



Dear Friends,

The Mental Health Association of Rochester wishes to honor Daniel Prude and extend our condolences to his family and loved ones. On March 23, 2020, there was a call for help for someone in mental health distress. There was a man; someone's son, brother, father, nephew, cousin, and friend, his name was Daniel Prude. Daniel's family did what we are all taught in America to do in the case of emergency, they called 911. Daniel's family did not receive the response they expected when making that call. Mr. Prude did not receive the help he needed, the help we would all expect to receive when we call for help in an urgent situation. Daniel Prude died seven days after the call made to 911.

Many times, individuals with mental health challenges do not get the help they need. The Mental Health Association of Rochester supports the belief that our community needs an appropriate response, by qualified, trained mental health professionals. We here at MHA are in alignment with Mental Health America's envision of a just, humane and healthy society in which all people are accorded respect, dignity, and the opportunity to achieve their full potential free from stigma and prejudice. This means that people in need are given the services and supports they need in a manner that preserves their humanity and their dignity.

In response to the death of Daniel Prude in Rochester, NY we call for systemic changes to the way our community responds to individuals experiencing mental health distress specifically and the way we, as a community, address mental health generally. The Mental Health Association of Rochester supports mental health professionals and 'Peers' who have mental health lived experience responding together to mental health distress calls in our community, the Rochester Community, the Monroe County Community and communities all across America.

Mary Russo
President & CEO
Mental Health Association of Rochester/Monroe County Inc.

If you're experiencing emotional distress, crisis counselors are available 24/7, 365 days/year, you can call 1-800-985-5990 or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746. Additionally, the Mental Health Association of Rochester/Monroe County offers after hours self-help drop-in support services staffed by peers seven days a week from 5:00pm - 9:00pm located at **344 N Goodman St. Rochester, NY 14607.**