• From 2009 to 2011 Illinois cut almost $114 million in General Revenue funding for mental health and was fourth in all the states for total cuts. During that period, Illinois cut its total mental health care budget by more than 30 percent. The Governor signed HB190 in March 2013 restoring $12 million supplement funding allocation for FY 13.

• The Affordable Care Act extended Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, which requires parity between mental health or substance use disorder benefits and medical/surgical benefits with respect to financial requirements and treatment limitations under group health plans and group and individual health insurance coverage. The 2014 NAMI State Policy recommends that state mental health advocates should monitor compliance with federal parity requirements, hold insurers accountable and impose meaningful sanctions for noncompliance.

• HB2469 Amends the Medical Assistance Article of the Illinois Public Aid Code. Provides that antipsychotic and anticonvulsant drugs used to treat severe mental illness shall not be subject to prior approval as a result of the 4 prescription limit and shall not count toward the monthly prescription limit when used for the following mental disorders: post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, or panic disorder.

• On July 22, 2013 Senate Bill 26 went into law as Public Act 98-0104. This law will implement the Affordable Care Act in Illinois by expanding Medicaid to 138% of the poverty level. This expansion will result in the largest increase in mental health funding in the state since the enactment of Medicaid decades ago.

• Advocated for the HB1538 Mental Health First Aid training act. The Department of Human Services will establish and administer the act so that certified trainers can provide Illinois residents, professionals and members of the public with training on how to identify and assist someone who is believed to be developing or has developed a mental health disorder, substance abused disorder or believed to be experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis.