

# NAMI, NE Delta HSA host public symposium

Leader News Service

During the Law Enforcement and Mental Health Symposium in Ruston, experts discussed solutions that can help reduce the high rate of incarceration and recidivism among citizens who suffer from serious mental illnesses and addictions.

Keynote speaker Dr. Monte A. Sizer emphasized how "You cannot solve a problem at the same level of consciousness that created it."

This perspective encourages residents to work together toward a regional vision that reduces the effects of the serious behavioral healthcare issues citizens face in northeast Louisiana, according to the Northeast Delta Human Services Authority Facebook page.

Public servants, community members, students and regional experts in law enforcement, behavioral health, education and faith-based organizations comprised today's well-attended symposium.

The goal of these law enforcement and mental health symposiums is to help prevent citizens with mental health issues and addictions from becoming incarcerated, and to help ensure those who are released from jails and prisons can successfully re-enter their communities as productive citizens.

"We estimate 400 persons attended the symposium. Participants came from Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Shreveport-Bossier, Monroe-West Monroe, Farmerville, Ruston, Grambling and Richland Parish," Jerrilene Washington, local chapter president of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, said. "It was truly an event that was of interest statewide."

NAMI Ruston and the Northeast Delta Human Services Authority partnered to create and host the event.



Submitted photos

**Speakers address the crowd during the Enforcement and Mental Health Symposium in Ruston. Experts discussed solutions that can help reduce the high rate of incarceration and recidivism among citizens who suffer from serious mental illnesses and addictions.**

**Included in those experts was Robert Flowers, right, a staff member at the Family Counseling Center.**



**Left, Lincoln Parish Sheriff Mike Stone speaks to the crowd about different solutions that may help reduce the high rate of incarceration for those who suffer from mental illness and addictions in Lincoln Parish. Right, attendees speak with Family Counseling center staff at their booth.**

## FIRST RUSTON

# baby dedication

# SUNDAY

COMMITTING OUR CHILDREN TO THE LORD



**Katherine Elizabeth Bolton**  
Daughter of Jamie and Lindsay



**Elizabeth Carolynn Brown**  
Daughter of Stephen and Meg



**Andrew Ryan Davis**  
Son of Matt and Katelyn



**Everly Rae Dawsey**  
Daughter of Cory and Jennie



**Braxton Graham Fuller**  
Son of Graham and Morgan



**Hudson Scott Haddox**  
Son of Jeremy and Kennedy



**Holden Elijah Lasyone**  
Son of Shaun and Erin



**Evie Amelia Lewis**  
Daughter of Keegan and Lindsay



**Ellis Landon Nunn**  
Son of Merrick and Emily



**Hayes Aaron Telford**  
Son of Jeremy and Kristen



**Hallie Rose Zimmerman**  
Daughter of Cory and Emily

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