

2020 Legislative Action Agenda

Advance Suicide Prevention by Passing Nicole's Law S.6629 Nicole's Law Would:

- ◆ Create a red-flag practice for people with multiple suicide attempts
- ◆ Ensure person-centered treatment
- ◆ Ensure enhanced discharge planning including priority access to community mental health services.
- ◆ Provide families and caretakers with increased supports and resources

Support Community Services, Caregivers and the Mental Health Workforce

- ◆ Too many New Yorkers are unable to access appropriate community-based services which increases the roles of families and caregivers. New York must invest in the full range of services to meet the needs of those on all points of the spectrum of psychiatric disorders as well as ease the financial burden on family caregivers.
- ◆ **Support A.7209/S.5100** which would provide a tax -credit for families and caregivers.
- ◆ **Support A4383** which would grant LMHCs and LCs the ability to diagnose and prescribe.
- ◆ **NAMI-NYS is calling for a guaranteed 3% a year increase for human services for the next five years.**
- ◆ NAMI-NYS is calling for investments in the following programs all of which are necessary for adequate community care: Assertive Community Teams (ACT Teams), Mobile Intervention Teams, Respite Centers, Crisis Centers, Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs), Telepsychiatry, First Episode Psychosis Programs, Integrated psychiatric services in the primary care setting and mental health clinics in schools.

Access to Appropriate Services and Medication

- ◆ **Ensure prescriber prevails language for Medicaid services in final budget.**
- ◆ Ensure the availability of inpatient hospital beds for those with serious mental illness and crisis beds.
- ◆ **Support A.3830/S.4848** Expanding a pharmacy to administer injectable medications.
- ◆ **Support A.4383**-Providing mental health practitioners authority to give diagnosis.
- ◆ **Support A.8563** Providing excused absence of a public employee for mental health purposes
- ◆ **A.8543/S.6687** Providing an excused absence from school for the mental or behavioral health of a minor.

Mental Health Housing With Wraparound Support Services

- ◆ Housing programs incorporating recovery support services are crucial to successful recovery from a mental illness within the community setting.
- ◆ Investing in mental health housing saves taxpayers money as programs are 40% - 94% less expensive (depending on housing model) than the alternatives: state psychiatric institutions, other hospitals, ERs, nursing homes, jails and prisons.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 40,000 Mental health community-based housing units are in jeopardy due to years of inadequate funding.
- ◆ **\$185m is needed to close this gap, We are asking for \$37m a year for the next five years to return the mental health housing system to appropriate funding levels.**

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.
- ◆ **Support A.2500/S.1623** the HALT bill which caps the amount of time someone serves in solitary and ensure people with mental illness are not put in solitary.
- ◆ **Enhanced discharge planning** for people living with a mental illness exiting jails and prisons and connecting them to Medicaid and appropriate services. This will help ensure they engage in recovery and prevent recidivism .

Expand Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran's Mental Health Program

- ◆ Expand NY's innovative veteran's peer support program to more counties.