



Protection and Advocacy Advisory Board

60B Weston Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06120-1551

Agenda P&A Board Meeting June 16, 2011

Call to Order

1. Consideration of minutes
2. Legislative Report (Beth Leslie)
3. Executive Director's Report (Jim McGaughey)
4. PAIMI Report (Bruce Garrison)
5. Abuse Investigation Division Report (Peter Hughes)
6. Questions upon which the Agency seeks Board advice:

a. How best to make the case for maintaining P&A as an independent agency.

In the fast-changing world of government (state and federal), considerable emphasis is being placed on restructuring, economizing, down-sizing and consolidation. Very few current leaders have any experience with disability rights issues or P&A. How should the agency explain the value of maintaining its independent investigation and advocacy capacity in the face of efforts to consolidate small state agencies, and to eliminate agencies and programs altogether when they are perceived as having been created primarily to make other agencies do the jobs they ought to be doing anyway?

b. Ways to focus public attention on problems involving abuse and neglect.

Much of the work conducted by the Abuse Investigation Division is kept confidential. Even Case Services investigations, which are conducted pursuant to federal P&A authority, are typically not publicized. Nor is the advocacy work that sometimes results. The main reasons for this are: 1) to protect the identities and privacy of people who have been victims of abuse and neglect; 2) to encourage greater cooperation from witnesses, families, etc.; and, 3) to ensure the agency complies with statutory requirements regarding confidentiality. While these considerations are undoubtedly valid, we may be overdoing it. And, in the process, we may be depriving both the public and policymakers of access to information concerning the realities of abuse/neglect. Does the Board have suggestions about how we can reconcile these two competing values?

7. New Business & Updates
8. Adjournment