#Vote4MentalHealth - Promote Mental Health this Election Season

Texas is holding its party primary elections next week, March 3rd, and NAMI Texas is focused on educating voters and candidates on critical mental health policies we hope to see pass in 2021 and beyond. This upcoming Monday, we will release the answers to the questionnaire we sent out to every candidate for contested state legislative seats.

#SickofItTX Needs Mental Health Voices

NAMI Texas is partnering with #SickofItTX, a non-partisan grassroots network of engaged activists committed to making healthcare the key issue for Texas policy makers in the 2020 elections and 2021 legislative session.

Access to quality healthcare is a core part of recovery. We need NAMI members to not only help with this movement, but also represent NAMI locally and highlight the need for strong mental health services as part of this healthcare movement.

Learn about this critical movement here and how to get involved here: https://sickofittx.org/join.

Upcoming Hearings

The Texas State Legislature has upcoming legislative interim hearings

**Senate Mass Violence Prevention and Community Safety Committee**

March 10th at Texas State Capitol

**Charge of interest:** Examine ways to keep firearms out of the hands of individuals who would not pass a federal background check, while protecting the Second Amendment and Texans' right to bear arms. Examine whether stranger-to-stranger gun sales in Texas should be subject to background checks.

Find more information on this hearing here.

**House Mass Violence Prevention and Community Safety Committee**

March 11th in Houston, Texas

**Charge of interest:** Evaluate the ongoing and long-term workforce needs of the state related to
Charge of interest: Evaluate the ongoing and long-term workforce needs of the state related to cybersecurity, mental health, law enforcement, and related professionals.

Find more information on this hearing here.

Senate Education Committee

March 11th at Texas State Capitol

Charge of interest: Monitoring progress on Senate Bill 11, relating to policies, procedures, and measures for school safety and mental health promotion in public schools and the creation of the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium; and

Find more information on this hearing here.

If you have anything you would like to share with NAMI Texas advocates in these emails, please send the information to policy.fellow@namitexas.org.

- Alissa Sughrue and the NAMI Texas Public Policy Team
New Mental Health Parity Brochures

The Office of the Ombudsman has released the newly formatted Parity Brochure - English and Parity Brochure - Spanish. They have also provided a link to the Ombudsman Publications in English and Ombudsman Publications in Spanish which include resources for other issues related to the Office of the Ombudsman.

**Psychoactive Medication Consent Requirements for Hospitals Stakeholder Meeting**

Notice: HHSC invites stakeholders to join a public meeting regarding Psychoactive Medication Consent.

Requirements for hospitals to be held on March 10, 2020, at 9:00 am, at the Brown Heatly Building, 4900 North Lamar Boulevard, Austin, Room 7230.

NAMI Texas is nonpartisan. We support policies that help people with mental health conditions and their families.

Please visit our website at NAMITexas.org.

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