

There is no health without Mental Health.

Restore Support for Mental Health Services that have been cut.

- Because of recent fiscal emergencies, there have been drastic reductions in support for providing services for those who have mental illness. Indiana's cuts, in fact, were the second largest in the nation.
- This has resulted in serious deterioration of access to treatment for those who have mental illness.
- There has been an improvement in the state's fiscal status, resulting in a substantial surplus in the state's treasury.
- We urge using a portion of this surplus to restore services that have been so drastically reduced.

Preserve legislative intent for Open Access to mental health medications.

- Finding the most helpful medications for mental illnesses can take multiple trials, because effectiveness and side effects vary significantly for every person. When it comes to medication, one size does not fit all.
- Barriers to getting the most effective and well-tolerated medications can result in poor outcomes: increased hospitalization, criminalization and homelessness.

Children's Behavioral Health is important. Implement Senate Enrolled Act 529, the Children's Behavior Health Plan.

- In any given year, only 20% of children with mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders are identified and receive mental health services. (NAMI Facts on Children's Mental Health)
- Approximately 50% of students with mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders drop out of high school. (NAMI Facts on Children's Mental Health).
- Indiana is 6th in the nation for detained youth. (2006 IYI Kids Count Data Book)
- 65% of boys and 75% of girls in juvenile detention have at least one mental, emotional, or behavioral disorder. (NAMI Facts on Children's Mental Health)

Community Based Treatment Works! And it also saves money and lives.

- Our Community Mental Health Centers are the lifeline for many people with mental illness. Funding must continue and increase to serve Indiana's most vulnerable citizens.
- ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) works and Indiana has done it well. But ACT is in jeopardy, due to the new finance plan.
- Clubhouses certified by the International Center for Clubhouse Development are evidence based, cost effective and highly successful. With their guidance, people with mental disorders re-discover their skills and abilities, and return to work and school in the community.

Treatment: Indiana's Assisted Outpatient Law

- Persons who have severe mental illness (SMI) often have anosognosia, a profound lack of awareness of their illness. This lack of awareness can make it extremely difficult to persuade such persons to be treated for their illness.
- When such persons are judged to be gravely disabled or in danger of harming themselves or others, Indiana's Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) law [I.C. 12-7-2-53, 12-7-2-96, 12-26-7-5(a), 12-26-14-1, 12-26-6-8(a)] can provide an effective means to get them into treatment.
- This AOT law should be universally used throughout the state, so that such persons can have access to the treatment that they so sorely need. Having such treatment will greatly reduce the chances that persons with SMI will end up in prison, and greatly increase the chances that they will be able to lead productive lives.

Capital Cases: Amend IC 35-36-9-2 to include persons with serious mental illness.

- Persons experiencing psychotic features are unable to understand what they are doing or the consequences of their actions.
- Their cases should not be allowed to be tried as capital cases, because of their mental incapacity in that moment.

Invest in Mental Health Treatment; It Saves Money!