

## **PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

The PAIMI Advisory Council met for its bi-monthly meeting at 4:15pm on June 3, 2014 at the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

Present: Marisa Walls, Jerilyn Newsom, Jill Hall, Daniela Giordano, Kirk Lowry, and Kathy Flaherty

Excused: Marcia Macintosh, Tom Behrendt and Roy Lee  
Absence:

Staff: Nancy Alisberg, Managing Attorney, Bruce Garrison, PAIMI Assistant Program Director, and Wiley Rutledge, PAIMI Advocate

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The PAIMI Advisory Council Meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m. by Marisa Walls.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The minutes from the April 1, 2014 meeting were reviewed and no corrections were necessary. Jerilyn Newsom motioned to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Kirk Lowry. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Executive Director's Report**

James McGaughey recently retired as OPA's executive director so there was no report.

#### **Managing Attorney's Report**

Nancy Alisberg provided a report on OPA vs. CT ("Nursing Home") settlement agreement between P&A in conjunction with other law firms making it possible for 130 individuals with mental health disabilities to move into community settings.

Nancy described the specifics of the settlement agreement between the parties for class members of two facilities: Chelsea Place and Bidwell Health Care. OPA will receive attorney fees for PAIMI's part in the lawsuit. PAIMI advocates may help by visiting class members.

#### **Assistant Program Director's Report**

Bruce Garrison submitted a written report for the Council's review. PAIMI staff members have provided advocacy to 77 individuals in community and institutional settings. Fifteen (15)

individuals are children at risk of institutional placement and the use of restraint and seclusion because of inappropriate educational and mental health services provided by their school districts. Sixteen (16) individuals were represented in appeals of imminent discharge by their Residential Care Home providers. Twenty six (26) clients were provided advocacy at Involuntary Medication Hearings. Ten (10) individuals were represented at treatment plan meetings planning discharge into the community. Ten (10) inmates were denied mental health services in Connecticut's Correctional Facilities. There have been 7 reports of serious injury due to the use of restraint and seclusion reported to PAIMI since November 2013.

Other report items discussed included:

PAIMI's participation in the Connecticut Interagency Restraint and Seclusion Initiative securing Central Connecticut State University's facilities to house the September 12, 2014 Conference.

PAIMI staff members have just completed a training regarding patient rights and the use of involuntary medication to be presented to Manchester Memorial Hospital Behavioral Unit staff and hearing officers.

PAIMI has completed a number of fact sheets for distribution in public and private institutional facilities. Topics include: Your rights in Involuntary Medication Hearings; Residential Care Home Discharge Appeals; and Removal of Involuntary Conservator. Facilities visited by PAIMI staff have refreshed postings of PAIMI materials.

H.R. 3717, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, was discussed. Two letters presented to the Congressional Committee hearing this bill by House Representative Tim Murphy and Rocky Nichols, National Disability Rights Network Board President were given to Council members. Concerns were expressed that if this bill becomes law it may cut 85% of PAIMI funds and restrict PAIMI to abuse investigations, specifically preventing it from representing people from challenging commitment and involuntary medication.

Council members were reminded of the Annual Meeting for this August. Materials will be emailed to Council members in preparation for development of Goals and Priorities for 2015.

Jill Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by Marisa Walls at 6:00 pm.

The next PAIMI Council Meeting is the Annual Meeting scheduled for August 5, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Garrison