



**mindspring**  
MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE

## **The Journal/Newsletter from MindSpring Mental Health Alliance (formerly NAMI Greater Des Moines) - can be found [here](#).**

Our newsletter continues to have the same flow of information as before the change to MindSpring.

- At the same location as the newsletter, is a multi-page document entitled "**Additional Mental Health Articles From Around the Nation**" - for your reading pleasure.
- 1195 people attended the Inspirational Speaker series with Devin Henderson on Wednesday, March 31. Amazing.
- **April educational classes** can be found [here](#). You can register for the classes at the same location.
  - April 1 - Thursday - Noon to 1 - Setting Boundaries and Limits with Family Members
  - April 5 - Monday - Noon to 1 - Covid Trauma: How Do We Heal?
  - April 14 - Wednesday - Noon to 1 - Inspiration Speaker Series - "Amputate Your Fear" with John Register.
  - More classes will be posted and an April educational course document is being developed.
- **Community Conversations** will begin in May. Dates for these virtual conversations will be:
  - Friday, May 14,
  - Friday, July 16,
  - Friday, Sept. 17 and
  - Friday, Nov. 12
  - Time of day: over the noon hour - depends on how many speakers are scheduled
- The newsletter was printed before our **social media accounts** were transferred to our new name. The new names are:

- Twitter: mindspring\_dsm
- Facebook: mindspring.dsm
- Instagram: mindspring\_dsm
- Our office is still closed. Please contact [director@namigdm.org](mailto:director@namigdm.org) if you have questions or concerns. **Email address transitions** to MindSpring will be accomplished within the next couple weeks.
- Please be patient with our transition to a **new website**. It's underway.
- We are still offering our **crisis cards for sale**. The landing page to reach this information is under construction. For now, continue to use the link <http://bit.ly/NAMIGDMcrisiscards> to purchase the cards. You can personalize the cards with your organization's name and website. We have found the cards to be incredibly useful - people appreciate the instantaneous help on the cards since they are wallet-size and are made of a nearly indestructible material.
  - Do's and Don'ts in a Mental Health Crisis
  - Suicide Warning Signs and Response
  - Compassionate Communication (can double as a business card)



### Legislative alert - SF 587

SF587 as initially written will **destroy the safety net** for the Iowa mental health system - for both adults and children. It will **destroy the structure** of the mental health regions which will need to be re-built again. In other words, it will be chaotic and interrupt life-saving measures while required reorganization measures take up

valuable time and have the potential to cause **delays in services and supports or stop them.**

The proposal is based on the legislature transferring promised amounts from the state general fund to support the mental health system. This is an unreliable and frequently failed method. There is too much history of broken promises to trust adequate general fund transfers will be made when so much is at stake.

Most of all, there is simply **not enough money** proposed to pay for all mandated services and community living supports.

### **SF587 - Where will revenue come from?**

**Presently**, each region has a different property tax levy amount per capita. The maximum is **\$47.28** per capita. The present situation covers about **\$116 million** of expenses statewide covered by the various levels of mental health property tax levies.

**Proposed:** **Property tax** amounts continue to be determined based on population – statewide property tax levies for mental health services will be reduced to **\$21.14** per capita **for year one only. The second year, it goes to zero.**

### **Proposed:**

**Property tax relief payments** - (*regional supplement payment*) is determined based on population.

- Deposits from the state general fund
  - Year 1 - 7-1-21: \$15.86 per capita
  - Year 2 - 7-1-22: \$38 per capita
  - Year 3 - 7-1-23 \$40 per capita
  - Year 4 - 7-1-24 \$42.00 per capita
  - 7-1-25 and thereafter  
Population X (supplemental payment from previous year + regional supplement growth factor)
- An annual regional supplement growth factor can increase the property tax relief fund by a maximum of one and one-half percent per year (1 ½%/yr)

**[So let's take Polk County as an example](#)**

2021 population of 498,817

([Iowa Population 2021 \(Demographics, Maps, Graphs\)](#))

