

## 2010 Legislative Priorities

### **1. Develop a Plan to bring Georgia's per capita spending on Mental Health up to the national average.**

Georgia is currently rated 45<sup>th</sup> in per capita spending on mental health care, as compared to being rated 28<sup>th</sup> in per capita spending on general health care. Current expenditure levels keep Georgia's mental health delivery system in crisis mode, and prevent Georgians from even receiving adequate basic services. This in turn overburdens the state hospitals, prisons, and jails.

- a. Include increased funding for Ombudsman
- b. Fund Evidence Based Practices

### **2. Enact Psychiatric Advanced Directives (PAD) Bill**

When in recovery, people with mental illnesses can create this legal document to state how their treatment should be handled when they are not well. An Advance Directive emphasizes their rights and their strong desire to influence decisions about their care.

## 2010 Advocacy Positions

1. Support Governor's Mental Health Commission 2008 Findings
2. Support Chief Justice Task Force 2008 Report
3. Support majority of GA Chief of Police White Paper
4. Focus on NAMI 2009 Report Card for GA
5. Develop Implementation Plan in State hospitals
6. Serve as Advocates to new Administration
7. Continue Funding CIT
8. Continue Funding NAMI GA Programs
9. Support Open Access to medications
10. Fund supportive employment
11. Fund supportive housing
12. Educate Legislators and Candidates about Mental Health Issues
13. Implement MH Parity
14. Launch Behavioral Health Council
15. Re-evaluate Regional Planning Boards