



# New York State

## PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Matthew Shapiro  
Email: [matthew@naminys.org](mailto:matthew@naminys.org)  
Phone (518) 462-2000

### Latest Episode of NAMI-NYS Television Show *Mental Health Now* Focuses on the Importance of Housing in Recovery from Psychiatric Disorders

(Albany, NY) The most recent episode of *Mental Health Now*, the television program produced by the National Alliance on Mental Illness-New York State (NAMI-NYS) in conjunction with the Town of Colonie, focuses on the important role housing with wrap-around services is to recovery from psychiatric disorders. Guests on the episode are Antonia Lasicki, J.D., the executive director of the Association for Community Living and Tiffany Monti, who details the role housing played in her recovery from bi-polar disorder.

The episode comes at a time when the issue of housing programs for people with a mental illness is getting a great deal of overdue attention as mental health advocates are calling on New York State to make appropriate investments in recovery oriented housing. Bring it Home is a coalition of community-based supportive housing providers, mental health advocates, faith leaders, and consumers and their families, urging New York State to adequately fund community-based housing programs for individuals with psychiatric disabilities. This outcry is the by-product of decades of flat-funding by the state to non-profit housing providers working with the Office of Mental Health. The failure to provide funding which coincides with the rates of inflation has left these providers of crucial programs operating at 43% of where they should be. This has seriously hampered the ability to hire and retain staff. This problem is magnified by New York State's ongoing goal to reduce the use of in-patient hospitalizations and shift services to community-based settings.

"Housing services for people living with a mental illness has long been a top advocacy priority for NAMI-NYS," says Matthew Shapiro, NAMI-NYS's Associate Director for Public Affairs and host of *Mental Health Now*. "NAMI-NYS is excited to use this episode of the show to demonstrate the tremendous role housing plays in recovery as well as showcase the severe lack of funding for these vital programs. Our members are extremely concerned about this especially as long-term hospital beds are diminishing. It is difficult for us to comprehend how the state can be committed to deinstitutionalization without investing in housing. Without this crucial safety-net people with a mental illness are bound to find themselves homeless or in the criminal justice system."

NAMI-NYS is the state chapter of NAMI, the nation's largest grassroots family and consumer movement dedicated to improving the lives of those with mental illness. The show can be seen at [www.naminys.org/media](http://www.naminys.org/media). Please contact Matthew Shapiro at 518-462-2000 or [matthew@naminys.org](mailto:matthew@naminys.org) for all media inquiries.

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