

## **What is PAIMI?**

The PAIMI Act (Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness) is a federal mandate that gives Disability Rights New Mexico (DRNM) their authority to investigate complaints of abuse, neglect, due process and rights violations in public and private *facilities* that provide overnight mental health treatment, including but not limited to the following:

- Hospitals
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Residential treatment facilities
- Juvenile detention
- Community housing
- Jails and prisons
- Board and care homes
- Treatment foster care
- Group homes

## **Who Does PAIMI Serve?**

Persons with significant mental illness or emotional impairment and

- Who are an inpatient or resident in a public or private facility rendering mental health care or treatment;
- Who are in the process of being admitted to a public or private facility rendering mental health care or treatment, including persons being transported to such a facility;
- Who are involuntarily confined in a detention facility, jail or prison;
- Who have been discharged within 90-days from a facility that provided mental health care or treatment;
- Who are in a federal facility rendering mental health care or treatment.

## **What Does PAIMI Authorize DRNM To Do?**

- Advocate to address issues related to abuse, neglect or other violations of rights.
- Establish ongoing presence in residential mental health care or treatment *facilities*, and relevant hospital units.

- Interact regularly with individuals who are current or potential recipients of DRNM services.
- Interact regularly with staff providing care or treatment.
- Communicate with family members, social and community service workers and others involved in providing care or treatment.
- Provide training, information and referral.
- Representation in civil commitment proceedings to appeal or otherwise challenge acts or omissions which have subjected an individual to abuse or neglect or otherwise violated their rights.
- Systems Advocacy.
- Monitor compliance of rights and safety of residents in mental health treatment *facilities*.

## **How Can PAIMI Help You?**

Let DRNM know if you, or someone you know, have been prevented from exercising their rights, obtaining appropriate mental health treatment, services or benefits.