

Disability Law Colorado's PAIMI Priorities

October 2023 – September 2024

Priority 1: Abuse and Neglect: DLC will work to ensure that PAIMI-eligible individuals are free from abuse and neglect, and live in healthier, safer, and respectful community settings or facilities (as appropriate). As part of this priority, DLC will ensure that policies and practices honor the dignity of their humanity.

Objective 1: Investigate allegations of abuse or neglect in community or facility settings with a focus on incidents that resulted in death or serious injury.

Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth and adults residing in or receiving services from facilities such as nursing homes, jails, prisons, youth residential treatment centers, juvenile justice centers, and psychiatric hospitals. (three investigations)

Expected Target: 3

Expected Outcome: 3

Objective 2: DLC will monitor community and facility settings that serve individuals with SMI or SED.

Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth and adults residing in or receiving services from facilities such as nursing homes, jails, prisons, youth residential treatment centers, juvenile justice centers, community mental health centers, crisis centers, and psychiatric hospitals. (15 sites)

Expected Target: 15

Expected Outcome: 15

Objective 3: Advocate for PAIMI-eligible youth or adults whose rights have been violated, or who have experienced abuse or neglect, to obtain an appropriate remedy.

Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth and adults whose rights have been violated or who have experienced abuse or neglect.

Expected Target: 10

Expected Outcome: 10

Objective 4: Engage in systemic advocacy that results in a change in law or policy to protect the rights of PAIMI-eligible youth and adults. (systemic changes)

Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth and adults residing in or receiving services from facilities such as jails, prisons, youth residential treatment centers, juvenile justice centers, community mental health centers, crisis centers, and psychiatric hospitals.

Expected Target: 3

Expected Outcome: 3

Priority 2: Community-Based Services in the Least Restrictive Settings: DLC will work to ensure that PAIMI-eligible individuals will have access to appropriate and individualized community-based services, which will enhance their ability to live in the least restrictive environment.

Objective 1: Advocate for PAIMI-eligible youth or adults to have access to community-based services and service coordination.

Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults who are at risk of institutionalization.

Expected Target: 10

Expected Outcome: 10

Objective 2: Participate on a board, task force, or committee that focuses on community-based services in Colorado to expand services for PAIMI-eligible youth or adults.

Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults who are at risk of institutionalization.

Expected Target: 1

Expected Outcome: 1

Objective 3: Engage in systemic advocacy that results in a change in law or policy to protect the rights of PAIMI-eligible youth and adults. (systemic changes)

Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults who are at risk of institutionalization.

Expected Target: 1

Expected Outcome: 1

Priority 3: Housing: DLC will work with PAIMI-eligible individuals to ensure they have available, accessible, affordable, and supportive housing, with a focus on housing authorities, people using Section 8 vouchers, and homeowners associations.

Objective 1: Assist PAIMI-eligible youth or adults with obtaining or maintaining accessible and affordable housing in the community.

Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults in need of assistance relating to housing or at risk of losing housing.

Expected Target: 5

Expected Outcome: 5

Objective 2: Engage in systemic advocacy that results in a change in law or policy to protect the rights of PAIMI-eligible youth and adults. (systemic changes)

Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults in need of assistance relating to housing or at risk of losing housing.

Expected Target: 1

Expected Outcome: 1

Priority 4: Employment: DLC will assist PAIMI-eligible individuals to ensure they have meaningful access to integrated employment.

Objective 1: Support PAIMI-eligible youth or adults to navigate the reasonable accommodation process in the employment context.

Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults who need reasonable accommodations in employment.

Expected Target: 5

Expected Outcome: 5

Priority 5: Education: DLC will work with PAIMI-eligible individuals to ensure they are not removed from school, denied access to a free appropriate public education, or experience restraint and seclusion because of their disability-related behaviors.

Objective 1: Advocate for PAIMI-eligible youth or adults in obtaining their right to a free appropriate public education.

Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults who are not receiving a free appropriate public education.

Expected Target: 5

Expected Outcome: 5

Objective 2: DLC will monitor community and facility settings that provide educational services for individuals with SMI or SED.

Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth who are receiving educational services in community and facility settings.

Expected Target: 5

Expected Outcome: 5

Objective 3: Based on insights from individual cases, monitoring, community input, and our PAIMI Advisory Council, advocate for systemic policy changes in facilities that serve youth.

Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults seeking access to educational services.

Expected Target: 2

Expected Outcome: 2

Priority 6: Decision-Making: DLC will work with PAIMI-eligible individuals to maintain their legal right to make decisions.

Objective 1: Assist PAIMI-eligible youth or adults with expanding or retaining their ability to make their own decisions.

Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults wanting to expand, at risk of losing, or who have lost the ability to make their own decisions.

Expected Target: 5

Expected Outcome: 5

Objective 2: Engage in systemic advocacy that results in a change in law or policy to protect the rights of PAIMI-eligible youth and adults. (systemic changes)

Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults wanting to expand, at risk of losing, or who have lost the ability to make their own decisions.

Expected Target: 1

Expected Outcome: 1

Priority 7: Enforcing Ongoing Settlements: PAIMI-eligible individuals who fall within DLC's ongoing settlement agreements or consent decrees will have those rights enforced.

Objective 1: DLC will continue to enforce settlement agreements or consent decrees in which DLC was a party and which have significant impacts for PAIMI-eligible individuals. Specifically, in FY19, DLC settled the Jail Wait lawsuit against the Colorado Department of Human Services by means of a consent decree challenging the length of time it takes for detainees in Colorado jails to receive competency evaluations or restorative treatment.

Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults who are included in DLC's ongoing settlement agreements or consent decrees. (Target: 1 consent decree or settlement monitoring)

Expected Target: 1

Expected Outcome: 1

Priority 8: Access to Treatment in Facilities: DLC will work with PAIMI-eligible individuals with disabilities to ensure they are getting access to appropriate treatment without violation to their rights in facilities.

Objective 1: Support PAIMI-eligible individuals to ensure they are receiving appropriate treatment without violation to their rights.

Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults in facilities who are seeking assistance accessing treatment.

Expected Target: 10

Expected Outcome: 10

