



MHC's 2022 Legislative Priorities

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Learn more about MHC, and our 2021 wins and challenges at:

www.mhconn.org/yearinreview

Mental Health Connecticut (MHC) envisions a future where wellbeing is rooted in respect for the condition of being human.

We get closer to realizing this future vision each day by partnering with individuals, families, and communities to create environments that support long-term health and wellness.

Mental Health Connecticut (MHC) began in 1908 as an advocacy organization fighting for the fair treatment of all Connecticut residents. We believe everyone has the right to choose their path to recovery and wellness. Our approach to care is person-centered, evidence-based, and rooted in the Social Determinants of Health. We support legislation that increases access to care, challenges stigma and discrimination, encourages preventative care, and elevates mental wellness to the same level of priority as physical wellness. Learn more at: www.mhconn.org/advocacy

In 2022, MHC's legislative priorities will be focused on:

- **Enforcing private health insurance parity for Mental Health and Substance Use.** After the passage of the CT Parity law (www.ctparitycoalition.org) in 2019, and 14 years after the federal law, compliance is still unknown and unconfirmed in many cases, yet consumer experiences of inequity in health care are prevalent and increasing.
- **Identifying where institutional and structural racism, oppression, and inequity intersect in the mental health system, particularly with access to care.** True preventative care that is accessible to all can only be achieved once inequities in the system are identified and addressed with long-term solutions.
- **Elevating peer support as an essential part of Connecticut's mental health workforce.** Peer support is an evidence-based practice of incorporating certified individuals with lived experience into clinical and non-clinical settings to support individuals on their path to recovery.
- **Increasing attention to Emotional Safety and preventative efforts for all.** A health pandemic and a collective experience in making mental wellness a priority has brought to light the urgent need to increase access to emotional safety awareness and support needed to fight the "mental health pandemic."



live in a safe
HOME



achieve
WHOLE HEALTH



fulfill
PURPOSE



engage in the
COMMUNITY