

NAMI New Hampshire statement in response to the February 23, 2023 decision of the US District Court for the District of New Hampshire on the Motion for Summary Judgment filed by 18 New Hampshire hospitals.

(February 27, 2023)

Concord, NH — NAMI New Hampshire has long held that the problem of emergency department boarding should not be considered in a vacuum. It is directly related to the long-term failure of the State, hospitals, and the health care system generally, to develop a comprehensive system of community-based services for people with serious mental illnesses, including inadequate numbers of inpatient psychiatric beds, especially community-based beds, for those who need that level of care and treatment.

It is important to acknowledge that there has been significant investment and much accomplished in the implementation of NH's 10 Year Mental Health Plan, thanks to policymakers, providers, peers, and others with lived experience. NAMI NH urges the parties to see this recent ruling as an opportunity to expand and enhance that work by developing a comprehensive plan that addresses the issue of ED boarding, including the ongoing "backdoor" problem where dozens of individuals who are clinically appropriate for discharge from NH Hospital have nowhere to be safely discharged to.

We all know someone affected by mental illness or suicide. For many of us, it is someone we love dearly. This is an issue that we all must work together to resolve – because it does affect us all. Most importantly, we want to remind folks they are not alone.

Learn more about NAMI NH's advocacy, education and support services at www.NAMINH.org. For those experiencing a mental health crisis, help is available 24/7 through the NH Rapid Response at 833-710-6477 or www.nh988.com