



NO PLACE TO GO

“Randy” is a man living with severe, persistent mental illness. He has cycled for over 2 decades through hospitalizations, incarceration, highest levels of care in the community, and homelessness/inappropriate housing because the long-term placement he needs does not exist, despite a huge investment in our state hospital system. This is at a great cost to him and to taxpayers. There are many more individuals like my son who require a structured and supervised setting for both their safety and the safety of others.

The Problem:

Randy has exhausted all of the highest levels of care in the community, proving he needs a higher level of care than is currently available

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Inappropriate settings provide expensive care with no return on investment as they do not adequately support this population

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Due to Anosognosia (lack of insight), Randy is not safe unsupervised in the community, as proven by years of arrests and hospitalizations.

Next Steps:

Per Olmstead, jail is NOT the least restrictive, most appropriate, most integrated setting available. Until TX invests in appropriate settings, he should be at the state hospital

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Long-term therapeutic communities for people with SMI are a better investment to serve this population’s needs

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This public health crisis is a public safety crisis, too. We need to provide long-term care that meets their needs and keeps the community safe.



"Intentional communities" may be modeled after retirement facilities where people can live with dignity and purpose

Inappropriate placements in state hospitals for people "unlikely to restore" cost Texans

\$33.7 million

in 2023. Many of these people remain in the hospital because there are no appropriate long-term placements

Randy's mom is his fiercest advocate. But even she can't help him when no resources exist.

"As it stands, we seem to be waiting for my son to die or to end up in the prison system as the long-term solution. I am documenting with all of you that decisions continue to be made that put his safety at risk, as well as the safety of others. I often think of the person who may run over him in the street, or shoot him in the fear of the moment when protecting their property, or obtain injuries or worse from a fire he started. Why are we putting him and everyone else at risk when there is such a well documented history of him needing a higher level of care than the community can provide?

I am asking that he be transferred to the Austin State Hospital. As a parent who has been involved with NAMI, I am also asking that there be a plan for my son and the individuals like him to be included on the ASH campus when they are no longer in need of acute care, but they are also not appropriate for community placement. There must be a place for these individuals with the most complex mental health needs who will never be fit to stand trial."

Randy's mom, Brenda, in an email sent in Dec 2023 to HHSC leadership, legislators and Governor's office



Read NAMI's
recommendations for
residential intermediate
care facilities



Read the Texas State Audit
Report on the forensic
waitlist and state hospitals