



National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI | New York State

2014 Legislative Action Agenda Reinvest in Community Services

NAMI-NYS is against the closures of state psychiatric hospitals. Mental illness is not a single definitive illness. Most people with a mental illness are nonviolent, exercise good judgment, move about freely in the community, and are willingly treated in office settings. Some persons with "mental illness" however, experience hallucinations and delusions. This group of persons with serious mental illness may not endorse the benefits of treatment. Their high risk behaviors are informed by their voices and false beliefs. They do not want to be symptomatic, but a brain disease affects them in ways that leads to impaired ability to care for themselves safely in the community. Our society fails to meet the needs of these people. They need and will benefit from intensive, state-of-the art treatment that is available only in hospital settings

However, if hospitals are to be closed and psychiatric beds reduced, than NAMI-NYS strongly believes that the savings from this reductions be reinvested into services that would afford those living with a mental illness the best opportunity to advance their recovery in a community setting.

NAMI-NYS believes that it is the responsibility of government at all levels to develop and maintain comprehensive community support systems that include treatment and services for all adults with serious mental illnesses.

NAMI-NYS wants to see a dollar-for-dollar reinvestment to create a community support services that are aligned with our belief **that all publicly funded community service providers must offer practices and services that have proven effective results.**

NAMI-NYS wants to see community support services in New York State which ensure:

- Practices and services that are recovery, resiliency and wellness oriented, culturally competent and readily accessible
- Safe and affordable housing
- Residential support services with transportation services and intensive case management
- The availability of all appropriate and effective medications
- Access to both inpatient and outpatient treatment options
- Vocational Training
- Wellness
- Round-the-clock services that are available seven days a week
- That no one would have to travel more than an hour to get to a psychiatric emergency room or crisis service unit.