

**P&A Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 16, 2013**  
**2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Conference Room B**

**Attendees:** Art Quirk, Chairperson; Ray Elling, John Clausen; Sheila Mulvey, Chad and Commissioner Donald DeFronzo and Jerilyn Newsom, Vice-Chair, PAIMI Council.

**Absent:** Dr. Vivian Cross and Rachel Bogartz

**Staff:** James McGaughey, Executive Director; Gretchen Knauff, Assistant Director; and Beth Leslie, Legislative and Regulations Specialist.

**Guests:** Beth McArthur

1. **Call to Order:** 2:04 p.m.
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – accepted no revisions or changes.
3. **Decisions Concerning Specific Recommendations for Legislative Changes in OPA Governance Structure (Facilitated discussion to be led by Beth McArthur)** Discussion and subsequent recommendations:
  - a. Appointment of director – The Board will recommend three people to the governor for the Executive Director position once it becomes vacant, the more options available to the Governor, the better.
  - b. Term of director – Five years
  - c. Evaluation of director – Board will annually evaluate Executive Director’s performance. The Board would assist the director in the development of directives and goals for the agency.
  - d. Number of suggested board members 12.
  - e. Appointment of board members - recommending 3 members appointed by the Governor, 4 from Legislative members; the ADA State Coordinator, PAIMI Council Chairperson, and 3 from the Board, for a total of 12 members.
  - f. Board Role and Purview:
    - a. develop and periodically review advocacy program priorities in accordance with requirements of federal protection and advocacy programs;
    - b. adopt such policies and guidelines as are necessary to assist in operations of the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities;
    - c. Recommend candidates for appointment as (or shall appoint the) executive director of the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

On an annual basis review the work plan and performance of the executive director;

- d. Board members will select the chair, 3 year term, with one renewable term;
  - e. composition of the Board: persons with DD, parents of individuals with DD, PAIMI Council Person required and the State ADA Coordinator;
  - f. Suggested adding four (4) duties – Maintain an agency environment of fairness, legal and business acumen, compassion and commitment to the lives served. The authority vests in the Executive Director for everything.
4. Possibility of changing the definition of “disability”. We do not want to list everything, there has been a continual revolution in various statutory schemes. By putting so many definitions in the definition, as it was 80s, it created a very negative connotation to the word disability, and it was never complete enough. Leaving it to be as broad as possible, makes it the most inclusive definition. Remove the word [NORMALLY]. It would be “any person unable to perform the essential activities of daily living.”
5. **New/Other Business:** (15 Minutes) Update from Chad about the on-going legal battle to free Richard LaPointe, tomorrow at state Supreme Court in Hartford is a hearing. Support is still needed, more so now than ever. Also, WeCAHR as of 9/20 are suspending operations due to a lack of funding. Some other agency is going to take it over.
6. Thank you Beth for your continued hard work on this process.
7. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Ray, seconded by Chad, Board adjourned at 3:55 p.m.