



Legislative Priorities



NAMI (the National Alliance on Mental Illness) is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization providing advocacy, education, support and public awareness. NAMI TN is the state affiliate of NAMI and supports 22 local affiliates across the state. Together, our mission is to improve the quality of life of people affected by mental illness and to promote recovery.

Provide Access to Affordable Mental Health Treatment Services



- Ensure access to affordable health insurance that covers mental health services at the same rate as other physical illnesses **SUPPORT** SB 774 (Yarbro) HB 1106 (Powell)
- Expand Tennessee's Behavioral Health Safety Net in order to cover more people with mental health conditions above the 100% FPL
- Accept federal funds for TennCare in order to cover more people with mental health conditions currently not receiving services. **OPPOSE** 1428 (Bailey) HB 1280 (Hill) that proposes a TennCare block grant waiver. **SUPPORT** SB 1029 (Yarbro) HB 1430 (Stewart) to authorize governor to negotiate TennCare expansion with CMS

Support alternatives to incarceration

- Continue funding for the 7 ongoing pre-arrest diversion projects and alternative transportation project & increase funding for new pre-arrest diversion projects
- Support expansion of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) programs to prevent violence, avoid unnecessary arrests, and improve access to behavioral health services
- **SUPPORT** SB 0985 (Gilmore) HB 1449 (Camper) allowing community-based sentencing for primary caregivers with a focus on parent-child unity and support



Promote Avenues to Recovery in the Community through Employment, Housing, and Peer Services and Support



- Increase investment in Individualized Placement and Support (IPS), an evidence-based model of supported employment
- Maintain the investment in the peer support specialist workforce
- Increase funding for housing and homelessness programs, including: Community Supportive Housing, Community Targeted Transitional Support and supportive/ recovery housing options.
- Increase Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services budget for the continuum of prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery and community-based mental health services that we know work.

Support SB 1124/ HB1455 to prohibit death penalty for people with severe mental illness

- **SUPPORT** SB 1124 (Briggs) HB1455 (Ramsey) prohibiting a court from sentencing a defendant convicted of first-degree murder to death if the defendant had a severe mental illness at the time of the offense.
- NAMI TN is a proud member of the Tennessee Alliance for Severe Mental Illness Exclusion (TASMIE), a statewide coalition of mental health advocates, faith leaders, law enforcement and other groups.



SHARE THE FACTS



- 1 in 5 Tennesseans are affected by a mental health condition, with 411,000 Tennesseans experiencing a serious mental illness
- 1.3 million Tennesseans will have a mental health crisis at one point in their lives
- 60% of Tennesseans with a mental health condition do not receive any treatment
- 30% of women admitted to TN jails have a severe mental illness
- An average of 3 individuals die by suicide each day in Tennessee. Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for you people in TN.

SUPPORT OUR PRIORITIES

Strengthen the state's behavioral health care and public health infrastructure

Reduce criminalization and expand Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) programs

Support mental health caregivers

Helping people living with mental illnesses obtain homes and jobs

Enforce federal and state mental health insurance parity laws

ABOUT NAMI TN

NAMI TN is the state's largest grassroots mental health organization, dedicated to building better lives for all Tennesseans affected by mental illness through support, education and advocacy. We are a membership-based organization with an alliance of 22 local affiliates and hundreds of member volunteers who work in your communities to advocate, raise awareness, and provide free support and education to those in need. We envision a state where all affected by mental illness experience resiliency, recovery, and wellness.