

Mental Health Advocacy: Key Points for Legislators

Our Core Message

People with mental illness and their families must be included in shaping the policies that affect our lives. We know what works, and we want to partner with you.

Top Points to Share

- Include us from the beginning. People with lived experience should help shape mental health policy - not be brought in after decisions are made.
- Don't draft legislation without us. State agencies provide information, but they do not speak for us. Our voices and our organizations must be at the table.
- Support transparency. Thank you for SB 2259, which increases public access to information. If it doesn't pass, please support livestreaming of Department of Mental Health board meetings.
- Protect access to data. HB 349 limits access to court data, and SB 2445 removes an independent office that provides essential mental health system data.
- No new oversight without community input. SB 2445 appears to create a new monitoring structure without involving the people who rely on these services.
- Gather more input on Assisted Outpatient Treatment. HB 424 could be used in a coercive way and does not address real barriers to accessing care. More community input is needed.
- Thank you for expanding community voice. We appreciate HB 1760 and SB 2726 for increasing public involvement in oversight of opioid settlement funds.
- Thank you for keeping the mental health code open for updates. SB 2478 creates an opportunity for needed improvements.

Our Ask

Work with us. Listen to us. Include us. Together, we can build a mental health system that truly helps people.

Nothing About Us Without Us

