FUNDING A COMPREHENSIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM

WHY NAMI WASHINGTON MEMBERS CARE ABOUT MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT RATES?

- Increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates will help increase and maintain the behavioral health workforce.
- Increasing the number of behavioral health providers results in the increase of quality continuum of care services in an individual’s road to recovery.
- According to a survey by the Washington Council for Behavioral Health, there is a 26% statewide vacancy rate of master’s level clinical staff.
- The Washington Council for Behavioral Health reports that crisis contacts increased by 200% between March of 2020 and July 2021 and ongoing treatment demand increased by 34%.
- When behavioral health providers, serving Medicaid clients, burnout and leave their profession because of low-pay and high need it means people are not receiving the behavioral health services they need.

WHAT IS NAMI WASHINGTON’S BUDGET ASK?

- 7% increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates starting in 2023
- $200 million in Behavioral Health Provider Relief starting in 2022. This represents a one-time basis to provide payments for behavioral health providers serving Medicaid and state-funded clients.

These asks are for the General Fund.

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