



National Alliance on Mental Illness

# NAMI New York State

## 2019 Legislative Action Agenda

### Access to Appropriate Services and Medication

- ◆ Ensure prescriber prevails language for Medicaid services in final budget.
- ◆ Support investments in Departments of Finance and Health for monitoring insurance parity violations.
- ◆ Ensure the availability of inpatient hospital beds for those with serious mental illness and crisis beds.
- ◆ **Support A.2969/S.2849** Regulating private insurance providers making changes to prescription drug formulary during a contract.
- ◆ **Support Legislation (Bill#TBA)**-Expanding a pharmacy to administer injectable medications.
- ◆ **Support Legislation (Bill#TBA)**- Amending the public health law and the education law, in relation to generic drug products.

### Continued Investments in Community Services and the Mental Health Workforce

- ◆ Too many New Yorkers are unable to access appropriate community-based services. 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.
- ◆ Continuity of care is vital to recovery and service providers must be able to hire and retain skilled and caring staff.
- ◆ **The FY 2019/20 state budget should include the statutory human services 2.9% COLA that would pay direct care staff.**
- ◆ 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.

### Expand Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran's Mental Health Program

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

### 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.
- ◆ **\$172m is needed to close this gap, We are asking for \$32 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 .

### Responsible Marijuana Legalization

- ◆ Many studies have shown the dangers of marijuana for people with psychosis, which is why NAMI-NYS has concerns with legalization and is calling for:
- ◆ **A portion of the tax revenue appropriated to the NYS-OMH to increase the amount of integrated mobile and stationary crisis services in communities throughout the state**
- ◆ **Warning labels on products stating dangers to people with psychotic symptoms**
- ◆ **Raising the age of purchase to 26.**