



National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI New York State

2018 Legislative Action Agenda

Housing With Wraparound Services

- ◆ Housing programs incorporating recovery support services are crucial to successful recovery from a mental illness within the community setting.
- ◆ Our state has the most comprehensive community-based mental health housing system in the country, with approximately 40,000 units of community-based housing, but the state has not kept its promise to fund the system adequately.
- ◆ 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 proposed in the Governor's budget falls way short of addressing the gaps in community-based mental health housing.**
- ◆ **NAMI-NYS recommends moving the \$10 to the 4th quarter, have the Senate and Assembly match that investment and have it annualized for a total of \$120M which is needed to address flat-funding.**

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 fails to make sufficient CIT investments. **Last year's final budget agreement contained \$1.5m in CIT funding; we urge the legislature to help meet this same funding level.**
- ◆ **NAMI-NYS also has concerns about the Jail Restoration Programs proposed by the Governor.**
- ◆ **Support A3080/S4784** 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.

Mental Health in Schools

- ◆ NAMI-NYS support's Governor Cuomo's initiative to expand mental health services in schools.

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 is concerned that the Article 7 languages does not specifically link the bed closures to an exact dollar amount. We want this loophole to close during budget negotiation and that there is specific reference to a value of \$110,000 a bed for each bed that is reinvested.**
- ◆ **Support the investments the Governor proposes for Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams and Crisis Respite Centers.**
- ◆ **NAMI-NYS firmly believes no one should have to travel more than an hour to access emergency and crisis psychiatric care.**

Access to Appropriate Services and Medication

- ◆ **Restore prescriber prevails language for Medicaid services in final budget.**
- ◆ **Join Senator Kaminsky and Senator Phillips in calling for the NYS Department of Financial Services to do a thorough investigation to determine why insurance companies are not being held accountable for network adequacy.**
- ◆ **Call on the Assembly and Senate to add \$1.5M in the one house bills to fund a behavioral health ombudsman to monitor parity violations**
- ◆ **Support A.2317A/S.022A**-Which regulates private insurance providers making changes to prescription drug formulary during a contract.
- ◆ **Support A.8661**-Which expands a pharmacy to administer injectable medications.
- ◆ **Support A.236**-Which amends the public health law and the education law, in relation to generic drug products.