

**FISCAL YEAR 2017 AREAS OF FOCUS/PRIORITIES
WYOMING PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEM, INC.**

The following areas of focus/priorities have been selected for the following P&A Programs which set annual priorities:

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Program	(PAIDD)
Individuals with Mental Illness Program	(PAIMI)
Individual Rights Program	(PAIR)
Assistive Technology Program	(PAAT)

RIGHTS IN FACILITIES/ABUSE, NEGLECT & EXPLOITATION

PRIORITY 1: Monitor care and treatment facilities such as the Wyoming State Hospital, Wyoming Life Resource Center, public and private facilities including nursing homes, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities, investigate complaints of abuse, neglect, exploitation and rights violations, and provide representation to enforce rights.

Objective: Investigate reports or incidents of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation (PAIDD, PAIMI, PAIR)

Objective: Make recommendations for corrective action and pursue legal remedies in instances of abuse, neglect, exploitation (PAIDD, PAIMI, PAIR)

Objective: Advocate for services and supports, including the pursuit of legal remedies, designed to reduce the risk of homelessness, unnecessary institutionalization, reinstitutionalization, and inadequate discharge planning (PAIDD, PAIMI, PAIR, PAAT)

Objective: Provide representation, including the pursuit of legal remedies, to individuals who are subject to unwarranted seclusion and restraints, including mechanical, physical and drug or medication based methods of restraints (PAIDD, PAIMI, PAIR)

PHYSICAL AND PROGRAM ACCESS

PRIORITY 2: Represent, by advocating for or pursuing legal remedies, to improve access to public or private programs, services, facilities, places of public accommodation, or businesses

Objective: Eliminate access barriers in places of public accommodations and facilities, businesses, and in government programs (PAIDD, PAIR, PAAT)

Objective: Improve access to transportation including bus stops, paratransit, ground carrier and air carrier (PAIDD, PAIR, PAAT)

Objective: Assist in securing needed assistive technology devices and services in early intervention programs, Medicaid, Medicare, independent living programs and vocational rehabilitation (PAAT)

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

PRIORITY 3: Represent people with disabilities by advocating for or pursuing legal remedies, to assure adequate community services, supports and inclusion

Objective: Represent people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to have adequate community services and supports, including assistive technology (PAIDD, PAAT)

Objective: Represent people with psychiatric disabilities to have access to a full range of community mental health services and supports, appropriate discharge planning, and assistive technology (PAIMI, PAAT)

Objective: Represent people with disabilities to engage in integrated competitive employment, be free from employment discrimination, and have access to reasonable accommodations (PAIDD, PAIMI, PAIR, PAAT)

Objective: Represent people with disabilities who are receiving Social Security benefits by assisting with issues regarding work incentives, barriers to employment and problems with representative payees (PAIDD, PAIMI, PAIR, PAAT)

Objective: Represent people with disabilities in acquiring accommodations in access to and provision of housing (PAIDD, PAIMI, PAIR, PAAT)

SELF-ADVOCACY, INFORMATION, TRAINING, OUTREACH AND PUBLICATIONS

PRIORITY 4: Improve the self-advocacy skills of people with disabilities through legal representation, training, material development and outreach

Objective: Advocate for independence of self-direction and judgment and supported decision-making, including legal representation to prevent unnecessary substituted judgment (PAIDD, PAIMI, PAIR)

Objective: Train people with disabilities, their advocates and family members/legal representatives on disability related topics (PAIDD, PAIMI, PAIR, PAAT)

Objective: Develop and distribute materials and conduct outreach activities to ensure that information is available for self-advocacy (PAIDD, PAIMI, PAIR, PAAT)