

NAMHC Action Areas Table (250114)

Below is a categorized breakdown of efforts and focus areas identified by coalition members:

Access to Care

Ensuring individuals can effectively utilize mental health services by addressing barriers such as cost, insurance, wait times, transportation, and stigma.

- Efforts include expanding access to specialized care, medication affordability, and removing financial and logistical barriers.

Availability of Services

Expanding and improving the range of mental health services available in the community.

- Focus on increasing long-term care options, neuroaffirmative services, and local psychiatric facilities, as well as addressing gaps in specific populations' needs.

Community & Peer Support Networks

Building grassroots, community-driven, and peer-led support systems for individuals and families impacted by mental health challenges.

- Initiatives include veteran support groups, addiction recovery networks, bereavement support, and culturally inclusive outreach.

Continuum of Care & Systemic Coordination

Enhancing collaboration among service providers to ensure seamless transitions across different levels of mental health care.

- Work focuses on interagency coordination, housing support, resource sharing, and developing standardized response protocols.

Crisis Response & Emergency Services

Strengthening emergency mental health response systems and crisis intervention strategies.

- Key priorities include suicide prevention, law enforcement collaboration, crisis stabilization, and expanding veteran-focused crisis services.

Education & Outreach

Increasing public awareness, reducing stigma, and providing mental health education for individuals, families, and professionals.

- Efforts include training on suicide prevention, overdose awareness, private practice accessibility, and mental health literacy.

Policy, Advocacy & Funding

Driving systemic change through policy reform, funding initiatives, and legislative action.

- Key areas include advocating for prescription drug affordability, securing funding for mental health facilities, and legislative engagement on mental health issues.

Research, Data & Innovation

Utilizing research and data-driven insights to improve mental health care delivery and inform best practices.

- Focus on studying mental health trends, tracking service impact, and exploring innovative care models.
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Next Steps

NAMHC members are encouraged to engage in initiatives that align with their expertise and organizational missions. The coalition will continue working toward measurable improvements in mental health care accessibility, service availability, and systemic coordination.

For more details or to contribute, please refer to the full meeting minutes or contact coalition leadership.

Category	Topic	Person	Organization
Access to Care	Access to care for neurodivergent population	Linda Ware	UAH RAN
Access to Care	Medication for uninsured women post-treatment	Stephanie Jennings	Best Life Recovery
Availability of Services	Long-term care for those with mental health issues	Don Webster	HEMSI
Availability of Services	Seeking neuroaffirmative care providers & building capacity	Sarah Bailey	UAH
Availability of Services	Long-term care facility need & short-term resource coordination within the coalition	Lakebra Harper	— (Alliance Health)
Availability of Services	Local long-term psychiatric facility to reduce out-of-state transfers	Karen Petersen	Wellstone
Availability of Services	Mental health services for Medicaid children, pregnant/postpartum moms, autistic teens (low-cost counseling)	Audrey Smith	Tree of Life
Availability of Services	54 short-term beds for youth; parental education to reduce recidivism	Amy Gillot	Decatur West

Availability of Services	Need for a long-term facility and prescription help	Cheryl McClendon	Wellstone
Availability of Services	Wants to learn more about local resources	Jamie Collier	Longleaf Recovery
Availability of Services	Upcoming mental health outpatient care program	Jennifer (no last name)	Longleaf Recovery
Community & Peer Support Networks	Volunteering to help adolescents with mental health issues	Adam	— (Individual Volunteer)
Community & Peer Support Networks	Wants to educate people to connect more with each other	Dan (no last name)	First Stop
Community & Peer Support Networks	Starting a Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) program	Aaron Mickel	Bradford
Community & Peer Support Networks	Overdose bereavement support group (launch Feb 13)	Beth McAnally	Not One More Alabama (NOMA)
Community & Peer Support Networks	Bringing coalition resources/information to the Hispanic community	Rudy Chavez	SVDP
Community & Peer Support Networks	Starting a mental health support group for veterans (similar to AA/NA)	Brian Moran	VFW Post 2702
Continuum of Care & Systemic Coordination	Networking with other mental health providers	Latricia Ogutu	Wellstone
Continuum of Care & Systemic Coordination	Needs help with furniture for newly housed homeless individuals	Kendall Williams	First Stop
Continuum of Care & Systemic Coordination	Wants a list of community resources; can educate organizations on Wellstone's services	Melissa Caldwell	Wellstone
Continuum of Care & Systemic Coordination	Wants to learn more about resources in the community	Marbi McCann	Bradford Warrior

Continuum of Care & Systemic Coordination	Concerned about housing for homeless individuals with mental health issues	Alexis Love	Wellstone
Continuum of Care & Systemic Coordination	Medication continuity, housing challenges, social media impacts (WES perspective)	Paula Steele	Wellstone/WES
Continuum of Care & Systemic Coordination	Request for a coalition resource directory (including pictures) for first responders	Don Webster	HEMSI
Continuum of Care & Systemic Coordination	Need to develop a “mental health recipe” or protocol for EMTs	Don Webster	HEMSI
Crisis Response & Emergency Services	Wants to create a crisis system specifically for veterans	Kelli Arthur	VA
Crisis Response & Emergency Services	Follow-up on suicide threats; mental health pros on crisis calls; 988 awareness; use NAMI’s reimagine crisis model	Julie Schenck-Brown	Huntsville Police Dept.
Education & Outreach (Youth & Family MH)	Need a resource book for families whose children experience mental health issues	Taralyn Rowell	Wellstone
Education & Outreach (Youth & Family MH)	Emphasize family engagement and education	Alyssa Perry	Wellstone
Education & Outreach (Social Media Literacy & Digital Well-Being)	Safe prescription disposal & social media literacy for youth	Dawn Hannon	Wellstone
Education & Outreach (Suicide Prevention & Awareness)	Wants mental health advocate training for suicide-loss support (DMH training waitlist)	Debbie Igou	Suicide Loss Support Group (SOS)

Education & Outreach (Overdose & SUD Awareness)	Overdose/substance abuse stigma education (ARISE)	Jeff Hastings	Ross
Education & Outreach	General education on mental health & coalition support	Traci Harris	Elm Foundation
Education & Outreach	Educate community about private practice availability	Christina Pannell	Private Practice
Policy, Advocacy & Funding	Meet with legislators to establish intensive facilities for youth (lower IQ, juvenile delinquency)	La'trisha Fletcher	Madison County DHR
Policy, Advocacy & Funding	Work on creating a budget for a long-term mental health facility in Huntsville	Tiara Carter	Madison County DHR
Policy, Advocacy & Funding	Advocate for a Prescription Drug Affordability Board in Alabama	Faith Jackson	Thrive Alabama
Policy, Advocacy & Funding	Legislative liaison to champion mental health legislation	Kim Bigelow	Warrior Wellness Program
Research, Data & Innovation	Adolescent biomarker study; "Nitch" resource listing (needs coalition input)	Jennifer Burns	UAB Huntsville