



## Walk a Mile in My Shoes Rally – Capitol Steps Thursday, May 25, 2006

### Things to Know

**Arrival time:** Please plan to arrive at the Registration Tent on the front lawn of the Capitol building by 9:00ish in the morning. Be aware that there is usually road construction on the way to Lansing.

**Registration:** There are two check-in points at the Registration Tent. *County representatives speaking at the Walk a Mile Rally must check in at the tent under the “County Rep Check In” sign.* Other participants can check in under the “General Public” sign. Gift bags will be given to participants on a first-come basis.

**Parking:** A detailed map is attached that features driving instructions and the parking that is closest to the Capitol. All the parking is at least two blocks from the Capitol, so if you have anyone for whom that walk will be difficult, you can drop them off at the Capitol first.

**Event Volunteers:** Event volunteers, wearing bright T-shirts that say “Volunteer” on the back, will be available to help answer questions or help with any concerns.

**Designated Corner:** Each county will have a designated corner and corresponding color. Legislators who attend the event will be directed to the corner with their constituents. A volunteer will be available at each corner to provide information about the capitol and the legislative process. Please don't forget to sign the Thank You card for key legislators championing the causes of mental health.

**County Representatives:** The County Rep speaking at the Rally should be at their designated corner by 9:45 a.m. Event volunteers will have county flags at the corner. The County Rep may have one assistant to help carry the flag and/or hold it up while the representative reads their statement. All County Reps will approach the capitol steps and form a single line up the center sidewalk to the Capitol steps. Only the designated statement provided should be read. There will be two microphones being used for this event. After their statement, the County Reps will be positioned on the steps by a volunteer for a group photo directly following the Rally. A volunteer will then collect their flags.

**Rally begins:** The Rally begins at 10:15 a.m. when County Reps and people from each of the four corners start walking toward the steps in front of the Capitol building. **Note:** This is a symbolic mile, not an actual mile.

**Rally Closes:** The Rally is scheduled to be complete around 11:30 a.m.

**Rain Alternative:** In the event of rain, the rally will be moved to the Mackinac Room on the fifth floor of the Anderson House Office Building (located across Capitol Avenue, off the northeast corner of the lawn).

**Legislator Involvement and Meeting with Legislators:** There are three ways for Legislator involvement at the Rally. First, all Legislators who attend the Rally will be encouraged to meet their constituents at their designated corners. Second, the Board Association's lobbyists will be available at the corners to discuss the process of "calling a Legislator off the floor" for a brief meeting. (Rally participants are encouraged to meet with their lawmakers in the Capitol that day following the rally if possible.) Third, your group coordinator may have scheduled a meeting with your Legislator following the Rally.

**Talking Points:** Issues of interest that the Legislators need your input on, such as mental health insurance parity, will be provided by your group organizer or available at the Registration Tent.

**Capitol tours:** Capitol tours are available every ½ hour. Most tours are booked in advance, but there may be a cancellation or opportunity to join a scheduled group. Check with the Capitol Tour Desk in the Capitol Building if you are interested.

**Pictures/ Confidentiality:** Please be aware that media from around the state have been invited. Pictures will be taken and may be broadly used. It is assumed that consumers attending this event are aware that they will be identified as mental health consumers and that they are willing to have their image/ words/ attendance used as necessary to promote, publicize, or report on this event. It will not be possible to remove pictures or retract statements after the fact.

**Viewing Pictures:** After the event, pictures and commentary may be viewed at the MACMHB website, [www.macmhb.org](http://www.macmhb.org).

**Creature Comforts:**

**Bathrooms:** A barrier free entrance to the Capitol Building is located at the base of the Capitol Steps. Bathrooms are located inside these doors.

**Chairs:** There will be a limited number of chairs outside at the rally for those who have difficulty standing. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own bag or lawn chairs if needed.

**Interpreters:** An ASL interpreter will be on-site to interpret the event.

**Snacks and Event Information:** Snacks, maps, and event information will be available "under the big tent" in front of the Capitol.

**Lunch:** Lunch is on your own. Some snack food and bottled water is available at the Registration Tent.

**Be Prepared:** It's a good idea to check weather reports. Bring rain gear, sun block, etc. to deal with whatever nature brings.

**Questions:** If in doubt, seek a Volunteer out! MACMHB staff and PR Committee members are serving as volunteers for this event. If there are questions, seek out a bright Volunteer shirt.

**The best laid plans . . .**

Considerable effort has gone into designing this event and making sure it goes as smoothly as possible. But, unexpected things are likely to happen! Please be patient and flexible. **Have fun!**