## **POLICY AND ADVOCACY WORD FIND**

Getting involved in advocacy can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be! This handout breaks down commonly used policy and advocacy terms, helping you build confidence to navigate important conversations and take action for mental health.

## **WORD BANK**

**ACCESS** 

**ADVOCACY** 

**FORMULARY** 

**INSURANCE** 

**LEGISLATION** 

**LOBBYING** 

**PARITY** 

**POLICY** 

**PREVENTION** 

**RESOURCES** 

**SCREENING** 

**STIGMA** 

**WELLNESS** 

**WORKFORCE** 





**Access:** The ability for individuals to obtain timely and affordable mental health care and resources. This includes ensuring that everyone can receive the treatment they need and achieve positive outcomes.

**Advocacy:** Actions taken to support, promote, or protect mental health-friendly policies. Actions are targeted toward individuals, groups, organizations, businesses, policymakers, or other stakeholders to educate them about mental health topics.

**Formulary:** A list of prescription medications covered by an insurance plan, including those for mental health treatment.

**Insurance:** A guarantee to help cover the cost of health services. Plans make decisions about which mental health services to cover, whether a covered service is needed by someone, and if there is a cost for the person getting care.

**Legislation:** Laws created or changed by state or federal legislatures. Most federal laws are debated in committee, and they can give the power to carry out a task or create initiatives, or they can appropriate, which means deciding how much money programs receive. Resolutions may honor a person or designate a day, week, or month to a specific topic.

**Lobbying:** Efforts to influence lawmakers or policymakers to support or oppose specific mental health-friendly legislation. States and federal laws require tracking the amount of time certain individuals and organizations spend lobbying each year.

**Parity:** The requirement that insurance coverage for mental health and substance use disorders is the same as coverage for physical health conditions.

**Policy:** A set of ideas or plans used to make decisions about mental health care and funding.

**Prevention:** Efforts to reduce the risk of developing mental health conditions through early intervention and education.

**Resources:** Information, programs, tools, or services available to support mental health care and recovery or the money for them.

**Screening:** Tools or assessments used to identify whether a person has a mental health concern.

**Stigma:** Negative attitudes or discrimination against people with mental health conditions.

Wellness: Approaches to mental health that promote overall well-being.

**Workforce:** Mental health providers, such as therapists, counselors, psychiatrists, peer support specialists, and others, who provide care and support.

See the full glossary at <u>mhanational.org/resources/mental-health-policy-terms</u>.

## JOIN MHA'S ADVOCACY NETWORK

Turn awareness into action and sign up to receive email alerts about national campaigns that need your voice!



## **ANSWER KEY**

