

Families' Requests of the Mental Health System

We shouldn't have to ask because mental illness is the main cause of homelessness.

We shouldn't have to ask because everyone in the family, and
the community are affected by mental illness.

We shouldn't have to ask as our families fall apart due to the lack of mental health care

We shouldn't have to ask – again and again and again.

These requests are for inclusion, respect and partnership. Our loved ones need us to advocate for them because we have to ask for these things. They are from our loved ones, who live with mental illness, and for those who are unable to ask for themselves.

This is what we want:

1. **Mental health illnesses to receive the parity, research and solutions** as other major diseases.
2. **Misogyny of mental health to be examined**, addressed, acknowledged and eliminated from the system.
3. **Clinicians to know HIPAA 164.510(b)(3)** allows them to talk with someone who can prevent harm.
4. **Oversight of clinicians**, certainty when loved ones are incapable of making health decisions themselves.
5. **Clinicians to accept health and trauma history**, *HR 2646*, and if family requests, keep it confidential.
6. **Providers to know HIPAA makes it their decision about imminent danger, and to include families.**
7. **The appropriate time in mental health facilities for our loved ones** to heal, as with other diseases.
8. **A solution to anosognosia**, a neurological condition, not recalcitrant homelessness.
9. **Mental health treatment instead of** using jails used as hospitals.
10. **Interventions** by people trained in mental health, CIT training, and without lethal weapons.
11. **To be believed**, and effective action used when our adult kids are threatening suicide.
12. **Required certification** in the value of families and family integrated care.
13. **Clinicians allocated the time** and appropriate caseload to treat our loved ones as part of a family.
14. **Peers to have training and positions** in the care of others living with mental illness.
15. **Emergency Departments staffed with mental health** providers and peers.
16. **Hospitals to obey laws prohibiting release** without food, shelter, treatment and discharge plans.
17. **A National database of mental health** care solutions, facilities and those living without housing.