State House 101
Webinar
Feb 27, 2019

Lori Krinsky, President, NAMI Central Middlesex
Monica Luke, NAMI Mass Advocacy Chair
Your legislators WANT to hear from you

You are the expert. Your story helps legislators understand
  * Barriers and issues you & your family face
  * Gaps in the mental health system

Advocacy draws attention to issues your legislator does not have first-hand knowledge about

Within this presentation, this symbol (+) indicates a time when NAMI Mass may ask members to advocate.
MA Legislative Process

1. An idea is introduced

- Each legislative session is 2 years long – January of an odd year to July of the following year (i.e. Jan 2019- July 2020)

- A bill is filed (or refiled) in the House/Senate by a sponsor. Any additional supporters are co-sponsors. (+)

- About 6,500 bills are filed each session
Each bill is assigned to a committee and by law each bill must have a public hearing.

Committee hearings feature many bills; they can be several hours long.

Legislators, advocates and other stakeholders provide written or oral testimony.

After the hearing, the committee votes on how to support the bill.
Any bill that impacts state finance comes to this Committee

The committee may hold a second hearing, make amendments to the bill, combine it with other bills, or do nothing. (+)

The committee votes on how to support the bill and reports out
A bill is sent to the floor; it may be debated and amended before a vote (+)

- If the bill is approved, it moves on to the next branch to repeat the process
It is common for both the House and Senate to pass different versions of the same legislation. The Conference Committee is formed to agree on one version.

Three members from each branch are appointed by leadership to serve on the Conference Committee.

When a final version is reached, it is returned to each branch to vote on without any changes.
The governor has 10 days to sign, veto or return it with changes.

If a bill does not reach this stage it can be refiled in the next session.
The Budget (annual bill!)

Sept-Jan

- Agencies, like DMH, submit spending plans
- Administration holds open hearings
- Governor proposes budget priorities, called House 1, by January 4th

Budget amendments are advocacy opportunities (+)

January > April

FY 2019 Budget

Governor's Budget  House Ways & Means Budget  House Debate  House Budget  Senate Ways & Means Budget  Senate Debate  Senate Budget  Conference Committee  Final Budget
Bills, amendments and budget asks go through a multi-step process.

Each time a hurdle is cleared, we need to renew our advocacy – **success means asking again**!

- Co-sponsors
- Committee members
- Oral or Written Testimony
- Votes & support
- Budget asks & amendments
Ways to build a relationship with your legislator

- **Find** your legislators
  - https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator
- **Call/write** to your legislators
- **Promote** your positions through social media
- **Attend** local events – town halls, town meeting, town events
- **Meet** your legislators or with their aides
- **Testify** at hearings
Challenges to becoming a confident advocate

- I don’t want to bother anyone
- I don’t want to look stupid
- I don’t know where to focus or when
- I don’t know what to say

NAMI can help!
Advocacy Day
April 8, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30-11:15</td>
<td>Speaker Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15-12:00</td>
<td>Preparing for Advocacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-12:45</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00-1:30</td>
<td>Visit your Representatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30-2:00</td>
<td>Visit your Senators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00</td>
<td>Bring evaluation form back to Hall of Flags</td>
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* NAMI Mass provides a packet of materials to assist you

* Example Legislative Fact Sheet to “leave behind” with your legislators
Legislators rely on experts (you) for information.

* Your story cannot be wrong; it’s your own personal experience.

* Your experience has value and meaning.

* Keep it brief/stick to highlights - think movie trailer.

* Emotion should move, not overwhelm.

* You don’t have to have all of the answers, just a clear “ask.”
Dear Advocacy Day Volunteers:

Thanks to your great work, we’re now at the finish line with the Budget for FY19 – both the final House Budget and the Senate Ways and Means budget includes the historic increase to DMH for the ACCS redesign.

**Now we urgently need your help with two budget amendments!**

Senator Cindy Friedman has filed two Amendments that NAMI Mass is supporting.

*Senate Budget Amendment #619 – NAMI Peer-to-Peer Program*

*Filed by: Senator Cindy Friedman*

This amendment would provide $40,000 of financial support for NAMI Massachusetts’ Peer-to-Peer program.
S.2452 – An Act to establish a center of excellence in community policing and behavioral health

Email Script

Dear Senator __________:

My name is __________ and I live in __________. I’m writing today to express my support for S.2452, which is currently in the Senate Ways and Means committee.

[Sample Text – adjust as needed]

S.2452 would establish a statewide Center for Police training in Crisis Intervention.

This training is a significant need in our state because the nature of policing has changed dramatically in recent years, with police regularly responding to people with behavioral health disorders. Police officers are the gatekeepers of the criminal justice system, but without appropriate training and procedures, police interactions can escalate quickly, especially when mental health or substance use issues are involved. Devastating consequences can result: unnecessary arrest or incarceration, worst cases, injury or death for the individual or the police officer involved.

Crisis Intervention Team, or CIT, training is an evidence-based program shown to reduce officer and individual injury, decrease unnecessary

Phone Call Script

Hello,

My name is __________ and I live in __________. I’m calling today to express my support for S.2452, which is currently in the Senate Ways and Means committee.

