

PAIMI Priorities: October 2022 – September 2023

1. Individuals with disabilities will be 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.
  - a. Objective 1: Investigate abuse and neglect in community or facility settings, with a focus on allegations of actions or omissions resulting in death or serious injury.
    - i. 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.
    - ii. Expected Target: 3 investigations
  - b. Objective 2: Monitor community and facility settings that serve individuals with SMI or SED.
    - i. 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.
    - ii. Expected Target: 20 sites
  - c. 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.
    - i. Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth and adults whose rights have been violated or who have experienced abuse or neglect.
    - ii. Expected Target: 10 individuals
  - d. 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.
    - i. 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.
    - ii. Expected Target: 2 systemic changes
2. Priority/Goal: Individuals with disabilities, particularly those in and leaving facilities, will be educated about their right to vote and given equal opportunities to register to vote.
  - a. Objective 1: Assist PAIMI-eligible youth and adults with voting registration
    - i. Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults residing in facilities, specifically targeting the two state mental health hospitals
    - ii. Expected Target: 2 state mental health hospitals
3. Priority/Goal: Individuals with disabilities will have access to appropriate and individualized community-based services, including assistive technology and transportation, which will enhance their abilities to live in the least restrictive environments.
  - a. Objective 1: 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.
    - i. Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults who are at risk of institutionalization.
    - ii. Expected Target: 1 board, task force, or committee
4. Priority/Goal: Individuals with disabilities will have available, accessible, affordable, and supportive housing, in part to prevent institutionalization.

- a. Objective 1: Assist PAIMI-eligible youth or adults with obtaining or maintaining accessible and affordable housing in the community.
    - i. Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults in need of assistance relating to housing or at risk of losing housing.
    - ii. Expected Target: 5 individuals
  - b. Objective 2: Educate PAIMI-eligible youth or adults about rights related to housing and housing resources.
    - i. Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults seeking housing (with a focus on individuals being released from facilities and transitioning to the community for whom housing may be a barrier).
    - ii. Expected Target: 20 people
5. Priority/Goal: Individuals with disabilities will have meaningful access to integrated employment and be paid at least minimum wage.
- a. Objective 1: Support PAIMI-eligible youth or adults to navigate the reasonable accommodation process in the employment context.
    - i. Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults at risk of losing a job due to denial of reasonable accommodations.
    - ii. Expected Target: 5 individual cases
  - b. Objective 2: Educate PAIMI-eligible youth or adults about rights related to employment, including issues related to peer worker contexts and fair hours.
    - i. Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults, specifically targeting the two state mental health hospitals.
    - ii. Expected Target: 2 state mental health hospitals
6. Priority/Goal: Youth with disabilities will not be removed from school, denied access to a free appropriate public education, or experience restraint and seclusion because of their disability-related behaviors.
- a. Objective 1: Advocate for PAIMI-eligible youth or adults in obtaining their right to a free appropriate public education.
    - i. Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults who are not receiving a free appropriate public education.
    - ii. Expected Target: 5 individuals
  - b. Objective 2: Based on insights from individual cases, monitoring, community input, and our PAIMI Advisory Council, advocate for systemic policy changes in facilities that serve youth.
    - i. Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth who are in residential facilities.
    - ii. Expected Target: 2 policy changes
7. Priority/Goal: With supports, if needed, individuals with disabilities will be able to make everyday decisions about their lives, including where they live, how they manage their money, and what their healthcare looks like.
- a. Objective 1: Assist PAIMI-eligible youth or adults with expanding or retaining their ability to make their own decisions.
    - i. Target Population: PAIMI-eligible youth or adults at risk of losing the ability to make their own decisions.
    - ii. Expected Target: 5 individuals
8. Priority/Goal: Individuals with disabilities who fall within DLC's ongoing settlement agreements or consent decrees will have those rights enforced.
- a. Objective 1: DLC will continue to enforce settlement agreements or consent decrees in which DLC was a party. 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.

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