

## THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS OF OHIO

*The State's Voice on Mental Illness*

### PRIORITIZATION OF PEOPLE WITH SEVERE & PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS

NAMI Ohio applauds Ohio's ongoing work to improve our behavioral health system. While we have made great gains in services and supports for children served in multiple systems (OhioRise), and people struggling with addiction, we have not prioritized or fully supported the basic needs for adults who struggle with severe mental illnesses (SPMI) such as Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder and Major Depression.

NAMI Ohio supports 500,000 Ohioans with serious mental illness, and over the last year we have engaged with hundreds of stakeholders to better understand our families and communities' pressing needs. Through all conversations, we heard: "Now is the time to prioritize and support the development, and funding of the needed foundational services for people with Severe and Persistent Mental Illnesses in all communities across Ohio"

Those services include:



#### CLUBHOUSES & PEER SUPPORT CENTERS

Magnolia Clubhouse, OhioPRO and NAMI Ohio

know that meaningful activity is critical to health.

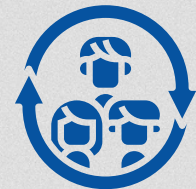
Clubhouses and Peer Centers provide people with SPMI necessary and empowering social and relational health care and rehabilitation services. These centers should be available in all communities across Ohio.



#### HOUSING

The Corporation for Supported Housing, The Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, and NAMI Ohio understand that a stable, safe place to call home should be available to all people with SPMI.

To realize Ohio's vision for an effective community-based system of care, we all agree it is time to prioritize the development and funding of a defined and funded continuum of housing and support services for people with SPMI.



#### RESPONSIVE CARE COORDINATION

NAMI Ohio and the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation appreciate the availability of care management, but it is now time to prioritize the development of customer service expectations for care coordination services across providers and managed care plans so that families and people with SPMI can count on support when needed.

**NAMI Ohio stands ready to help you!** We will work with all stakeholders to prioritize those most in need of treatments and supports. We believe stronger support services and clear accountability for ensuring access will improve the outcomes for those served in our community treatment system.

We strive to be the voice for individuals and their families to better coordinate key services that allows all Ohioans to lead health and productive lives.

# HOW POLICY MAKERS HELP PEOPLE WITH SEVERE AND PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS?

Develop and implement a shared definition of SPMI, so that individuals with serious and persistent mental illness can be consistently identified and served appropriately.

## HOUSING

CSH, COHHIO and NAMI Ohio ask that ALL housing, both permanent and shorter-term crisis care, should be available to ALL people with Severe and Persistent Mental Illnesses (SPMI) in ALL communities across Ohio, and ask Policy Makers to:

- Create access standards and identify parties accountable for ensuring access to all housing, supports and residential treatment options for people with SPMI.
- Pass the pending legislation to create affordable and supportive housing units through the American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery funds and ensure access to adequate supportive services.
- Adopt Medicaid tenancy support waivers or state plan amendments to adequately finance supportive services, often at no additional cost to the state.

## CLUBHOUSES & PEER SUPPORT CENTERS

OhioPRO, Magnolia Clubhouse, and NAMI Ohio know that meaningful activity makes all the difference, and every community should have Peer Run Organizations and Clubhouses, available for ALL people with Severe and Persistent Mental Illnesses (SPMI) in ALL communities across Ohio, and ask Policy Makers to:

- Create access standards for Clubhouses & Peer Centers and identify accountable parties to ensure access improvements.
- Expand funding for start-up and technical assistance to help start and grow Clubhouses & Peer Run Organizations for people with SPMI and BH needs.
- Create Medicaid coverage for mental health peer support services.

## RESPONSIVE CARE COORDINATION

The Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation and NAMI Ohio believe that responsive care coordination should be available to ALL people with Severe and Persistent Mental Illnesses (SPMI) in ALL communities across Ohio, and ask Policy Makers to:

- Reduce duplication and clarify accountability for responsive care coordination across providers and plans.
- Develop and fund sustainable models of care coordination to meet the whole person needs of people with severe mental illnesses, such as Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers.
- Clarify accountability for the customer experience so that care coordination is available and responsive for people with SPMI.