Make it personal: What has been your experience (or the experience of someone you know) with the police or criminal justice system during a behavioral health crisis?

How would advanced behavioral health training, like CIT, for police officers have been helpful in a situation like that?

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[If you don’t have a personal story, you could say something like this:

We need more CIT training in our state because police regularly respond to people with behavioral health disorders. Without appropriate training and procedures, police interactions can escalate quickly, sometimes resulting in unnecessary arrest or incarceration, or in the worst cases, injury or death for the individual or the police officer involved.]
Getting to know the MA State House online
Learn about your Legislator

Senator

JAMES B. ELDRIDGE
Democrat - Middlesex and Worcester

STATE HOUSE
24 Beacon St.
Room 320
Boston, MA. 02133
Phone: 617-722-1120
Fax: 617-722-1089

DISTRICT OFFICE
255 Main Street
Marlborough, MA 01752
Phone: 617-722-1120
Fax: 617-722-1089

- Chairperson, Joint Committee on Financial Services
- Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses
- Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change
- Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
- Joint Committee on Marijuana Policy
- Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery
- Joint Committee on Ways and Means
- Special Senate Committee on Net Neutrality and Consumer Protection
- Senate Committee on Ways and Means
- Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
- Senate Committee on Steering and Policy

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>BILL</th>
<th>DOCKET</th>
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<tr>
<td>SD 2458</td>
<td>Senate, May 9, 2017 — Offered by Senator James B. Eldridge relative to calling for consideration the proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution establishing an independent redistricting commission (see Senate, No. 11)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 11</td>
<td>SD 349</td>
<td>By Mr. Eldridge, a petition accompanied by proposal for constitutional amendment: Senate, No. 11 of James B. Eldridge for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to establish an independent redistricting commission. Election Laws.</td>
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</table>
Learn about a Bill
AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY POLICING AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

By Mr. Donnelly, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1090) of Kenneth J. Donnelly, Jason M. Lewis, Kenneth I. Gordon, Barbara A. L'Italien and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a center of excellence in community policing and behavioral health. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

Presenter: Kenneth J. Donnelly
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>District/Address</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth J. Donnelly</td>
<td>Fourth Middlesex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason M. Lewis</td>
<td>Fifth Middlesex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth I. Gordon</td>
<td>21st Middlesex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara A. L'Italien</td>
<td>Second Essex and Middlesex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John J. Lawn, Jr.</td>
<td>10th Middlesex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick M. O'Connor</td>
<td>Plymouth and Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marjorie C. Decker</td>
<td>25th Middlesex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denise Provost</td>
<td>27th Middlesex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary S. Keefe</td>
<td>15th Worcester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James B. Eldridge</td>
<td>Middlesex and Worcester</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Follow a Committee

The 190th General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Bills & Laws  Budget  Legislators  Hearings & Events  Committees  State House

Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery

Senate Contact
24 Beacon St  Room 422-B
Boston, MA 02133
Phone: 617-722-1432

House Contact
24 Beacon St  Room 33
Boston, MA 02133
Phone: 617-722-2060

Members  Bills  Hearings  Rules  About

Senate Members

Cindy F. Friedman
Chair

John F. Keenan
Vice Chair

Angelo M. Scocca

Michael J. Finn

Diana DiGuglielmo

Jeffrey N. Roy

Michael G. Day

José F. Tosado

Dylan Fernandes

Natalie Higgins

William O. Crocker, Jr.

Shauna L. O’Connor

Hannah Kane

House Members

Denise C. Garlick
Chair

Daniel J. Ryan
Vice Chair


Date  Time  Topic  Location  Status  Bills

5/8/2017  05:00 PM  Access and Treatment: To testify at a panel on a bill, please contact Rob Reed at Robert.Reed@mahouse.gov at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.

5/9/2017  05:00 PM  DPH: Children, and Forensic Patients: To testify as a panel, please email Robert.Reed@mahouse.gov at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.

5/10/2017  05:00 PM  Scope of Practice and Preclusions: To testify as a panel on a bill, please email Robert.Reed@mahouse.gov at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.

5/11/2017  05:00 AM  Mental Health and Substance Use (MA) Treatment: To testify as a panel, please email Robert.Reed@mahouse.gov at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.

5/12/2017  05:00 AM  Mental Health and Substance Use (MA) Treatment: To testify as a panel, please email Robert.Reed@mahouse.gov at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.

5/13/2017  05:00 AM  Mental Health and Substance Use (MA) Treatment: To testify as a panel, please email Robert.Reed@mahouse.gov at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.

5/14/2017  05:00 AM  Mental Health and Substance Use (MA) Treatment: To testify as a panel, please email Robert.Reed@mahouse.gov at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.
Follow the Budget Process
* Building any relationship takes time & effort
* Every “touch” is an opportunity to educate legislators, staff and the public about mental health issues and public policy
* It takes persistence to get our issues to the top of the agenda
* Legislation typically takes 8 years (4 legislative cycles)
Many thanks to the Children’s Mental Health Campaign Kate Ginnis for generously sharing materials used in this presentation.
Thank you!

Contact us!

Lori Krinsky: lori.krinsky@gmail.com
Monica Luke: monica@namimass.org