

National Alliance
on Mental Illness Oregon

Public Policy Update



2018 Highlights

- **Provider tax passes**
 - ✓ Special election in January retains provider tax to fund continued Medicaid expansion.
- **HB 3090 & 3091 rules enacted**
 - ✓ Not what we wanted. More work to be done.
- **Well Being Trust & NAMI Brain Trust**
 - ✓ Select group invited to meet monthly to devise reforms to the healthcare system to better serve people with mental illness and substance use disorders.

2017 Legislative Session

- **NAMI Emergency Dept. Bill – HB 3090**
 - ✓ Requires emergency rooms to do an actual clinical assessment when someone presents with a behavioral health crisis.
 - ✓ Must develop a “release plan” that includes input from family or other identified caregivers.
 - ✓ Rules didn’t reflect bill as enacted.
 - ✓ Meeting with hospital association to address developing checklist, similar to checklist for inpatient discharges. (see www.namior.org; Providers and Privacy Box)

2017 Legislative Session

- **NAMI Insurance Bill – HB 3091**

- ✓ Requires insurance, including the Oregon Health Plan, to pay for clinical assessments in the ER.
- ✓ Requires insurance to pay for services identified by clinical assessment.
- ✓ Sticking point will be how the Insurance Division and Oregon Health Authority implement and enforce mandates.
- ✓ Rules did not enact legislation as we hoped. Not sure how to fix. Legislation likely to be ineffective.

2019 Legislative Session

- **Budget: Continued Medicaid Expansion**
- **Elections: Governor and Legislature**

2019 Legislative Session

- **NAMI's Housing Bill – More funding**
 - ✓ Created permanent incentive fund in which legislators can deposit funding.
 - ✓ Funds up to 35 percent of project development for housing for individuals living with mental illness.
 - ✓ Originally a \$20 million allocation in 2015. Funding now spent.
 - ✓ Asking for another \$20 million in lottery bonds in 2019. In governor's recommended budget.

2019 Legislative Session

- **NAMI Mental Health Medication Bill**
 - ✓ Renew Mental Health Medication Clinical Advisory Group. (HB 2300 from 2017)
 - ✓ Goal is to improve prescribing without curbing access.
 - ✓ Retains mental health medication carve out.
 - ✓ Advocating in cooperation with Oregon Health Authority.

2019 Legislative Session

- **New 5-year Contracts for CCOs**

- ✓ New RFPs out in January. Key issue: How detailed will the new contracts be around behavioral health?
- ✓ NAMI will have legislation to pick up whatever the contracts leave out.
- ✓ Developed through our NAMI Brain Trust.
- ✓ Parity, utilization management, denials of service, care coordination, larger provider panels – all among essential requirements we want in contract.

2019 Legislative Session

- **Civil Commitment Legislation**

- ✓ Add definitions to Oregon's civil commitment statute.
- ✓ Define terms such as “danger to self or others” and “near future.”
- ✓ Address restrictions developed through Oregon case law.
- ✓ Hopefully, address Oregon's “aid and assist” crisis. Fewer people enter through criminal justice system.

2019 Legislative Session

- **Children and Youth with Specialized Needs**
 - ✓ Support recommendations of governor's workgroup. Addresses children and youth with complex needs currently in hotels, boarded in ERs, etc.
- **Confederation of Oregon School Admins.**
 - ✓ Support recommendations of Social and Emotional Well-Being workgroup. Focused on school culture, trauma, etc.
 - ✓ Attempt to begin addressing burgeoning crisis that schools are experiencing in last two to three years.

Ongoing Advocacy

- U.S. Department of Justice – Behavioral Health Performance Plan
- Statewide Supportive Housing Strategy Workgroup – Final recommendations around Permanent Supported Housing
- Kepro – contractor that state hired to provide utilization management for secure residential treatment and other licensed treatment homes

Key Elements: U.S. DoJ Plan

- **Uniform crisis responses.**
- **Expand Assertive Community Treatment.**
- **Expand access to housing.**
- **Improved discharge planning from hospital and Oregon State Hospital.**

Other Policy Topics

- Workforce compensation.
- Continued integration of healthcare.
- Impact of election at federal level.
- Future of Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion.
- Future of housing voucher funding and affordable housing budgets at federal level.
- Preparing for the next recession.

New in 2018

**NAMI Oregon launches
Advocacy Committee**

Join Us!



The Nature of Our Policy Advocacy Has Changed

- **Less Legislative:** There are fewer specific overarching legislative initiatives to take on.
- **More Legislator:** In-district contacts are more important than ever.
- **More Local:** Coordinated Care Organizations and local systems are being asked to innovate and produce results.

What's the Message, What Do I Say?

- **Mental health is important!**
- **We need better services!**
- **We need housing!**
- **We need supports!**
- **We can and do recover!**

Real stories change hearts and minds!

What Can We Do?

- Constantly talk to legislators: Town halls, coffees, letters and emails. All done outside of legislative sessions.
- Email your legislators and other local officials.
- Go to every forum you can.
- Mention you're with NAMI!

Want to Learn More?

- Schedule a NAMI Smarts training in your area. (Two-hour workshop.)
- Ask for a briefing in your community.
- Invite to board meeting or other gathering.
- Join Advocacy Committee email list. Updates regularly.

Mention NAMI Wherever You Go

- We have a lot of influence.
- Our name carries weight.
- We have more allies than you think.
- People look to us.

Question & Answer