



2021 POLICY PRIORITIES

Helping people hurt by the pandemic

- We support efforts to provide TennCare health insurance to Tennesseans who are out of work or underemployed with income levels at or below 138% of the federal poverty level.
- We support efforts to get more services to youth and young adults struggling with increased mental health challenges.
- We support efforts to make the public more aware of mental health challenges, and how to seek help, especially in this time of critical need with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Providing help so people can build better lives

- We support funding to support and expand mental health walk-in centers regionally so that individuals in every county can begin their path to help and healing.
- We support increased funding for Individual Placement Services that help individuals with schizophrenia and other mental illness have access to supportive employment.
- We support efforts to increase transitional housing for individuals in recovery from mental illness.

Diverting individuals from criminal justice

- We support the recommendations in the Governor's Criminal Justice Investment Task Force report that call for providing more access to Crisis Intervention Team training to more law enforcement agencies.
- We support increased funding to train law enforcement officers to safely and effectively respond to individuals in a mental health crisis (Crisis Intervention Team program).
- We support pre-arrest diversion programs that help individuals get help, not handcuffs.

Breaking through the bureaucratic red tape

- We call for increased transparency in the way health plans approve or deny mental health services for their members (insurance parity). *HB 360 by Hawk/SB 151 by Briggs*
- We support giving the Department of Commerce and Insurance the authority to survey insurance plans on mental health service authorizations and report their findings to the Legislature annually (insurance parity). *HB 360 by Hawk/SB 151 by Briggs*
- We support efforts that require health plans to have adequate numbers of mental health professionals in their provider network to treat enrollees with mental health challenges (network adequacy).