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.