



Jeff Richardson, MBA, LCSW-C, Board Chair
Charles Ingoglia, MSW, President and CEO

November 7th, 2019

To Candidates for President of the United States,

Now, more than ever, Americans need strong, clear leadership on how to address the mental health and addiction crisis in our country.

We know that 57 percent of Americans living with mental illness and 88 percent of Americans with substance use disorders do not receive treatment, and deaths by suicide among America's teens and adolescents have increased 87 percent in the last decade. We are experiencing a nationwide shortage of licensed clinicians in behavioral health and America's jails and prisons are acting as the largest de facto providers of mental health and addiction treatment in the country.

Recent polling shows 75 percent of Americans believe the country and the federal government are **not** doing enough to address these issues. **We need to hear from you** where you stand.

On behalf of our 3,326 member organizations and the more than 10 million adults, children and families they serve, I would like to formally invite current candidates for President of the United States¹ to share their mental health and addiction platform with voters in New Hampshire and the nation at our *Unite for Mental Health: New Hampshire Town Hall* on December 16, 2019.

Recent polling shows most voters – regardless of party affiliation – are more likely to support a candidate in 2020 who promises to address the burgeoning mental health and addiction crisis in the United States. This Town Hall is a dedicated opportunity to share your solutions with the nearly 600,000 providers of mental health and addiction services in the U.S. and the nearly 50 million Americans impacted by mental illness each year.

The event is being hosted by [Mental Health for US](#), a coalition of more than 65 nonprofits, the National Council for Behavioral Health and the New Hampshire Community Behavioral Health Association.

Unite for Mental Health: New Hampshire Town Hall
Monday, December 16, 2019 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. ET
Dana Center at Saint Anselm College Manchester, NH
RSVP to Alex Dinkel at alex@mentalhealthforus.net
For questions, contact Scott Leezer at 202-827-6045

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to seeing you in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Chuck Ingoglia
President and CEO
National Council for Behavioral Health

¹ All candidates who have polled at one percent or higher, nationally or locally within New Hampshire, over the last six months via RealClearPolitics are invited to participate.