



National Alliance on Mental Illness

nami

Idaho

Idaho House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees

February 23, 2023

Presented by

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NAMI – National Alliance on Mental Illness

- Nation's largest grassroots mental health organization
- Dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness
- Started in 1979 as a small group of families gathered around a kitchen table
- NAMI Idaho was founded and incorporated in 1991

NAMI Idaho - State Organization

- Our mission is to improve the quality of life for all those affected by mental illness through
 - Support
 - Education
 - Advocacy
- NAMI ID - 501(c)(3) organization presently funded by member dues, private donations, and grants



NAMI Idaho Local Affiliates

- Far North (Sandpoint, Region 1)
- Coeur d'Alene (Region 1)
- Treasure Valley (Region 4)
- Wood River Valley (Region 5)
- Upper Valley (Idaho Falls, Region 7)

- Working to expand in Regions 2, 3, 5 and 6

Peer and Family Support Groups

- Over 50 support groups held monthly
- Continuing online, in person and hybrid formats
- Support groups open through out the state
- Greatly increased availability in rural areas and those without local affiliates

Mental Health Condition/Illness

- Medical condition impacting the brain
- 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, 75% by age 24
- Average delay between symptom onset and treatment – 11 years
- The 11-year gap receiving effective treatment results in the costliest ripple effects
- **With identification and treatment there is hope for recovery**
- Impacts people regardless of economic status, religion, race, gender or education

Mental Health Numbers - Idaho

- 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year
- 311,000 adults in Idaho have a mental health condition
- 71,000 adults in Idaho have a serious mental illness
- 26,000 Idahoans ages 12-17 have depression
- 51,000 Idahoans on Medicaid "received specialty mental health services" (Invitation To Negotiate (ITN), Idaho Health and Welfare, 12/30/21)

Mental Illness Stigma Must End

- Stigma is a significant cause for lack of timely identification and treatment
- Mental illness is not a lifestyle choice
- Mental illness is not a welfare issue
- Mental illness is not caused by behavior issues
- Mental illness may cause behavior and thought issues

Mental Illness Ripple Effect

- Increased risk for chronic disease like cancer and diabetes
- Substance abuse – 18% have mental illness
- Caregivers provide an average of 32 hours per week unpaid care
- 21% of homeless have mental illness
- 37% of people in state and federal prisons have diagnosed mental illness
- 70% of youth in the juvenile justice system have diagnosable condition
- Depression is a leading cause of disability
- Lost productivity
- Suicide

Thoughts for Policy Makers

- Barriers to treatment
 - Affordability
 - Shortage of mental health providers
 - Stigma
- Early identification and treatment greatly improves outcomes, recovery and reduced costs
- Affordable medical and mental health coverage for all citizens is vital to the overall health and productivity of Idaho
- Assure continuity of coverage