



Dr. Shama Faheem is the Chief Medical Officer for the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network.

ASK THE DOC



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Mental Health Awareness



Early Warning Signs & Symptoms

- Eating or sleeping too much or too little
- Pulling away from people and usual activities
- Having low or no energy
- Feeling numb or like nothing matters
- Having unexplained aches and pains
- Feeling helpless or hopeless
- Smoking, drinking, or using drugs more than usual
- Feeling unusually confused, forgetful, on edge, angry, upset, worried, or scared
- Yelling or fighting with family and friends
- Experiencing severe mood swings that cause problems in relationships
- Having persistent thoughts and memories you can't get out of your head
- Hearing voices or believing things that are not true
- Thinking of harming yourself or others
- Inability to perform daily tasks like taking care of your kids or getting to work or school



You can submit mental health questions to: AskTheDoc@dwihn.org



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Tips for Living Well with a Mental Health Condition

Having a mental health condition can make it a struggle to work, keep up with school, stick to a regular schedule, have healthy relationships, socialize, maintain hygiene, and more. However, with early and consistent treatment—often a combination of medication and psychotherapy—it is possible to manage these conditions, overcome challenges, and lead a meaningful, productive life.

There are tools, evidence-based treatments, and social support systems that help people feel better and pursue their goals. Some of these tips, tools and strategies include:

- **Stick to a treatment plan.** Even if you feel better, don't stop going to therapy or taking medication without a doctor's guidance.
- **Keep your primary care physician updated.** Primary care physicians are an important part of long-term management, even if you also see a psychiatrist.
- **Learn about the condition.** Being educated can help you stick to your treatment plan. Education can also help your loved ones be more supportive and compassionate.
- **Practice good self-care.** Control stress with activities such as meditation or tai-chi; eat healthy and exercise; and get enough sleep.
- **Reach out to family and friends.** Maintaining relationships with others is important. In times of crisis, reach out to them for support and help.
- **Develop coping skills.** Establishing healthy coping skills can help people deal with stress easier.
- **Get enough sleep.** Good sleep improves your brain performance, mood and overall health. Consistently poor sleep is associated with anxiety, depression, and other mental health conditions



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Mental Health Help:

- Behavioral health – which includes mental health, substance use, and more – is a key part of your overall well-being. The COVID-19 pandemic has left many people feeling anxious or depressed. The DWIHN website offers a free and anonymous assessment to help you determine if you or someone you care about should connect with a behavioral health professional. <https://screening.mentalhealthscreening.org/DWIHN>
- Another excellent digital tool to support mental health is myStrength, an app with web and mobile tools designed to support your goals and wellbeing. myStrength's highly interactive, individually-tailored resources allow users to address depression, anxiety, stress, substance use, chronic pain, and sleep challenges, while also supporting the physical and spiritual aspects of whole-person health. Visit the DWIHN website to learn more. https://www.dwihn.org/documents/myStrength_Flyer.pdf
- Explore DWIHN Programs and Resources call 1-800-241-4949. You can visit our website at: <https://www.dwihn.org/brochures-and-handouts-DWIHN-Services.pdf>
- Another excellent resource is the new myDWIHN app, full of resources, events and provider information, you can download the free app for Android or Apple phones below:



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Do You Need Help? Contact Us. 24-Hour HelpLine 800-241-4949 DWIHN.ORG