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Senator suggests using online sales tax to fund mental health in Alabama

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The Alabama chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) received an increase in funding in their recent budget, but they say the money is not going towards things like services.

Kelly Emerson is the executive director of NAMI. She said mental illness is more common than many may think.

"If you walk out into the street and pick out five people one of those people is going to have a mental illness," Emerson said.

Wanda Laird helps the organization raise money. She says creating awareness of the issue is important.

"Our goal is to create awareness regarding mental illness because we do not want individuals to feel that they are alone," Laird said.

Here are some signs to look for if you know someone who may be battling with mental illness:

- Reduced interest in activities
- Social isolation
- Depressed moods
- Irritability often

"Most of us at some point in our life will be touched by it, whether it's ourselves or a family member," said Emerson.

Just last year 106,740 people were treated for some type of mental illness, according to the Alabama

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