MAMH
Massachusetts Association *for* Mental Health

BACKGROUND:

Established in 1913, the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health (MAMH) is the leading public policy and legislative advocacy organization focused on advancing mental health and well-being in the Commonwealth. MAMH convenes stakeholders across the behavioral health and public health community to address policy, budget, and legal issues affecting those at risk for or living with behavioral health needs. We disseminate knowledge emerging from clinical research, program evaluation, and innovation developments to inform, educate, and activate diverse audiences in the Commonwealth and beyond. MAMH works to address disparities and discrimination in benefits through strategic advocacy and partnerships. We target reforms in public policy, service delivery, and payment methods to improve access to care.

VISION	MAMH envisions a day when all Massachusetts residents have access to the social and economic opportunities that protect overall health and promote resilience.
MISSION	To advance prevention, early intervention, effective treatment, and research to address social, emotional, and mental health needs, and to eliminate discrimination so that all residents may achieve full social, economic, and political inclusion in all aspects of community life.
VALUES	All people with mental health needs should be treated with dignity and respect and have access to the services and supports they need to thrive.
TAG LINE	*Listen, Educate, Mobilize, Advocate*

CONTEXT:

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

MAMH generates and shares credible knowledge informing advocacy for rights, policies, and funding, to strengthen Massachusetts' behavioral health system so that residents achieve positive mental health and full social and civic inclusion.

For over 100 years, MAMH has worked to ensure that a robust and accessible behavioral health system exists for those with mental health needs in Massachusetts. In recent years, the passage of the ABC Act, implementation of the Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform, and pioneering MassHealth policy changes have improved access to quality mental health care, especially for those with low or limited incomes.

The current social and political climate in the United States is marked by rising concerns over proposed cuts to safety net programs, which could have a significant impact for people with disabilities, especially those with low incomes and who are reliant on publicly funded health care resources, such as Medicaid. There is also concern that changes in federal policy targeting homelessness could further marginalize, segregate, or even criminalize those with a mental health condition. Although we are fortunate to live in a state that has enacted progressive health and human service policies, there is no doubt that federal actions could negatively affect our state's ability to sustain these and other policies over the coming years.

The challenge for MAMH and other advocacy groups concerned about behavioral health in the Commonwealth is to aggressively work to ensure that those with mental health needs have a voice in decisions affecting how the Commonwealth will respond to these actions, and that they are not left behind.

It is for that reason that this strategic plan focuses squarely on how to best sustain our behavioral health system in Massachusetts, protect the gains and rights of those it serves, and persist in completing reforms. As one of the leading voices in Massachusetts for the preservation of mental health and well-being, we continue to heed the challenge issued by President John F. Kennedy's call to action in 1963:

»We must promote– to the best of our ability and by all possible and appropriate means– the mental and physical health of all our citizens.«

GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

Goal 1: **To shape and champion an equitable, accessible, and high-quality behavioral health system for all residents of Massachusetts.**

To accomplish this goal MAMH will:

Objectives	
	1. Convene and partner with people living with mental health conditions, their families, advocates, providers, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to advance behavioral health across multiple domains.
	❖ Actively seek out, catalogue, and report on how changes in federal/state policy and funding affect those with mental health conditions.
	❖ Advocate for policies, effective and innovative programs, and sustainable funding for behavioral health in Massachusetts.
	❖ Work to address behavioral health workforce shortages that limit access to care.
	❖ Seek to further integrate behavioral health with primary medical care.
	2. Promote and demonstrate innovation, evaluating and driving for sustainability of effective interventions in behavioral health promotion, prevention, treatment, and recovery supports.
	❖ Promote research into evidence-based treatment and innovative practices that result in effective service delivery and self-care.
	❖ Lead inquiry into the evolving role that technology will have in advancing mental health care.
	3. Work to ensure that MassHealth beneficiaries and those under the care of Massachusetts state agencies have access to and receive quality behavioral health services.
	❖ Launch or partner on mental health promotion, health screening, prevention, and early intervention initiatives.
	❖ Work to ensure that behavioral health care is well coordinated across settings, disciplines, providers, payors and related services.
	❖ Promote expanded access to mental health services for children and adolescents, including school-based services.
	❖ Promote expanded access to mental health services for older adults.
	4. Advocate for effective solutions for people with co-occurring mental health and substance use needs who are unhoused.
	❖ Reduce involvement in the criminal legal system and support diversion/reentry programs.
	❖ Promote mental health services for people living in segregated carceral settings.

Goal 2: **To advance inclusion and end discrimination for those with mental health needs by promoting civil rights.**

To accomplish this goal MAMH will:

Objectives	
	1. Pursue executive, legislative, and judicial solutions to injustices and inadequacies.
	❖ Generate, collect, and disseminate knowledge to address discrimination.
	❖ Conduct data-driven analyses of discrimination and impacts.
	❖ Advance advocacy, policy analysis, and research promoting parity and addressing social drivers of health.
	❖ Identify adequacy of supports including education, employment, housing, and health care.
	❖ Promote services and supports that advance empowerment, choice, and recovery.
	2. Advocate for initiatives to end disparities rooted in race, culture, sexual orientation, disability, or immigrant/refugee status.
	❖ Expand mental health awareness, public education, and health promotion efforts.
	❖ Elevate public discourse using evidence-based information and perspectives of people with lived experience.
	❖ Provide effective education and training on mental health prevention, engagement, treatment, and recovery.
	❖ Work with other organizations to end segregation of persons with disabilities.
	❖ Work collaboratively to reduce involuntary treatment interventions.

Goal 3: **To strengthen MAMH's impact as the state's leading resource for mental health policy analysis and advocacy.**

To accomplish this goal MAMH will:

Objectives	
	1. Expand mental health awareness, public education, and health promotion efforts.
	❖ Develop new partnerships with community and business leaders.
	❖ Expand and optimize audiences for knowledge dissemination and communications activities.
	❖ Create a pipeline of future behavioral health advocates/leaders.
	2. Develop staff and board capacity.
	❖ Improve fundraising capacity.
	❖ Align internal business processes.
	❖ Develop and report on metrics for plan progress.

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Shape & Champion	an equitable, accessible, and high-quality behavioral health care system for all residents of Massachusetts.
Advance	inclusion and end discrimination for those with mental health needs by promoting their civil rights.
Strengthen	MAMH's impact as the state's leading resource for mental health policy analysis and advocacy.