through legal advocacy. We also investigate abuse, neglect, and rights violations in facilities and in the community.

About PAIMI Advisory Council

The Disability Rights Ohio PAIMI Advisory Council is a group of people from across the state of Ohio that helps Disability Rights Ohio set priorities for the work we will do to improve the lives of individuals with mental illness. Council members also participate in outreach events, trainings, and other activities.

Who can be a PAIMI Advisory Council member?

The PAIMI Advisory Council seeks members from all areas of Ohio with a variety of backgrounds and experiences. Anyone who is a resident of Ohio can be a member of the PAIMI Advisory Council. At least 60% of the PAIMI Advisory Council members must be individuals with mental illness or family members of individuals with mental illness.

The PAIMI Advisory Council is required to have at least one representative from the following:

- People who have received mental health services
- A parent of a minor child who has received mental health services
- Attorney
- Mental Health Professional (psychiatrist, psychologist, nurse)

- Mental Health Service Provider
- Other professionals, friends, advocates and members of the general public who have demonstrated substantial commitment to improving mental health services and who have knowledge about people who are labeled as mentally ill

What does the PAIMI Advisory Council do?

The PAIMI Advisory Council provides information and guidance to Disability Rights Ohio. The PAIMI Advisory Council works with the Board of Directors to help set priorities for Disability Rights Ohio's PAIMI program. The PAIMI Advisory Council also helps conduct outreach, and helps educate and inform the wider community about the PAIMI program. The PAIMI Advisory Council also provides leadership and recommendations to Disability Rights Ohio on policy, legislative matters, and other issues. Each year, the PAIMI Advisory Council reports to the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration about its activities and about its review of Disability Rights Ohio's services.

How much time is involved in being a PAIMI Advisory Council member?

PAIMI Advisory Council meets four times a year. These meetings are usually on a Saturday and last for four hours. Members are encouraged to attend meetings in person, but attendance may also be accommodated by video conference or conference call. When a PAIMI Advisory Council member travels to a meeting, Disability Rights Ohio reimburses the member for travel expenses.

PAIMI Advisory Council members may also elect to attend conferences, events, or meetings to help educate and inform about the PAIMI program. PAIMI Advisory Council members may also attend trainings or other events to learn more about mental health advocacy. Disability Rights Ohio will provide reimbursement for conference and training fees and related travel expenses for pre-approved events.

PAIMI Advisory Council members may also serve on one or more committees:

- **Executive Committee** - conducts official business between quarterly meetings and recommends approval for PAIMI council member attendance at conferences and events
- **Nominating Committee** - seeks members for PAIMI Advisory Council, interviews applicants, and recommends potential new PAIMI Advisory Council members to the Executive Director
- **Policy Leadership Committee** - provides leadership and recommendations on policy and legislative matters

How do I become a member of the PAIMI Advisory Council or get more information?

For more information, visit disabilityrightsohio.org/paimi-advisory-council. An online application is available at disabilityrightsohio.org/paimi-application. You can also contact Disability Rights Ohio at 1-800-282-9181 and select option 2 to request more information or a paper application.