



Did you know:

- Treatment for mental illnesses is effective. Between 70-90% of individuals have significant reduction of symptoms and improved quality of life with a combination of medication and other treatments and supports?
- More than 50% of homeless Minnesotans have a serious mental illness?
- 70% of children in Minnesota's Juvenile Justice system have a mental illness?
- Minnesota has about one-third fewer psychiatrists per capita than the national average?
- 70% of people living with a mental illness want to work but only ten percent are employed, partly because funding for supportive employment programs is so low?
- Students living with a mental illness account for approximately 50% of high school dropouts and 50% of suspensions – the highest rates of any disability group?
- Many people with mental illnesses stay in our hospitals longer than needed because of a lack of community services and housing options that are needed in order for them to leave?

**What will you do to address these issues?**

**Election 2010**



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**About Mental Illness:**

Mental illness directly affects one in four people, one in ten children and impacts the entire family. It affects individuals regardless of age, race, religion or socioeconomic status.

Mental Illnesses are biological brain disorders that disrupt a person's thinking, mood, ability to maintain relationships, and daily functioning. These disorders are treatable medical conditions, but stigma and misinformation often prevents people from seeking treatment.

Access to appropriate and effective treatment and services is critical in order for people living with a mental illness to be successful. We must ensure funding is available for important programs such as crisis intervention services, school-based mental health programs, supported housing and employment, jail discharge planning, personal care attendants and community mental health services.

**Questions for Candidates:**

What are your views on Minnesota's mental health services and system for adults? For children?

What is your position on expanding Medicaid to single adults at or below 75% of the federal poverty guidelines?

What are your views on supported housing and employment for adults with mental illnesses?

What would you do to attract and retain more mental health professionals in Minnesota?

What is your position on school-based mental health services?

**NAMI Minnesota**  
**651-645-2948 or 888-NAMI-HELPS**  
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