



Commonwealth of Northern Marianas—Resource Guide

Territory Behavioral Health Agency

For more information about admission, care, treatment, release, and patient follow-up in public or private mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities, contact your Territory agency:

Department of Public Health
Post Office Box 500409CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 670-234-8950
Fax: 670-234-8930
E-mail: dphsec@dphsaipan.com

Territory Protection and Advocacy Agency

Each State and selected Territories have a protection and advocacy agency that receives funding from the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Agencies are mandated to protect and advocate for the rights of people with mental illnesses and to investigate reports of abuse and neglect in facilities that care for or treat individuals with mental illnesses. These facilities, which may be public or private, include hospitals, nursing homes, community facilities, board and care homes, homeless shelters, jails, and prisons. Agencies provide advocacy services or conduct investigations to address issues that arise during transportation or admission to such facilities, during residency in them, or within 90 days after discharge from them. Contact:

Northern Marianas Protection and Socialization Initiative
P.O. Box 503529
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 670-235-7273/4 or 670-235-9506
TDD : 670-235-7278
Fax: 670-235-7275
E-mail: nmpasi@pticom.com
Internet: <http://www.nmpasi.com>

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, investigates some complaints about treatment facilities that receive Medicare and Medicaid funding. For further information at the national level, contact:

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850
Phone: 410-786-3000
Toll-free: 877-267-2323
TDD: 866-226-1819
E-mail: question@cms.gov
Internet: <http://www.CMS.gov>

San Francisco Regional Office (serves the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas)

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
90 – 7th Street, Suite 5-300
San Francisco, CA 94103
Phone: 415-744-3501
Fax: 415-744-3517
Internet:

<http://www.cms.gov/RegionalOffices/Downloads/SanFranciscoRegionalOffice.pdf>

Advocacy Organizations

Mental Health America (formerly the National Mental Health Association) maintains a referral and information center and can help you locate local chapters. These local groups have information about community services and act as advocates for people unable to represent themselves. For more information about the association, write or call:

Mental Health America Resource Center
2000 North Beauregard Street - 6th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22311
Phone: 703-684-7722
Toll-free: 800-969-6642
TDD: 800-433-5959
Fax: 703-684-5968
E-mail: info@mentalhealthamerica.net
Internet: <http://www.nmha.org>

The National Alliance on Mental Illness maintains a helpline for information on mental illnesses and referrals to local groups. The local self-help groups have support and advocacy components and offer education and information about community services for families and individuals. For information about the Alliance's activities, contact:

National Alliance on Mental Illness
3803 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100
Arlington, VA 22203
Phone: 703-524-7600
Toll-free: 888-950-NAMI (6264)
Fax: 703-524-9094
Internet: <http://www.nami.org>

Territory-representative consumer organizations are run by and for consumers of mental health services and promote consumer empowerment. These organizations provide information about mental health and other support services at the Territory level and are active in addressing and advocating for mental health system issues. For information about consumer activities in your area, contact:

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
450 Sutter Street, Ste. 600
San Francisco, CA 94108
Phone: 415-954-9988
Fax: 415-954-9999
E-Mail: info@apiahf.org
Internet: <http://www.apiahf.org>

National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA)
340 East Second Street, Suite 409
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: 213-625-5795
Fax: 213-625-5796
E-mail: napafasa@napafasa.org
Internet: <http://www.napafasa.org>

The National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse, funded partly by SAMHSA, promotes and helps to develop consumer-run self-help groups across the country. Technical assistance and materials are available on such topics as organizing groups, fundraising, leadership development, incorporating, public relations, advocacy, and networking. For more information, contact:

The National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse
1211 Chestnut Street, Suite 1207
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: 215-751-1810
Toll-free: 800-553-4KEY (539)
Fax: 215-636-6312
E-mail: info@mhsselfhelp.org
Internet: <http://www.mhsselfhelp.org>

The National Empowerment Center is a Technical Assistance Center run by mental health consumers/survivors. The Center's mission is to carry a message of recovery, empowerment, hope and healing to people who have been diagnosed with mental illness. The Center provides information and referrals to consumer/survivor resources nationwide and offers technical assistance to individuals and groups involved in consumer empowerment activities. The Center distributes recovery-related publications and sponsors education and training activities. For information on consumer/survivor activities in your area, contact:

The National Empowerment Center
599 Canal Street
Lawrence, MA 01840
Phone: 978-685-1494
Toll-free: 800-769-3728
Fax: 978-681-6426
Internet: <http://www.power2u.org>

Other Sources of Information

There are many sources of information that you can tap. Your area mental health authority, which is generally a part of the local government, may be useful. Other branches of your city or county government also may be able to help. For example, the education office might have information about help for children, and the agency for the aging might know about services for senior citizens. In addition, your family physician or area hospital may be able to make referrals. For legal advice, contact your local bar association or go to <http://www.findlegalhelp.org>. Also, your local library and telephone yellow pages may have resource lists for sources of help in your community.

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