

Ask your candidates where they stand on mental health.



(See opposite side for suggested candidate questions.)



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2016 Questions to Ask NH Candidates

Vote Mental Health!

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8!

Do you know where your candidates stand on issues related to mental health? If we want real change, we must elect those who share our concerns and have the intent and the ability to create positive improvements.

The questions below are targeted to the following state offices that are up for election:

Governor (2-year term)

NH Executive Councilor (all five districts; 2-year term)

NH State Senators (all 24 seats; 2-year term)

NH State Representatives (all 400 seats; 2-year term)

The names of all candidates can be found on the website of the NH Secretary of State: sos.nh.gov.

What are your candidates' positions on mental health care? Ask them! Here are some sample candidate questions that will help you understand their positions on mental health:

The Settlement Agreement in the case of *Amanda D. v. Hassan; United States v. New Hampshire*, also known as the Community Mental Health Agreement

A key solution to our mental health crisis is increased community-based treatment. In February 2014, a landmark class action settlement agreement for expanded community mental health services was made—but this is an unfunded mandate on a system that is collapsing. NH is at risk of being brought back to court due to our inadequate mental health system and failure to meet the benchmarks established in the terms of the Settlement Agreement. What are you going to do about this?

Emergency Department wait lists for beds at New Hampshire Hospital

The average daily wait list count over the past 6 months (March-August) is 28 adults and 5 children. This reality is discriminatory and harmful to health, and it violates civil rights, including the right to due process. What will you do to ensure that people with mental illness are treated promptly and fairly, just like people with other types of illness are?

Workforce Development

It's hard to get mental health care if you can't quickly see a psychiatric care provider, whether for an outpatient appointment or an inpatient hospitalization, and yet many areas do not have enough providers to meet treatment needs. For example, Cheshire Medical Center in Keene had to close its inpatient psychiatric unit in July after an unsuccessful 3-year search for a psychiatrist, and many providers have appointment wait lists that are weeks or months long. We know that low salaries, high vacancies and difficulty recruiting and retaining mental health staff all contribute to a lack of capacity to meet current mental health needs. If elected, what will you do to address workforce development, especially now that the Affordable Care Act gives insurance coverage to more people for mental health and substance use disorder treatment?

Care for children

Last year the Legislature passed legislation establishing a Children's System of Care. Do you support this legislation and, if elected, will you provide funding to implement a comprehensive statewide system of care for children with serious emotional disorders?

Questions? Contact NAMI NH at (603) 225-5359