



National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI New York State

2017 Legislative Action Agenda

Re-fund Kendra's Law & Make it Permanent

- ◆ Kendra's Law has reduced homelessness, incarceration, hospitalizations and suicide.
- ◆ **Support the \$7.6m investment in Executive Budget.**
- ◆ **Support A00604/S00516** to enhance this successful program and make it permanent.

Continued Reinvestments in Community Services

- ◆ The Executive Budget proposal aims to reduce another 100 inpatient beds in this fiscal year.
- ◆ Though NAMI-NYS does not want to see beds reduced, we strongly believe that the savings (in this case **\$11m** from the proposed 100 bed reduction) 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 firmly believes no one should have to travel more than an hour to access emergency and crisis psychiatric care.
- ◆ We want to see continued investments in Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams and coordinated specialty care early-intervention programs such as the New York State Office of Mental Health's OnTrackNY.

Support Office of Mental Health Research Institutes

- ◆ Continue the current funding levels to the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Nathan Kline Institute.

Open Access to Medication

- ◆ Restore prescriber prevails language for Medicaid services in final budget.

Veterans' Mental Health

- ◆ Provide funding for veterans' mental health programs.

Housing With Wraparound Services

- ◆ Housing programs incorporating recovery support services are crucial to successful recovery from a mental illness within the community setting.
- ◆ 25 years of flat-funding have led to housing providers to operate at 43% below where they should be, causing access to be a serious challenge.
- ◆ The \$10m the Executive Budget proposes for supported housing and single residence occupancy programs is a small investment that fails to address the multiple housing needs for people with serious mental illness and the support services more intensive housing programs need.
- ◆ NAMI-NYS and our advocacy partners are calling for **\$38m annually for three years to return providers to appropriate operating levels.**
- ◆ The Executive branch and Legislature need to agree to sign the Memo of Understanding detailed in the 2016-2017 budget that would release the \$2.5 billion which was targeted for 6000 new units of new supportive housing over the next five years.

Improve the Criminal Justice – Mental Illness Interface

- ◆ More than 60% of those incarcerated have a diagnosable mental illness. We must do better to divert people with mental illness from jails and into treatment and improve interactions between police and people with mental illness.
- ◆ NAMI-NYS supports the expansion of Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) which would save lives, reduce harm, and result in better outcomes for the individuals and the police. The Executive Budget proposal contains \$500k in CIT investments. This is a small number. Last year's final budget agreement contained **\$1.5m in CIT funding**; we urge the legislature to help meet this same funding level.
- ◆ Support Governor Cuomo's initiative to **raise the age** of juvenile jurisdiction to 17 in 2019 & to 18 in 2020.
- ◆ **Support A3080/S3824** to reform the use of solitary confinement. Cap the amount of time someone serves in solitary and ensure people with mental illness are not put in solitary.