



Illinois Mental Health Summit

October 20, 2020

Former U.S. Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy

Current State of Mental Health

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- Over 72,000 overdose deaths in 2019; over 48,000 suicides in 2018, and rising in 2020.
- CDC showed that 41% of respondents have faced mental health challenges related to COVID-19.
- Calls to NAMI's helpline increased 65% between March and June 2020.
- “Deaths of despair” are increasing, as many as 75,000 more people may die from drug misuse or suicide.
- Effective response requires a mobilization of “non-traditional” partners, including court systems, policing, child welfare, and employers.

Justice Reform and Mental Health

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- Ensure universal screenings for mental health and substance use disorders.
- Allow voluntary treatment to avoid charges.
- Expand mental health and drug courts.
- Expunge criminal records upon successful treatment.
- End counterproductive cutoffs from public programs.
- Require all jails and prisons to have treatment programs.
- Enact the Medicaid Reentry Act.

The Kennedy Forum Illinois

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The Kennedy Forum Illinois promotes action around mental health and addiction equity in Illinois by focusing on stigma reduction, access to care, and prevention/early intervention. It serves as a think tank and incubator for state and local policy and programs.

TheKennedyForumIllinois.org



Psych Hub

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Psych Hub is the world's largest online platform for digital mental health education. The free micro-video library hosts more than 180 consumer-facing, animated videos focused on improving mental health literacy and reducing stigma about seeking care.

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Don't Deny Me Campaign

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DON'T DENY ME

Don't Deny Me is a campaign that educates consumers and providers about patient rights under the Federal Parity Law and connects them with essential appeals guidance and resources. Posters and brochures for patient settings are available for download. DontDenyMe.org

