



NAMI New York State

2017 Legislative Action Agenda

Continued Reinvestment in Community Services

The methods for delivering mental health services are changing in New York State. The number of hospital beds dedicated to treating psychiatric disorders is shrinking. This is very concerning to NAMI-NYS as many of our members have experienced both the tremendous benefits that hospital care has for our loved ones with serious mental illness as well as the tragic and heart-breaking results of what happens when someone with the most debilitating forms of mental illness do not receive the housing and services they need. Too many of our members have seen their loved ones end up on the streets, stranded in emergency rooms and complete suicide. Although beds are being reduced it does not mean the services are no longer needed, in fact they are needed more than ever.

Though NAMI-NYS does not want to see beds reduced, we strongly believe that the savings from these reductions be reinvested into services that would afford those living with a mental health disorder the best opportunity to advance their recovery in a community setting.

NAMI-NYS believes that it is the responsibility of government at all levels to develop and maintain comprehensive community support systems that include treatment and services to guide people's recovery from mental illness and maximize their mental health.

NAMI-NYS wants to see a dollar-for-dollar reinvestment from any bed reductions and hospital closures to create housing with wrap around supports and other community support services that are aligned with our belief that all publicly funded community service providers must offer practices and services that have proven effective results.

NAMI-NYS wants to see community support services in New York State which ensure:

- Practices and services that are recovery, resiliency and wellness oriented, culturally competent and readily accessible
- Safe and affordable housing
- Residential support services with transportation services and intensive case management
- The availability of all appropriate and effective medications
- Access to both inpatient and outpatient treatment options
- Vocational Training
- Wellness
- Round-the-clock services that are available seven days a week

- That no one would have to travel more than an hour to get to a psychiatric emergency room or crisis service unit.

NAMI-NYS is also calling for continued investments in Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams and coordinated specialty care early-intervention programs such as the New York State's Office of Mental Health's OnTrackNY.