



**Working for
Alaska's
Mental
Health**

Mental Health Association in Alaska

4045 Lake Otis Parkway, Suite 209 • Anchorage, Alaska 99508

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September 13, 2000

Dear Candidate:

Organizations and advocates from the Building Bridges Campaign for Mental Health, NAMI Alaska (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill), the Mental Health Consumer Web, and the Alaska Mental Health Association, PARENTS, Inc. have compiled a quick list of questions we would like you to answer for our constituents.

As part of our grass roots advocacy effort this year we are all working diligently to encourage consumers of mental health services, their families, service providers, and friends to vote in the upcoming elections. Naturally we hope to get your thoughts on some of our issues and will disseminate your answers throughout the state wide advocacy network.

It is our contention that self-advocacy begins at the voting booth. Not only do we encourage people to become personally involved with the issues affecting community based mental health services...but we are hoping you will take some time to get acquainted with the folks in your community who provide public mental health services.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Alaska Mental Health Association at 563-0880 or NAMI Alaska at 277-1300. We will do whatever we can to assist you in learning more about mental health issues in your community.

Thanks for your time and interest.

Sincerely;

Jan McGillivary, M.Ed.
President/CEO
Mental Health Association in Alaska

**Alaskan Mental Health Advocates
Candidate's Survey**

September, 2000

- 1) Do you view public mental health services as an area of primary concern for you?

- 2) In regards to public mental health services what are your priorities and concerns?

- 3) Advocates in Alaska have worked for parity legislation for many years. Parity simply means that medical benefits for mental health services will be on par with physical health benefits. At this time more than 30 states have parity laws that address the discriminatory practice of overlooking real and treatable biological brain disorders. Would you be willing to sponsor, co-sponsor, or support a parity bill for Alaskans?

- 4) How will you work in public office to overcome the challenges experienced by rural Alaskans where access to mental health services are not readily available nor culturally sensitive?

- 5) Would you like more information on mental health related topics? Would you like more information about mental health programs and services in your specific community?

Thank you for participating!

Please send responses by Monday, the 25th of September, 2000, via mail to:

**MHAA, Attn: Candidate Survey
4045 Lake Otis Parkway, Suite 209
Anchorage AK, 99501**

or fax to MHAA at 907-563-0881.