

## 2024 #Vote4MentalHealth Sample Candidate Questionnaire Questions

- Fifty percent of all mental health conditions [appear](#) by age 14, and seventy-five percent by age 24, but only half [receive](#) treatment. What do you propose to ensure youth and young adults can access the mental health services and supports they need?
- The average [delay](#) between onset of a mental illness and a person receiving treatment is 11 years. During this delay, symptoms worsen, and it becomes harder to stay in a job or school, and harder to get and stay well. What would you do to ensure people get treatment early?
- We're facing a shortage of mental health professionals, meaning it's more challenging to find care when you need it. Over half of adults with mental illness [did not](#) receive treatment in 2021. How would you address the mental health workforce shortage, particularly to reflect the diversity of our community?
- Mental health parity—covering mental health care at the same levels as physical health care—has been difficult to achieve. What do you propose to ensure people with mental health conditions experience equitable insurance coverage compared to physical health conditions?
- More people than ever are recognizing the growing need for mental health services. How will you ensure mental health services are available to meet community needs?
- Instead of receiving timely mental health care, too many people experiencing a mental health crisis end up in emergency rooms and jails. How would you make sure that every person that needs help can get care quickly and humanely?
- Research has led to the development of new ways to care for mental illness, like the highly effective, team-based Coordinated Specialty Care model for early psychosis. How would you ensure innovative evidence-based practices are available in our community?
- Our community is experiencing a youth mental health crisis. Suicide is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death among people aged 10-14 and only half of U.S. youth with a mental health condition received treatment. What do you propose to help address our children's mental health?
- Rural youth are at an increased risk of suicide, but highly rural areas have [fewer](#) youth suicide prevention services. How will you help our children in crisis access mental health care in our rural communities?
- Providing veterans with quality mental health care is all of our responsibility, but our veterans are struggling. While VA serves millions of veterans each year, it partners with community mental health providers to increase access to care. What will you do to help our veterans?
- Mental health care is not one-size-fits-all; services and supports need to be tailored to the people served (i.e. communities of color, LGBTQ communities, etc.). How will you help our community provide culturally competent mental health care?

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- The unemployment rate for people with mental illness is [higher](#) that of their peers without mental health conditions. Yet, many people with mental illness want to work—and can work with the right supports. How do you propose to help people with mental illness get and keep gainful employment?
- Lack of stable housing can be one of the biggest barriers to recovery. People can't engage in treatment without a safe place to live. How do you propose to address the lack of affordable housing for people with mental health conditions?
- People with mental health conditions are booked into our nation's jails and prisons two million times every year, many arrested because of the symptoms of their condition. In jail, people with mental health conditions tend to stay longer as their conditions worsen. What would you do to address this?
- 988 is the nationwide three-digit number for people to call, text or chat with during a mental health, substance use or suicide crisis. What will you do to ensure our community can help meet the increased volume of contacts to the 988 Lifeline?
- When a person is experiencing a mental health crisis needs in-person, a law enforcement response increases the likelihood that they receive handcuffs, not help. What policies would you implement to ensure people in our community receive a mental health response?
- People with mental illness who are facing criminal charges are being held in jails as they wait for mental health services to enable them to participate in their trial. Unfortunately, they are often held for far longer than the sentence for their alleged crime. How will you address this problem?