



Capitol Hill Day: What You Need To Know

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Agenda

- Mental Health and Homelessness
- The Current System
- Lack of Coordination and Access
- Housing
- Mental Health Reform
- Our Ask

Mental Health and Homelessness

- Mental Health Reform will help to reduce homelessness among people with mental health or substance use disorders
- Integration of mental health care into homeless services and coordination of care between providers can improve health outcomes and reduce homelessness

The Current System

- More than 1 in 10 people who seek substance abuse or mental health treatment in our public health system are homeless
 - Only a fraction of 1% of the overall US population is homeless
- Between 2009 and 2012, states cut \$5 billion in mental health services and nearly 10% of public psychiatric beds
 - 60% of adults with mental illness received **no** mental health services in 2014
 - A high percentage of people with mental illness experience homelessness without any treatment

Lack of Coordination and Access

- Multi-disciplinary support, or care coordination, keeps people experiencing homelessness out of hospital emergency rooms, improves health outcomes, and helps them gain housing and stability

Housing

- People with serious mental illness experience homelessness at more than 4x the rate of the general population
- Treatment for mental illness or substance abuse that is not paired with stability, including housing and employment, is ineffective

Mental Health Reform

Bill	Current Status	Key Components of the Bill			
S. 2680	Passed the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee on April 26, 2016	Improving oversight of mental and substance use disorder programs including reporting and evaluation of outcomes related to mental health and homelessness	Strengthening leadership of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	Raising spending limits on grants including MHBG, grants for treatment and recovery for homeless individuals, and PATH	Requesting that PATH and MHBG formula grants be reassessed
H.R. 2646	Passed the House on July 6, 2016	Improving oversight of mental and substance use disorder programs	Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee	Raising limits on MHBG programs and introducing ACT grants	

Mental Health Reform

- We need grant funding that targets the most vulnerable in our system
 - Existing SAMHSA Homeless grants improve health outcomes and reduce homelessness, but we need funding increases
 - These grant programs can provide housing support services and even fund housing
- New grants such as the Assertive Community Treatment grant program can extend evidence-based treatment to communities
- These bills promote strategies for providing services, increasing access and implementing programs that address mental illness and homelessness together

Our Ask

- S. 2680 should be brought to a Senate floor vote as quickly as possible. This bill and H.R. 2646 should be brought to a conference committee to create comprehensive reform for the mental health system
- The final legislation should include grants that target mental health treatment to people experiencing homelessness, increase access to mental health services, and provide connection of housing supports to treatment
- Mental health reform is a key component of ending homelessness for the disproportionate number of people who experience homelessness while suffering from mental health or substance use disorders

