Advocacy Training
Dream Big Together
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Why are we doing this?

- Leverage expertise
  - Our affiliates have many passionate members who are EXPERTS in the mental health system in Massachusetts

- To listen
  - Hear from every NAMI member in Massachusetts

- To understand
  - How we can translate that knowledge into an advocacy agenda for change
What is a “Dream Big Together” activity?

What is one thing you would like to see changed about the mental health system in your community or in the State of Massachusetts that would have a positive impact on yourself or your family - and why?
Nuts & Bolts

* Your affiliate will need to talk about the activity and decide to give time to it

* Plan for 40-45 mins for the activity

* Pick a date, time & place (can be part of a regular affiliate meeting)
* Divide attendees into groups of about 5-8

* Each group will pick a facilitator & a timekeeper

* Everyone thinks – in SILENCE – about the question and writes down their answer – allow 5-7 mins

* Everyone gets 3 mins around the group to share what they wrote

* Everyone fills out the form with their #1 topic
After the activity

- Count up the topics and share the results
  - With your affiliate
  - With the NAMI Mass Advocacy team
At the convention

241 individuals participated

“Can we get a direct line to Ruth Balser?” (Rep from Newton)

“All of these are compelling, hard to pick just one”
### Dreaming Big Together

#### Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Progress</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing for people with significant mental health needs</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing wraparound services for adults with significant mental health needs</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workforce issues: availability of clinicians; reimbursement rates, and insurance</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improve K-12 education for students with mental health diagnoses or behavioral issues</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in the court system for people with mental health diagnoses</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influencing corporate culture around mental health in the workplace</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising awareness of mental health issues with elected officials and candidates for office</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase access to mental health care through expanded insurance coverage</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase information in K-12 settings on mental health identification for students &amp; staff</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen state parity laws</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Room boarding of people experiencing mental health symptoms</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Activity Resources

* Table handouts
  * Role sheet for facilitator & time keeper

* Suggested topics for participants (you can customize in advance)

* Spreadsheet to help collate results
Other Stuff
Affiliate Advocacy Reps

As part of re-affiliation, NAMI National requires that each affiliate have an Advocacy Representative

Effort: 1-2 hours per month (may vary)

Core Responsibilities:
* Participate in and assist with grassroots advocacy trainings
* Forward action alerts and generate prompt responses (email, phone, hearing attendance, etc.)
* Bring local advocacy issues to the attention of the NAMI MA Advocacy Committee
* Assist in nurturing local legislative champions & local grassroots advocates
* Cultivate relationships with local stakeholders, government officials and media
Connect with New Legislators

* Send a **welcome note** congratulating them on their election – email, tweet or call
* Find opportunities to **see them** “around town”
* Introduce them to **NAMI**
  * Tell them about your experience with the mental health system
  * Let them know about NAMI Advocacy Day, April 8th
  * Invite them to join our NAMI Walk, May 11th
New legislators

Many thanks to Teresa Cardosi for invaluable help compiling the list of new legislators

* NAMI Central Middlesex
  * Rep Tami Gouveia
  * Rep Michelle Ciccolo
  * Rep Dave Robertson
  * Rep Richard Haggerty

* NAMI Cambridge/Middlesex
  * Rep Dave Robertson
  * Rep Richard Haggerty

* NAMI Greater Lowell
  * Rep Tami Gouveia
  * Rep Dave Robertson
  * Sen Barry Finegold
  * Sen Edward Kennedy

Italics used for legislators in more than one NAMI Mass affiliate
New legislators

- **NAMI Greater North Shore**
  - Rep Peter Capano
  - Rep Tram Nguyen
  - Rep Marcos Devers
  - Rep Christina Minicucci
  - Sen Brendan Crighton
  - Sen Diana DiZoglio
  - Sen Barry Finegold

- **NAMI Northeast Essex**
  - Rep Tram Nguyen
  - Rep Christina Minicucci
  - Sen Diana DiZoglio

- **NAMI Central Mass**
  - Rep David LeBoeuf

*Italics used for legislators in more than one NAMI Mass affiliate*
New legislators

* NAMI Greater Boston
  * Rep David Biele
  * Rep Liz Miranda
  * Rep Jon Santiago
  * Rep Nika Elugardo
  * Sen Nick Collins

* NAMI Metro West
  * Rep Maria Robinson
  * Rep Michael Soter
  * Sen Becca Rausch

* NAMI Newton/Wellesley
  * Rep Nika Elugardo
  * Rep Tommy Vitolo
  * Sen Becca Rausch

Italics used for legislators in more than one NAMI Mass affiliate
New legislators

* NAMI South Shore
  * Rep Patrick J. Kearney

* NAMI Plymouth
  * Rep Alyson Sullivan
  * Rep Kathleen P. LaNatra
  * Rep Patrick J. Kearney

* NAMI Bristol County
  * Rep Christopher Hendricks
  * Rep Norman Orrall
  * Rep James Hawkins
  * Rep Alyson Sullivan
  * Rep Kathleen P. LaNatra

* NAMI Western Mass
  * Rep Natalie Blais
  * Rep Lindsay N. Sabadosa
  * Rep Daniel R. Carey
  * Rep Mindy Domb
  * Sen Joanne Comerford

* NAMI North Central
  * Sen Joanne Comerford
  * Sen Edward Kennedy

* Italics used for legislators in more than one NAMI Mass affiliate
Future webinars

DATES TBD

* **State House 101** – a presentation from the Convention, back by popular demand

* **Preparing for Advocacy Day**
Other Advocacy happenings

* Save the date: **Advocacy Day April 8, 2019**

* Looking for speakers to join Family-to-Family classes when covering advocacy

* NAMI Mass website update will include new Advocacy pages (including links to all webinars)

* Plans underway for a NAMI Mass Advocacy Newsletter