



June 27, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) , we express our strong support for the proposed convening initiative focused on exploring the issues and opportunities associated with the broad adoption of **TOP Match**, a PCORI-validated behavioral health referral system, and its integration into **Express Access**, the NIH-funded marketplace platform.

Access to effective mental health and substance use disorder care remains a pressing challenge for individuals and families across the nation. It also places a burden on employers and the broader healthcare system. Long wait times, provider mismatches, and a lack of infrastructure to support evidence-based referral systems continue to hinder the opportunity for people to access effective care and experience positive outcomes. Studies have shown that delays in accessing care and mismatches reduce the impact of behavioral health interventions and contribute to stigma, absenteeism, and workforce disengagement ([NIH Study](#); [PCORI Study](#)).

We understand that TOP Match has the potential to address these challenges by ensuring that people are matched with providers who have a proven track record of treating similar conditions, and that TOP Match has demonstrated a fivefold increase in people returning to full health and its integration into Express Access offers a scalable, cost-effective, and person-centered way to improve care delivery and support workforce well-being.

This convening represents a timely and much-needed opportunity to engage a diverse group of stakeholders including HR leaders, benefits managers, health plans, EAP providers, and advocacy organizations, like NAMI, to discuss the issues and opportunities of this solution. We are interested in contributing to discussions on how to align this solution with employer benefit and provider strategies, understand implementation challenges, and identify actionable paths forward.

NAMI enthusiastically supports this effort and looks forward to sharing our perspectives, learning from peers, and helping shape the path to broader adoption of evidence-based behavioral health solutions that improve access to effective care.

Sincerely,

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