Helping Churches Support Individuals and Families Affected by Mental Illness

The Mental Health Liaison

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Key Ministry - Mental Health Ministry Director
Objectives and Definition

- **Objective** Learn what a Mental Health Liaison is and what this ministry position does within your church

- **Objective** Identify and recruit Mental Health Liaison candidates

- **Objective** Show how the Mental Health Liaison can help launch and oversee your church’s mental health ministry

- **Definition** The Mental Health Liaison is the individual responsible for overseeing your church’s mental health inclusion strategy
What skills or experience does the Mental Health Liaison need?

**Professional**
- Mental Health resume is not mandatory
- Organized self-starter
- Teachable

**Personal**
- Passion for mental health needs
- Possible lived experience
- Established in the community

**Spiritual**
- “Gets” the need for mental health ministry
- Spiritual maturity
- Recognized leader
Other Considerations

• Time Commitment

• Lay leadership or staff position?
What will the Mental Health Liaison Do?

- After pastors, primary mental health contact for your church
- Advocate for individuals within church with mental health needs
- Meets with visitors with mental health needs interested in your church
- Maintains current information on mental health services, providers in your community
- Serves as a point of contact for mental health providers seeking faith community information
- Coordinates community-based training for your church staff and lay leadership
- Obtains additional resources and support from organizations like Key Ministry
Mental Health Liaison’s work
Behind the Scenes

- Launch mental health ministry; oversee work towards ministry goals

- Ensure mental health communications are timely, effective, accurate, positive

- Provide resources for small group leaders to consistently and appropriately support mental health needs

- Develop and Define success measures
  - Tangible: Participation rates, mental health contacts
  - Intangible: change in stigma, willingness and ability to help people with mental health needs

- Cultural Change
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