

Helping Churches Support Individuals and Families Affected by Mental Illness

The Mental Health Liaison

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Key Ministry - Mental Health Ministry Director



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Objectives and Definition

- **Objective** Learn what a Mental Health Liaison is and what this ministry position does within your church
- **Objective** Identify and recruit Mental Health Liaison candidates
- **Objective** Show how the Mental Health Liaison can help launch and oversee your church's mental health ministry
- **Definition** The Mental Health Liaison is the individual responsible for overseeing your church's mental health inclusion strategy



What skills or experience does the Mental Health Liaison need?

Professional

- Mental Health resume is not mandatory
- Organized self-starter
- Teachable

Personal

- Passion for mental health needs
- Possible lived experience
- Established in the community

Spiritual

- “Gets” the need for mental health ministry
- Spiritual maturity
- Recognized leader



Other Considerations

- Time Commitment
- Lay leadership or staff position?



What will the Mental Health Liaison Do?

- After pastors, **primary mental health contact** for your church
- **Advocate** for individuals within church with mental health needs
- Meets with **visitors** with mental health needs interested in your church
- **Maintains current information** on mental health services, providers in your community
- Serves as a **point of contact for mental health providers** seeking faith community information
- Coordinates **community-based training** for your church staff and lay leadership
- **Obtains additional resources and support** from organizations like Key Ministry

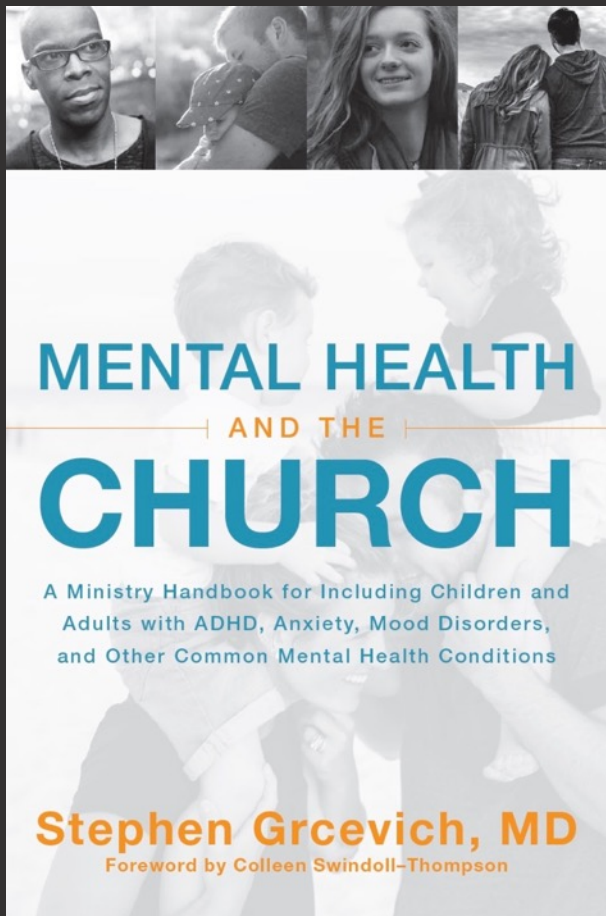


Mental Health Liaison's work Behind the Scenes

- **Launch** mental health ministry; oversee work towards **ministry goals**
- Ensure mental health **communications** are timely, effective, accurate, positive
- Provide resources for **small group leaders** to consistently and appropriately support mental health needs
- Develop and Define **success measures**
 - Tangible: Participation rates, mental health contacts
 - Intangible: change in stigma, willingness and ability to help people with mental health needs
- **Cultural Change**



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