

# Disability *Rights*

South Dakota

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

### ABOUT DRSD

Disability Rights South Dakota (DRSD) is a private, non-profit agency dedicated to protecting and advocating for the legal rights of South Dakotans with disabilities. We are designated as South Dakota'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&As information about issues relating to individuals with disabilities.
- The PAIMI program investigates incidents of abuse and neglect of people with mental illness.
- The PAIMI program protects and advocates 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 have a commitment to promote the legal and civil rights of people with mental illness and advocate for their personal choices.
- They educate the public about the purpose, priorities, and activities of DRSD and PAIMI.
- 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 Board of Directors, and is an individual who has received or is receiving mental health services, or who is a family member of such an individual.

# 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 shall reflect the racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity of the state,

+60% of the membership shall be comprised of individuals, or 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.

# PAC Meetings

Regular Meetings:

- The council shall hold a minimum of three (3) meetings during the fiscal year. All meetings must be held at an accessible location or electronically.
- 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.
- Hotel, mileage, and per diem are reimbursable expenses for members who attend the meeting.

**Disability Rights**  
South Dakota

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-or-

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