

**LIST OF 86 MEMBER INSTITUTIONS OF FOUR
METRO IAF AFFILIATES IN ILLINOIS AS OF MAY 1, 2018**



DUPAGE UNITED (dupageunited.org)

Church of the Holy Nativity, Clarendon Hills
 Congregation Etz Chaim, Lombard
 Downers Grove Society of Friends
 Darus Salam Foundation, Lombard
 DuPage Initiatives
 Faith Lutheran Church of Glen Ellyn
 First Church of Lombard
 First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn
 First United Methodist Church of Downers Grove
 Illinois Education Association Region 32
 Islamic Center of Naperville
 Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) Relief, Glendale Heights
 Islamic Foundation, Villa Park
 Jericho Road Church of Wheaton
 Mercy Housing Lakefront
 Muslim Educational and Cultural Center of America, Willowbrook
 Muslim Society Inc., Glendale Heights
 North Central College, Naperville
 Northern IL Conference of the United Methodist Church
 Second Baptist Church of Wheaton
 St. Mark's Episcopal Church of Glen Ellyn
 St. Paul Lutheran Church of Wheaton
 St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church of Naperville
 Union Church of Hinsdale UCC
 Unitarian Church of Hinsdale
 West Chicago Teachers Association

FOX RIVER VALLEY INITIATIVE (dupageunited.org/fox-river-valley-initiative/)

The Association for Individual Development
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Charles
 Christ the Lord Lutheran Church, Elgin
 Congregational Church of Batavia
 Ecker Center for Mental Health, Elgin
 First Congregational Church of Geneva
 Hesed House, Aurora
 Illinois Education Association
 Lazarus House, St. Charles
 Mercy Housing
 NAMI - Kane, DeKalb, and Kendall Counties
 Northern IL Conference of the United Methodist Church
 St. Charles Episcopal Church, St. Charles
 Tri-City Family Services
 Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

UNITED POWER FOR ACTION AND JUSTICE (united-power.org)

Ascension Catholic Church, Oak Park
 Chicago Sinai Congregation, Chicago Congregation
 B'Nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim, Deerfield
 First United, Oak Park
 Good Shepherd Lutheran, Oak Park
 Grace Lutheran, River Forest
 Lawndale Christian Development Corporation
 Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran, Arlington Heights
 St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Wilmette
 St. Gertrude's Catholic Church, Chicago
 St. James Catholic Church, Arlington Heights
 St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Park Ridge
 St. Nicholas Catholic Church, Evanston
 St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Glenview
 The Mosque Foundation, Bridgeview
 Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago
 Ehresman Management, Chicago
 Progress CIL, Forest Park
 Southwest Organizing Project, Chicago
 ICNA Relief, Chicago
 MAS-PACE, Bridgeview
 Josselyn Center for Mental Health, Northfield

LAKE COUNTY UNITED (lakecountyunited.org)

Christ Episcopal Church, Waukegan
 Church of Holy Spirit Episcopal, Lake Forest
 Congregation Or Shalom, Vernon Hills
 Congregation Solel, Highland Park
 First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville
 Grace United Methodist Church, Lake Bluff
 Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Libertyville
 Islamic Foundation North, Waukegan
 Mercy Housing Lakefront
 Most Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, Waukegan
 North Shore Unitarian Church, Deerfield
 St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, Deerfield
 St. James Lutheran Church, Lake Forest
 St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Libertyville
 St. Lawrence Episcopal, Libertyville
 St. Mary of Vernon Catholic Church, Vernon Hills
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Waukegan
 Trinity Episcopal Church, Highland Park
 Libertyville United Methodist Church
 Lake County PADS
 Lake County Residential Development Corporation
 Waukegan Public Library
 Waukegan to College

For more information call 800-397-2282 and ask "Metro IAF."

A REAL EXERCISE IN TRUE DEMOCRACY™



Let's Stop Jailing People Suffering from Mental Illness

Here's a question for you, whether you're a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or just sick of the whole political process: If we could solve one of our major social issues in Illinois while saving millions in state funds and helping tens of thousands of people in need, would you be in favor of it?

Here is a two-step solution to cutting our incarceration rates in the state and helping people with mental illness get well. We intend to make it one of the top issues for this fall's elections for governor, attorney general, and every sheriff and state's attorney in our four counties.

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Of course you would. As a recent report from the National Alliance for Mental Health (NAMI) has pointed out, "In a mental health crisis, people are more likely to encounter police than get medical help. As a result, 2 million people with mental illness are booked into jails nationally each year. Nearly 15% of men and 30% of women booked into jails have a serious mental health condition."* This is not good for the law enforcement and criminal justice system, for our state and local budgets, for our families and communities, or for the people who are being sent to jail or prison for creating minor domestic or even public disturbances, committing petty crimes, or simple acting in inappropriate ways because of a mental illness and /or addiction.

To stem the tide of mass incarceration, we need a robust system for preventing people who really don't belong in jail from being sent there anyway. Step one in our approach is to train law enforcement and first-responder personnel in what is called "Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training," a forty-hour course with follow-up that teaches police and others how to recognize and defuse what is happening when they encounter situations with people who are suffering from mental illness and /or addiction. We have already worked to ensure this training is being offered in DuPage, Kane, Lake, and Cook counties. It works, it is not expensive, and it can be run locally.



