

NAVIGATING

a mental health

CRISIS



A CRISIS PLAN

A crisis plan is a written plan developed by the person with the mental health condition and their support team, typically family and close friends. It's designed to address symptoms and behaviors and help prepare for a crisis. Every plan is individualized, some common elements include:

Remember that the best time to develop a crisis plan is when things are going well and you can create it together.

- Person's general information
- Family information
- Behaviors present before the crisis occurs, strategies and treatments that have worked in the past, a list of what actions or people that are likely to make the situation worse, a list of what helps calm the person or reduces symptoms
- Current medication(s) and dosages
- Current diagnoses
- History of suicide attempts, drug use or psychosis
- Treatment choices/preferences
- Local crisis lines
- Addresses and contact information for nearby crisis centers or emergency rooms
- Mobile crisis unit information, if there is one in the area
- Contact information for healthcare professionals (phone and email)
- Supports - adults the person has a trusting relationship with such as neighbors, friends, family members, favorite teacher or counselor at school, people at faith communities or work acquaintances
- Safety plans

The crisis plan is a collaboration between the person with the mental health condition and the family. Once developed, the plan should be shared by the person with involved family, friends and professionals. It should be updated whenever there is a change in diagnosis, medication, treatment or providers. A sample crisis plan can be obtained at www.nami.org.