



# Disability Rights Center, Inc.

The Protection & Advocacy (P&A) System in Arkansas

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Summer King,  
SAMSHA Reports Clearance Officer

**FROM:** Nan Ellen D. East,  
Executive Director

**DATE:** February 7, 2006

**SUBJECT:** National Evaluation of the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with  
Mental Illness Program (PAIMI)

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue. My Board and staff have some concerns about the proposed information collection request for the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) programs.

The Chairperson of our PAIMI Advisory Council asks: Due to the significant staff time required to fulfill our current mandates, I am wondering how much time this new mandate will require. Are some of the current reviews being lifted? Where is the money coming from to fund this 'independent' review? What is this review expected to 'catch' that the others have not? It has been my experience from watching this process for a number of years (almost ten) that the current reviews are adequate (as well as, time consuming!). I have participated at the national level in the PPR review and it is an adequate process, in my opinion. I hope that the agencies behind this additional review rethink this proposed 'independent review'.

Joyce Soularie  
PAIMI Chair  
Arkansas Disability Rights Center

Other comments: For those planning to make calls regarding PAIMI (or any of our programs) the individuals would hopefully have a good understanding of the PAIMI program and nature of this

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