

FY 2022 – FY2024 PAIMI PRIORITIES

Adopted by DRVT Board of Directors at 9/8/2021 Annual Meeting

With Explanation of Numerical Targets and Specific Population Information

Case acceptance is based on these criteria:

- 1. Client meets the federal definition of an individual with a mental illness;**
- 2. The case is within the PAIMI priorities;**
- 3. The case has merit;**
- 4. The client does not have other representation; and**
- 5. There are sufficient staff resources to take on the case.**

Priority 1: Improve access to community services and decrease institutionalization.

Measure of Success:

- A. DRVT will work with at least 5 community partners to collaborate on issues impacting Vermonters and their ability to live in the least restrictive setting, including but not limited to: housing, employment, transportation, accessible and adequate community services, shared decision making, and Advance Directives. Community partners will be representative of the diversity within Vermont.
- B. DRVT will engage in legislative and systemic advocacy and will provide testimony, input or public education on at least 3 issues impacting Vermonters with disabilities.
- C. DRVT will provide investigative, advocacy, and legal services when appropriate, but in a minimum of 5 cases in the spirit of the community integration mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Numerical Targets are contained in the Measures of Success identified above and should be met annually.

Target Population: PAIMI eligible persons, leadership and staff of inpatient facilities and community based services who serve PAIMI eligible persons (state run facilities, designated hospitals, designated agencies, specialized service agencies, emergency rooms, facilities for minors, emergency services, state agencies, agencies working with BIPOC, LGBTQIA and other diverse Vermonters) and policy makers.

Priority 2: Monitor conditions of treatment in facilities and work toward creating culturally competent, trauma-informed, violence free and coercion free mental health treatment environments.

Measures of Success:

- A. DRVT will work with at least 3 community partners (which could include hospitals) to create respectful, trauma-informed, violence free and coercion free treatment environments. Community partners will be representative of the diversity within Vermont.
- B. DRVT will engage in legislative and systemic advocacy and will provide testimony, input or public education on at least 3 occasions to preserve or enhance the right of Vermonters to be free from coercion in their mental health treatment.
- C. DRVT will conduct outreach to all prisons, psychiatric facilities and juvenile facilities and will provide investigative and legal advocacy services when appropriate, but in a minimum of 5 cases.

Numerical Targets are contained in the Measures of Success identified above and should be met annually.

Target Population: PAIMI eligible persons, leadership and staff of inpatient facilities and community based services who serve PAIMI eligible persons (state run facilities, designated hospitals, designated agencies, specialized service agencies, emergency rooms, facilities for minors, emergency services, state agencies, agencies working with BIPOC, LGBTQIA and other diverse Vermonters) and policy makers.

Priority 3: Improve access to justice for all Vermonters with disabilities.

Measure of Success:

- A. DRVT will work with at least 5 community partners to collaborate on issues impacting Vermonters and their ability to access justice, such as victims in criminal cases, individuals with communication barriers, interactions with law enforcement, and appropriate disaster preparedness. Community partners will be representative of the diversity within Vermont. Additionally, DRVT will continue to administer and support the Vermont Communication Support Project.
- B. DRVT will engage in legislative and systemic advocacy and will provide testimony, input or public education on at least 3 access to justice issues (examples provided above in subsection A) impacting Vermonters with disabilities.
- C. DRVT will provide investigative and legal advocacy services when appropriate, but in a minimum of 5 cases in the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act and creating access for Vermonters with disabilities that is equivalent to the access available to Vermonters without disabilities.

Numerical Targets are contained in the Measures of Success identified above and should be met annually.

Target Population: PAIMI eligible persons, leadership and staff of inpatient facilities and community based services who serve PAIMI eligible persons (state run facilities, designated hospitals, designated agencies, specialized service agencies, emergency rooms, facilities for minors, emergency services, state agencies, agencies working with BIPOC, LGBTQIA and other diverse Vermonters) and policy makers.

In addition to priorities DRVT does not ignore evolving situations and other cases, or treatment facilities which require attention.

Acronyms:

DRVT is Disability Rights Vermont

PAIMI is Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness

LGBTQIA is Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, & Allies

BIPOC is Black, Indigenous, People of Color