The term “serious mental illness” refers to any mental health condition that is **chronic and significantly interferes** with a person’s ability to do such things as:

- Complete activities of daily living
- Manage finances and other life obligations
- Have positive relationships
- Attend to health and self-care needs
- Get and keep a job

The term Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) is used by the State of Kansas to identify people who are so impaired by their serious mental illness that more intensive services are considered “medically necessary” to maintain the person outside the hospital or other higher levels of care. When assessing for a serious mental illness, we consider the person’s type of diagnosis (such as psychotic or severe mood disorders), the level of functional impairment, history of hospitalizations, and other current risk factors.

Valeo offers a wide range of “wrap around” services for those most severely impaired by their mental disorders, operating out of the Bryce Miller Building located at 2401 SW 6th Street.

Therapists specializing in work with severe mental illnesses are attuned to the special needs associated with these disorders. Valeo developed and uses a model called “Journey in Recovery,” which is based on nationally recognized recovery concepts. This model embraces the ideas that recovery from serious mental disorders occurs in stages, setbacks are to be expected at times, and progress is always a possibility.

Recovery is a journey - not a destination

It takes courage to push yourself to places that you have never been before...to test your limits...to break through barriers- Anais Nin