([worldpopulationreview.com](#))

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**Year 1 - 7-1-21**

Polk Co property tax levy  $\$21.14 \times 498,817 = \$10,544,991$

From state general fund -  $\$15.86 \times 498,817 = \$7,911,238$

(through property tax relief fund) \$18,456,229

*The present Polk Co budget expense is around \$26 M. To provide all mandated services, it is in the \$35M range. There are no excess funds. To provide all services, Polk County is **short \$16M**.*

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**Year 2 - 7-1-22**

From state general fund -  $\$38.00 \times 498,817 = \$18,955,046$

(through property tax relief fund) **Short \$16M**

**Year 3 - 7-1-23**

From state general fund -  $\$40.00 \times 498,817 = \$19,952,680$

(through property tax relief fund) **Short \$15M**

**Year 4 - 7-1-24**

From state general fund -  $\$42.00 \times 498,817 = \$20,950,314$

(through property tax relief fund) **Short \$14M**

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**7-1-25 and thereafter - there will always be a shortage of funds to cover the total cost of services despite a 1 1/2% growth factor in the property tax relief fund.**

## So where do regions go if they don't receive enough from the Property Tax Relief Fund to cover mental health services?

### Proposed:

**Risk pool** funds can be accessed based on an application request filed by the Region for funds to pay for Regional services the Region has no money to pay for. An application must be filed and approved by a Risk Pool Board. Where do risk pool funds come from?

- Deposits from the state general fund
  - July 1, 2021, \$9,960,590.
  - July 1, 2022, \$5,107,340.
  - *where is 7-1-23 and 7-1-24?*
  - For each fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025,
    - an amount equal to the risk pool growth factor
    - multiplied by the ending balance of the risk pool at the conclusion of the fiscal year ending June 30
- Funds requested but not used and refunded back to the account
- Risk pool factor for any year cannot exceed 3.5% (computed based on sales tax revenue numbers)

*There will not be enough money in the risk pool to cover Polk County's needs let alone any other Regions' needs. No safety net.*

**Please note: The bill also requires excess cash in regions to drop down to -0- by 2023. No cushion for emergencies, no funds to build services, no funds to increase provider payments, etc. etc. No safety net.**

**For whatever reduction of property taxes is accomplished in mental health property tax levies in Division I of the bill, - it is potentially rendered neutral by Division II of the bill.**

**Division II** of the bill eliminates the commercial and industrial property tax replacement payments (the backfill) to most local governments over a four- to six-year period as the state increases its share of funding for the MHDS system.

School districts will stop receiving replacement payments in one step, which is replaced and accounted for by increasing total state aid to schools. Schools currently get \$60 million (\$59.7 million exactly) from C&I repayments.

The backfill was created as part of the bipartisan compromise to reduce property taxes on businesses. The backfill was designed to provide funding to local governments to replace the lost revenue from the 10% rollback on business property taxes. Without the backfill, local governments would likely have had to increase property taxes on residential and agricultural property, which would have resulted in a tax shift from businesses onto homeowners and farmers.

The backfill provides more than **\$152 million** to local governments to protect taxpayers and provide critical services. **Eliminating this backfill will put more demand for funding for those services back on property taxes.**

**It doesn't make sense.** Reduce MH Property Taxes by **\$116M** and withdraw **\$152M** support to local governments which will cause an even greater increase in property taxes in order to retain services provided by local government.

**We appreciate the legislature trying to find a solution to the funding dilemma of mental health and disability services for the citizens of Iowa. However, SF587 is not the solution.**

**Please contact the Governor and your state legislators to stop this bill from being advanced and signed into law.**

An article providing an analysis of the bill can be found [here](#).

A quote from a friend:

Before you start to judge me  
Step into my shoes  
And walk the life I'm living  
And if you get as far as I am  
Just maybe you will  
See how strong I really am



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