

What is P&A's Mental Health Program?

P&A's Mental Health Program provides services to individuals with an eligible mental health diagnosis.

Services:

- Information & Referral
- Education & Training
- Advocacy Assistance
- Advocacy & Legal Representation
- Protective Services
- Legislative & Systems Advocacy

P&A does not charge for services. Priorities for the use of the program's limited resources are established and reviewed at least annually.

This program was established by the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act (PAIMI). PAIMI is authorized in: 42 U.S.C. § 10801, P.L. 106-310 Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act 1986, as amended (Last amendment and reauthorization: Children's Health Act of 2000).

P&A is committed to:

- Fulfilling the client's expressed wish within their legal rights.
- Promoting client control in decision-making.
- Empowering people with disabilities to foster independence, productivity, and community integration.
- Ensuring people with disabilities can shape their personal destiny.
- Empowering people with disabilities to advocate for themselves to the extent possible.

Administrative Office

400 East Broadway, Suite 409
Bismarck, ND 58501

Website: www.ndpanda.org

Email: panda@nd.gov

Phone: 701.328.2950

Toll Free: 1.800.472.2670

TDD Relay: 711

Fax: 701.328.3934

P&A does not discriminate in admission to, access to, or employment in its programs and services. Contact P&A's Administrative Office to request disability-related accommodations or if you need this material in an alternative format.



The PAC

An Advisory Council for
Protection & Advocacy's
Mental Health Program

Should you join?

Apply to be a member of the PAC if you:

- Are passionate about mental health issues.
- Can help generate ideas for addressing mental health issues in North Dakota.
- Will contribute to discussions on how P&A should use its limited resources for mental health advocacy.

The Facts

- The PAC consists of 6-10 members, at least 60% of members must have lived experience.
- Terms are 4 years, running October through September.
- The PAC meets quarterly.
- Members are reimbursed at state rate for PAC meeting travel expenses.
- Applications for membership are submitted to the PAC. The PAC then makes recommendations to the Committee on P&A, which makes PAC appointments.

Why Join?

- Learn about mental health topics
- Meet new people
- Develop self-advocacy and leadership skills
- Assist P&A in setting and achieving goals
- Help improve the mental health service delivery system
- Opportunities for financial support to attend mental health conferences and activities

What does the PAC do?

The PAC serves in an advisory capacity to P&A and its governing board. The PAC addresses a variety of issues related to mental health.

- Provides P&A information and identifies issues important to the mental health community.
- Provides feedback on priorities for P&A's mental health program.
- Provides P&A and its governing board with independent advice and recommendations.
- Prepares the annual Advisory Council Report detailing activities.
- Educates the public about the mission and purpose of P&A.
- Decides how to use its time and expertise to educate, advise, and select projects.

Recent Accomplishments

- Toured the ND State Hospital and visited with the Superintendent about concerns related to mental health.
- Invited a representative of Senator John Hoeven's office to speak at a PAC meeting about federal mental health legislation. Shared ND specific stories and ideas for improving mental health services in our state.
- Hosted speakers from 3 agencies to learn about the 988 implementation and behavioral health crisis response.
- Toured the ND Boys and Girls Ranch to learn about services available to children and youth with mental health challenges.
- Contributed to the rewrite and launch of the Individual Justice Planning process.

Who is on the PAC?

The PAC is made up of diverse individuals:

- Current and past recipients of mental health services
- Family members of current and past recipients of mental health services
- Mental health professionals (including providers)
- An attorney
- Individuals knowledgeable about mental health

Differences Make Us Stronger

P&A is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The individual differences, life experiences, knowledge, self-expression, and talent of PAC members shape the culture and work of P&A. People with disabilities, people of racial and ethnic minorities, and other marginalized populations are encouraged to apply for the PAC.

How To Apply

Complete an application online at <https://www.ndpanda.org/about-pa/governance>

