

Hillary Clinton Rolls Out Mental Health Plan



AP PHOTO/ANDREW HARNIK

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton takes a question from a member of the media on board her campaign plane as she travels to Tampa International Airport in Tampa, Sept. 6. Last week Clinton announced a plan to increase access to mental health treatment.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Hillary Clinton said she's alarmed by the statistics. Approximately one in five adults in the United States — or 43.8 million Americans — experience mental illness in a given year.

About 18 percent of adults in the country experienced an anxiety disorder such as posttraumatic stress disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and specific phobias.

Also, one in every four college students experiences a mental illness.

Statistics like these must and will be met head on if Clinton is elected president, she promised during a media call last week to unveil her plan to better incorporate mental health services into general health care settings.

Clinton said this is her way of increasing access to treatment.

The former First Lady and Secretary of State told reporters that among the first order of business she'd undertake in the Oval Office is to host a White House conference on mental health.

Steps outlined by Clinton include retooling reimbursement systems in Medicare and Medicaid and promoting early diagnosis and intervention, including a national suicide prevention

initiative and randomized audits of insurance companies to make it more difficult to conceal when mental health care services are denied.

"Addiction, homelessness and a broken criminal justice system" are byproducts of a poor mental health system, Clinton said. Fur-

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—Hillary Clinton

ther, Americans are losing nearly \$200 billion each year due to a lack of care, understanding and tolerance, she said.

"The human cost is even worse with the suicide levels at the highest in years. People are dying from conditions that go undetected and untreated, too often," Clinton said.

"I have heard the heartbreaking stories for years about these incredible challenges. During the campaign, it seems like the flood gates have opened," she said.

Clinton, who leads Republican Presidential nominee Donald Trump by double digits in most national polls, said if she were elected she'd see to it that state

and local governments were fully funded and capable of handling mental health issues.

When there's been cooperation, there has been success, she noted. "I've heard stories of encouragement, of people who have been able to get help," Clinton said.

"We have to make clear that mental health is not a personal failing but that right now our country is failing. From launching a suicide prevention initiative to reforming criminal justice so that low-level offenders wind up in treatment and not in jail; we need to start focusing on the whole person. Focus on early detection and treatment and to make sure that mental health is covered by insurance," she said.

Clinton also cited the need to expand housing and job opportunities as part of the overall remedy for the nation's mental health crisis.

"We have to expand providers and make sure they have the support and that they deserve. We will make mental health a national priority if I am elected president," she said. "We have got to make sure that every community in the country have the information and the resources that they

need."

Mental health has been a highlight of the Clinton campaign, particularly after she met last year with individuals at Town Hall forums who said their families were struggling with mental health and other illnesses.

Clinton had earlier announced an initiative to speed up the process for a cure for Alzheimer's disease, which on Monday claimed the life of actor Gene Wilder.

Clinton's proposal that she rolled out during the call with reporters also called for improving

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Is it Me – or is My Dog OCD?

By Dr. Jasmine Shanelle Streeter, Veterinarian
For The Skanner News

I once had a coworker, whose dog was OCD.

He'd always chase his tail and spin and bark incessantly.

My coworker would laugh and nod and brush it off with glee.

But compulsive disorder in dogs is real – let's see if you agree.

Have you ever known a dog or two that displayed abnormal gait?

Did he ever spin or chase his tail or pace and pace and pace?

Maybe he was more the oral type who loved to lick and chew,

Or suck his paws or bite his rump or always eat his poo – eww!

Well we can't forget the "special" ones who always seem quite high.

That hallucinate or fix a stare or catch imaginary flies.

The cause of this is still unclear but it happens in the brain.

Sometimes it's triggered by frustration, sometimes no one's to blame.

There are a couple breeds to watch who are predisposed for thee.

Pit bulls and German Shepherds spin or simply stop and freeze.

It's said Great Danes and Shorthaired Pointers love to run a fence.

And Dobermans can act quite childish sucking blankets for defense.

The normal time when signs appear is right at



Dr. Jasmine and her dog Sheba

puberty (sixmonths).

It seems to target males no doubt with greater frequency.

Not every dog that shows these traits should see a vet like me.

If it's not harmful to their health, you might well let them be.

Of course you have to factor in your mental sanity.

But if you're cool Snapchat a vid or post a pic to IG.

Go watch your Gucci wilding out on imaginary rain.

Might mean he's perfect for a life in Portland's humid terrain.

But if this madness you can't bear is becoming just a pain.

Well take him in to a behavior vet – I'm sure they'd love to learn his name.

Do you have a pet topic you'd like to learn more about? I'd love to hear from you! Write me at drjasmine@theskanner.com

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