

Dear Friend,

As I make my exit as the executive director of Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana (MHANI), I have been truly honored to serve in this capacity for more than 9 years. It has been nothing short of fulfilling. During my time here, I have learned so much, including the tremendous need to understand, educate, advocate, and support people living with mental health conditions to improve the health and wellbeing of our community.

With guidance and support from the staff and community, MHANI achieved several milestones over the past 9 years.

- Grew our team from 5 employees and budget of \$260,000 in 2011 to 30 employees and a budget of \$1.8 million in 2020
- Merged with Cedars Hope in 2014
- Expanded services from one county to 11 counties throughout Northeast Indiana
- Became the State of Indiana's contractor for the Certified Recovery Specialist peer support certification and training program in 2017
- Launched Well2Work to educate the workforce on the impacts of stress on productivity and employee satisfaction

As I self-reflect, what has become clear is that collective passion for improving mental and emotional health can truly make a difference. We all come from different walks of life, which contributes to our unique perspectives of the world and how and why we choose to make an impact. This has been my motivation for these past 9 years.

As I move forward in my professional life, I will continue to advocate for people living with mental health challenges. We are all affected by mental health, and when we let go of the stigma, approach people with empathy, and acknowledge that recovery is possible, then we can change the world.

All the best!



Lisa Smith  
[lsmithconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:lsmithconsulting@gmail.com)  
260-804-0587