

# Focus Group Issue Comparison Chart

## Key to abbreviations

- **NAMI-ME 2000** - current NAMI Maine report
- **Diamond 1999** - Diamond Report
- **JAC 2000** - JAC Report
- **ME-DDPC 2000** - Developmental Disabilities Planning Council Report
- **NAMI-ME 1999** - last year's NAMI Maine report
- **DNI** - did not identify or assess
- **N/A** - not applicable
- **Yes** - issue or related one was cited

**Note** - with regard to the ME-DDPC report, we only reviewed responses from family members, not those of providers or persons with a disability.

	<b>NAMI-ME 2000</b>	<b>Diamond 1999</b>	<b>JAC 2000</b>	<b>ME-DDPC 2000</b>	<b>NAMI-ME 1999</b>
<b>Issue</b>					
1. Families and professionals need more information about available resources and how to access them.	Yes	DNI	Yes	Yes	Yes
2. More support groups are needed statewide.	Yes	DNI	Yes	DNI	Yes
3. Gaps in crisis service, including a lack of preventative services, an insufficient number of crisis beds, and areas of the state being less well served.	Yes	Yes	DNI	Yes	DNI
4. The number of psychiatrists in Maine is insufficient to adequately monitor those requiring treatment, and there is a lack of continuity of care from many of those associated with community mental health centers.	Yes	Yes	Not enough MD's and professionals trained in geriatrics	Yes	DNI
5. Lack of a comprehensive integrated mental health care system.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	DNI
6. Not all services available statewide	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	DNI
7. Transportation services for therapeutic and social/recreational needs are inadequate.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	DNI
8. Community support services are inadequate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	DNI
9. Transition planning and services for adolescents "aging-out" to the adult service system are inadequate, and lengthy waiting lists exist for adult services.	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	DNI
10. The number of day treatment	Yes	DNI	Yes - for elderly	DNI	DNI

programs is inadequate statewide. Many individuals coping with mental illness could benefit from life skills training.					
11. Hospital and community systems coordination is inadequate.	Yes	Yes	Yes	DNI	DNI
12. Housing options are inadequate and the process to obtain what is available takes too long.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	DNI
13. Inadequate numbers of in-state residential treatment facilities/group homes.	Yes	DNI	N/A	Need in-state children's hospital	DNI
14. There are inadequate in-home supports for children. Those that exist reportedly do not facilitate community interaction.	Yes	DNI	Yes - for elderly	Yes	DNI
15. The mental health services system itself is frustrating and confusing.	Yes	DNI	Yes	Yes	Yes
16. Many of the deficiencies, problems and issues remain unresolved despite repeated studies, task forces, commissions, and public forums. The system is unresponsive to the concerns of families coping with mental illness.	Yes	DNI	Yes	Yes	DNI
17. There is little or no oversight and accountability of mental health providers and professionals.	Yes	DNI	Yes systemic oversight needed	DNI	DNI
18. Stigma still pervades all levels of society.	Yes	DNI	Yes	DNI	Yes
19. Treatment plans and options are reportedly often driven not by the needs of the individual but rather by other considerations, including the needs of facility administrators and insurance coverage.	Yes	DNI	DNI	Yes	DNI
20. Families report that the practice of "abandoning children" to the custody of the Department of Human Services in order to obtain services continues.	Yes	DNI	N/A	DNI	DNI
21. Mental health workers are not always sufficiently credentialed or trained for their positions.	Yes	Yes	Yes	DNI	DNI
22. Geographic barriers continue to limit access and availability of services and information.	Yes	Mentioned	Yes	DNI	DNI
23. Communication problems exist throughout the service delivery system.	Yes	DNI	DNI	DNI	Yes
24. The system itself fosters adversarial interactions between all those involved.	Yes	DNI	DNI	DNI	Similar issues

25. Additional educational programs are needed for families, professionals, school staff, police and the public.	Yes	Yes for providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
26. Comprehensive mental health courses aimed at school students are needed statewide to reduce stigma. Current programs vary, depending upon the school.	Yes	DNI	N/A	DNI	DNI
27. High school guidance counselors are often unaware of post high school options for students with special needs.	Yes	DNI	N/A	Similar issues	More education for school staff

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