

Liberating the Mind:

How the Church Can Understand Mental Health as a Justice Issue

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National
Benevolent
Association
CALLED TOGETHER | CALLED TO CARE

The image features a monochromatic teal color scheme. The background is filled with the delicate, intricate structures of dandelion seed heads and their stems, creating a complex, web-like pattern. A semi-transparent horizontal band is positioned across the middle of the image, serving as a backdrop for the text.

JUSTICE

What Do We Mean When We Say Justice?

Race Prejudice

+

**Misuse of Power by
Systems and Institutions**

=

Racism

Intersectionality



So, What Do We Mean When We Say Justice?



- -isms
- Intersectionality
- Microaggressions and Privilege
- Systems and Institutions

A close-up photograph of several dandelion seed heads, captured in a warm, golden light. The seeds are fine and radiate from the center of each head, creating a soft, ethereal glow. The background is a blurred, warm orange and yellow, suggesting a bright, sunny day. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

MENTAL HEALTH JUSTICE

The Root Causes

Stigma, Discrimination, and Oppression

Perpetuated through ↓

- Access to MH Services
- Access to MH Education
- MH Diagnosis Patterns
- MH Treatment Practices





**HOW CAN THE CHURCH
RESPOND?**

Being the Church

How do we theologically conceptualize justice work?



Listen

See

Use Your Power

Practical Ways to Be the Church

- Address assumptions
- Educate ourselves and others
- Provide space
- Connect with our local community
- Support access to services
- Local Commission on Mental Health



Current MH Advocacy Areas

- Parity for mental health coverage
- Mental health screenings in schools
- Medicaid and Medicaid expansion
- Jailing people with mental illness
- Workplace discrimination
- Education for families
- Prison MH services
- Health care equity



Resources for MH Advocacy

National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity

<https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/templates/content.aspx?lvl=1&lvlid=33&ID=286>

SAMHSA: Programs and Campaigns

<https://www.samhsa.gov/behavioral-health-equity/about#POLICY>

NAMI: Learn More / Public Policy

<http://www.nami.org/Learn-More/Mental-Health-Public-Policy>

Questions / Conclusion

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Thank You!



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nbacares.org/mental-health