



March 31, 2025

Honorable Chairman Kenneth Weyler
House Finance Committee
Legislative Office Building Room 210-211
33 N State St., Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH Response to 2026-2027 NH State Budget Proposals

Chairman Weyler and Committee Members:

On behalf of NAMI New Hampshire, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, I write today in response to proposed changes to the 2026-2027 NH State Budget and the impact of such changes upon the mental health of Granite State individuals and families.

NAMI NH is deeply concerned about the harsh reductions to funding for New Hampshire's community mental health system that have been proposed by House Finance Division III. If approved, these cuts will directly affect the state's ability to continue the work of the 10 Year Mental Health Plan and the Mission Zero Initiative to address the mental health, suicide, substance use, and emergency department boarding crises facing our state. We are further concerned regarding proposals to drastically change the state's Medicaid program by introducing premiums, increasing medication copayments, and implementing an across the board Medicaid rate reduction of 3 percent. These changes will lead to decreased access to services for individuals, youth, and families and an increased burden on the state's mental health system and providers.

Without proper funding, our system will face grave consequences. Already, our community mental health providers face workforce shortages and financial instability, driven in part by the pervasive impacts of uncompensated care. It is unclear to us how community providers can go on providing access to services at current levels with a decrease in funds available to support the system, reductions in Medicaid provider rates, and the proposed changes to Medicaid that are likely to cause decreased enrollment, such as increased cost sharing.

We must invest in progress – the real progress we are seeing in our system. Multiple times over the past calendar year, we have hit zero individuals boarding in emergency departments under an involuntary emergency admission. In recent years, data has shown reductions in youth who have felt sad or hopeless or considered or attempted suicide. We are making real progress in our mission to support Granite Staters impacted by mental illness, eliminate emergency department boarding, and prevent suicide deaths – progress we cannot afford to lose.

Find Help, Find Hope.

NAMI New Hampshire • 85 North State Street • Concord, NH 03301
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We have the opportunity in this budget to redouble our efforts and invest in positive change. Current proposals, however, do the opposite, reducing access to services, increasing the burden on individuals and families throughout New Hampshire, and putting our entire community mental health system in jeopardy. For these reasons, NAMI NH urges the committee to carefully consider the progress we have made and the outcomes for which we strive, and to fully fund the systems that are making a real difference in the wellness of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel C. Hawkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.

Samuel C. Hawkins