

BIOGRAPHY

Angela Kimball, National Director, Advocacy & Public Policy, NAMI

Angela Kimball is the National Director for Advocacy & Public Policy at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). She is responsible for leading NAMI's policy team and for advancing its advocacy initiatives. Ms. Kimball brings expertise in grassroots advocacy campaigns, as well as a drive to build a movement that fights inequities and champions solutions for people living with mental health conditions and families. She is one of the country's foremost advocates for individuals and families affected by mental health conditions.

Kimball's path in the mental health movement was inspired by her son's path of recovery after a diagnosis of bipolar disorder. Her quest to find care for her son led her to work as a Family Involvement Coordinator for Multnomah County Behavioral Health and to facilitate classes for parents of youth with mental health conditions. The people she met and the lifelong friendships she established with other people who faced the daunting challenges of mental health conditions propelled her to pursue a deeper level of advocacy work. Kimball joined NAMI Oregon as a lobbyist and ultimately as Executive Director. She galvanized grassroots advocates around the state and played a leading role in helping advocacy organizations speak with a unified voice. Her work led to the reinstatement of mental health and substance use coverage in the Oregon Health Plan, Oregon's Medicaid program, and the overwhelming passage of Oregon's comprehensive mental health parity bill.

Kimball ascended to the NAMI national office in 2007, where she led development of NAMI Smarts for Advocacy, a training program that helps people transform their lived experience into skillful advocacy. Following her work in providing state policy support across the country for NAMI, Ms. Kimball provided strategic support to Oregon's transformative, community-governed integration of Medicaid health, mental health, substance use and dental services as an Innovator Agent with the Oregon Health Authority.

In 2015, Kimball returned to NAMI to lead the policy team and, in 2019, was appointed Acting Chief Executive Officer of NAMI by the board of directors following a transition in leadership. In 2020, Kimball resumed her role as National Director of Advocacy & Public Policy, where she plays a leading role in promoting shared interests among the mental health community and is a frequent contributor to national media on mental health policy issues.

Ms. Kimball graduated from Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon and has received multiple awards for her work on children's mental health reform and mental health parity.