

Disability Rights North Carolina

Board of Directors

Questions & Answers

How many people serve on the Board of Directors?

Seventeen.

Who appoints members of the Board?

The current Board of Directors appoints new members to the Board.

How long are the terms of each appointment?

Each term is **three years**.? Members may be re-appointed for a second term. Terms are staggered.

What are the eligibility requirements of Board positions?

In general, members of Disability Rights NC's Board of Directors reflect the diverse constituency it serves. We are mandated by federal acts to serve individuals with developmental, mental, physical, learning and sensory disabilities. Persons with disabilities, family members, attorneys, professionals, and providers are all represented on the Board. Disability Rights NC is also committed to appointing members who represent North Carolina's diverse ethnic and cultural communities and makes efforts to insure the Board reflects different geographic areas of the state.

What are Board members' responsibilities? What time commitment is there?

The Board provides overall direction of Disability Rights NC. A more specific job description may be found at www.disabilityrightsn.org Generally, the Board does its work through standing committees.

Board membership is an important obligation that requires a significant investment of time. Members are expected to attend quarterly Board meetings in person, as well as participating in Committee meetings. The meeting schedule for the upcoming year is determined by the sitting Board at the Annual meeting in December. Recently, regular Board meetings have been held on a weekday and last all day, with lunch provided.

Each Board member is expected to serve on at least one Committee, but most members serve on two or more. Committee meetings are held once or twice between Board meetings; typically, they are held by telephone conference calling and usually last up to two hours. Committees include: Audit/Finance, Communication, Fund Raising, Nominating, and Program. In addition, the Board officers serve on the Executive Committee.

Once or twice a year, Board members are asked to participate in state-wide events such as conferences, or to assist with events in their areas such as public hearings.

How many Board meetings are held each year, and where are they held?

There are four meetings held a year. They are typically held in different areas of the state to be more accessible to our constituents. Generally, the annual meeting is held in Raleigh and the other three held in different board regions of the state as defined by our bylaws.

What is a “Public” Committee Member?

Disability Rights NC’s Board added Public Members to the Audit/Finance, Communication, Fundraising and Program Committees. Public Members help ensure that these Committees receive input from individuals which reflect North Carolina’s diverse ethnic, cultural and disability communities. Public members serve as full members of their appointed Committees. They receive all Committee materials and vote on matters that come before the Committee. They are reimbursed for their expenses in the same way that all Board members are reimbursed. Public members currently serve one year terms and are eligible for reappointment.

What is the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Council?

The PAIMI Advisory Council advises the Board on policies and priorities regarding: services to persons with psychiatric disabilities, reviews PAIMI goals and priorities and assists in the annual PAIMI Program Performance Review process.

Are there any prohibitions regarding appointments?

No person shall be appointed or continue to serve as a Director who is: (1) a contractor of the Agency; (2) is an employee of the Agency; (3) as a result of their employment or other activities impedes the Agency’s ability to be independent of any agency that provides treatment, services or habilitation to individuals with disabilities as required by federal law.

How do I apply for a position on the Board?

You may fill out an application and submit it at any time. Notices of vacancies are posted on our website at www.disabilityrightsn.org and sent to numerous agencies on a regular basis. The application may be obtained from our website as well. In general, applications (or updates) are due three to four months prior to the position becoming vacant.

Where can I get more information?

Please feel free to contact Janice Willmott at 919.856.2195.