How to be an Effective Advocate in a Pandemic

Renee Schulte and Rachel Bertrand
3.17.2021
Agenda

• Why Advocate?
• Legislative Priorities
• Your Story
• Options to Connect
• Questions
Why Advocate?

- Legislators are People
- They Work for You, the Constituent
- They Want to Help
- Relationships Matter
Legislative Priorities

- Sustainable Mental Health Funding
- Preventing Barriers for Medicaid Recipients
- 100% Reimbursement for Telehealth Services
Your Story

- Introduction: Who are you?
- Example: Story that relates to a priority topic
- Ask: What do you want them to do?
Story Building Worksheet

• Write Intro.
• Identify example that relates to topic.
• What is your ask?
Options in 2021

Call or Email
- Email story on worksheet
- Call Capitol switchboard, home or cell.

Attend a Committee
- Sub committees take public comment virtually this year
- Committees viewed online
- Use our “how to”

Attend a forum
- Many forums virtual
- NAMI sending forum info to you in your area

Leave feedback
- With committees online, you can leave a comment
- Use our “how to”
How to:

• Watch House Meetings in 2021
How to: Watch Senate Meetings in 2021

Before You Begin:

In order to leave a comment for a committee/subcommittee meeting you should know:

- What bill it is you’re looking for
- What chamber it’s in – House or Senate
- If the bill is in committee or subcommittee

This information should be provided to you in an Action Alert email. For this example, we will be using bill SB 1793.

To Watch a Senate Meeting (5 Steps):

1. Go to the Iowa Legislature website: [https://www.legis.iowa.gov/](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/)
How to:

• Leave a comment in 2021
Questions?
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