Here's the second step. With CIT training, law enforcement officers can size up a situation, judge it for what it is, help deescalate it, and then remove the person or persons causing the problem. Even if law enforcement and first responders learn to recognize and diffuse a situation obviously being caused by mental illness or drugs, however, they most often still need to deal with it by removing one or more of the participants in an altercation from the scene. They are required then to take the people involved somewhere. For most of Illinois, the choices are either jail or an emergency room. We need a third option, which we call "Crisis Stabilization Units (CSUs)." What are CSUs, how do they operate, how much do they cost, how many of them do we need, and—most importantly—do they work?

CSU already exist. For example, Dade County (Miami) Florida, has had this system in place for several years, and they have cut the prison population by so much that they have been able to close one entire prison. A couple of behavioral-health hospitals in the Chicago area can and do function as CSUs, including Sinai Holy Cross in Cook County. Other hospitals and behavior health providers in Kane, DuPage, Lake, and Cook counties are presently working with us to create a full-service CSU in their facilities.

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Imagine a harried police officer who picks up people he or she knows are suffering a mental health or addiction episode and just need to calm down and maybe get back on their meds or have their families come and get them. A CSU is a place with a professional staff and the facilities to handle

CSUs are a far superior option — from both a service and a cost point of view — to putting people in jail...

these situations. The law enforcement officer or emergency medical technician knows that if people in trouble are dropped off at a CSU, they will be both safe and a threat to no one else and

will begin to receive the medical and psychological care they obviously need.

CSUs need to be well-staffed and funded, open 24-7, and be prepared to admit people brought to them either voluntarily or by law enforcement or emergency responders and then keep them either for a few hours or even a few days until they are able to address their crisis and begin to show signs of recovery. CSUs are a far superior option — from both a service and a cost point of view — to putting people in jail or prison or warehousing them in large mental institutions (as was done in Illinois in the not-too-distant past). As NAMI states: "The vast majority of the individuals are not violent criminals—most people in jails are have not yet gone to trial, so they are not yet convicted of a crime. The rest are serving short sentences for minor crimes. Once in jail, many individuals don't receive the treatment they need and end up getting worse, not better. They stay longer than their counterparts without mental illness. They are at risk of victimization and often their mental health conditions get worse."*

Here is the most surprising thing about this idea: We don't need that many CSUs in Illinois to make this solution work. Our four organizations working on this issue in Illinois estimate that we would need a limited number of CSUs in Kane, Lake, and DuPage counties, and a proportionate number for Cook County. CSUs are like mini-emergency rooms, but they are much cheaper to build and operate. Not every town or neighborhood needs one, they just need to be close enough so that law enforcement and emergency medical technicians can take people suffering from mental illness and / or addiction there instead of to jail or an emergency room.

We need the medical providers to work together to decide where the best locations for a CSU might be, and we need the law enforcement and criminal justice system to put some of the savings from not incarcerating people who shouldn't be in jail or prison to help fund them. We have already gotten sheriffs, police chiefs, states attorneys, several hospitals, and at least one family foundation interested in the idea.

We have the support of the two major candidates for Illinois Attorney General (Republican Erika Harold and Democrat Kwame Raoul) to promise to work on this issue with us, and we

At least 83% of jail inmates with a mental illness did not have access to needed treatment.

are demanding that both major candidates for Governor of Illinois (Democrat Jay Pritzker and Republican Bruce Rauner) speak to it as well.

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Our goal is to eliminate or seriously curtail the practice of putting people in jail or prison who are suffering from mental health and / or addiction, not only because it is the right thing to do but because it makes so much sense and will have such a significant impact on our families and the social fabric of our communities.

You—yes you—can definitely help! First, tell your friends and family and any pollsters or politicians or reporters who might ask what issues you care about that "the counterproductive incarceration of the mentally ill" should be ended. And then ask them to read this flyer. We need to make this a "political" (small "p") issue, and we need to do it now.

Of course, when we win on this first, crucial step, we will still have a lot of work to do. As the NAMI report concludes: "After leaving jail, many suffering from mental illness no longer have access to needed healthcare and benefits. A criminal record often makes it hard for individuals to get a job or housing. Many individuals, especially without access to mental health services and supports, wind up homeless, in emergency rooms and often re-arrested. At least 83% of jail inmates with a mental illness did not have access to needed treatment. Jailing people with mental illness creates huge burdens on law enforcement, corrections, and state and local budgets. It does not protect public safety. And people who could be helped are being ignored."*

We can stop both the fiscally irresponsible and socially destructive ways of responding to those with mental illness. Will you get involved? You can also donate to our work at <http://metro-iaf.org/donate>. Thank you! See if your religious institution or other organization is listed on the back of this flyer as a member of one of the four county-wide organizations that are members of the Metro Industrial Areas Foundation network. If not, call 800-397-2282 and ask for further information on the mental health incarceration issue. ■

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Source of quotes from the National Alliance for Mental Illness report, "Jailing People for Mental Illness," www.nami.org. Used with permission.

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