



**NAMI New Hampshire Response to the July 12, 2023 Announcement regarding
Resolution of Long-Standing Litigation Over Boarding of Patients in Acute Psychiatric Crisis
(July 14, 2023)**

Concord, NH – On Wednesday, the New Hampshire Hospital Association and NH Department of Health and Human Services jointly announced an agreement to resolve long-standing litigation over boarding of patients in acute psychiatric crisis. The two parties have agreed to work together with other stakeholders to meet the one-year timeline set forth in the May 17th Permanent Injunction issued by Judge McCafferty that will require patients subject to an involuntary emergency admission (IEA) petition be accepted for transfer to a designated receiving facility (DRF) within 6 hours.

NAMI New Hampshire is heartened to see this positive movement toward a cooperative resolution and hopeful that it will expedite the end of the practice of boarding people experiencing a psychiatric crisis in hospital emergency departments.

Countless Granite State adults and children have been subjected to this practice. Indeed, at NAMI NH we have been hearing from folks for over a decade about their and/or their loved one's experience of being held against their will, alone, often in a windowless room, with little to no treatment provided, for days or even weeks. As we look toward the promise of this practice ending in our state, we need to remember these folks who have spoken out at public forums, legislative hearings, with the media, and in their communities – sharing deeply painful and personal stories in order to help raise awareness and bring this unacceptable practice to an end.

“NAMI NH looks forward to working with the hospitals, NH DHHS, our community mental health partners, and individual and family advocates to bring an end to ED boarding in our state. We are inspired by the courage of the many Granite Staters who have shared their own experiences with ED boarding and carry each of you in our hearts as we do this work,” stated Susan Stearns, NAMI NH Executive Director.

Life circumstances and medical status can change for any of us when we least expect it. Any one of us could be that person, boarding in an emergency department, frightened, alone, and seemingly forgotten. We continue to call upon all Granite Staters to take this moment of heightened awareness and ensure it becomes one of compassionate action. We all have a stake in the implementation of a comprehensive solution that ensures people experiencing mental health crisis receive the level of care they need, when they need it, and where they need it. Each of us and our loved ones deserve no less.

You 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 NH Rapid Response at 833-710-6477 or www.nh988.com.