

**Welcome Members and Affiliates**

We welcome your ideas for topics to cover, your feedback on issues that face consumers, families, and providers across the state. Contact us at [newsletter@namicalifornia.org](mailto:newsletter@namicalifornia.org).



**Task Force of School and County Mental Health Leaders to Develop Partnership Approved May 22nd**

Following the round table discussion "Breaking the Fail First Cycle-Primary Grades Kindergarten through Third" at the March 2014 Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission) Meeting, Chair Van Horn asked Commissioners to consider what role might be the Commission's in the mental health education collaboration in the future.

Chair Van Horn asked Commissioner Gordon to convene a meeting with Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction to discuss the Commission's involvement and role with education. In response to the Chair's request, the Commission was presented with a recommendation for a task force to be led by education with participation from mental health that focuses on eliminating mental health disparities in schools, in grades K-12.

Partnerships between county mental health and schools would create a team of people to support teachers in bringing help to all children as they need it and address mental health problems long before they reach special education criteria in most cases. They utilize Response to Intervention (RTI)/Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) elements that also incorporate principles from the mental health children's system of care and the Prevention and Early Intervention programs of the Mental Health Services Act.

Approved by the MHSOAC Commission Thursday, May 22nd, a short term (six to twelve month) task force of leaders together with expert staff will be formed immediately and

**In This Issue**

- Directing Change Award Ceremony
- "Call Me Crazy" Movie Screening - Merced
- Re-Launch of NAMI California Affiliate Website!
- Give People Mental Illness Treatment, Not Jail
- NAMI California 2014 Conference Registration
- Proud Sponsors Of NAMI California



**NAMI California's Tree of Tribute**  
Fiscal Year 2013-14



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hold monthly meetings or calls to develop a report containing the action steps for implementation that each organization will take over the following year.

Participating Organizations: California School Boards Association (CSBA), California Teachers Association (CTA), Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), California County School Superintendents Association (CCSSA), California Department of Education (CDE), California Mental Health Services Administration (CalMHSA), California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA), Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), California Association of Health Plans (CAHP), California School Based Health Alliance (formerly School Health Centers CSHC), Individual subject matter experts - Ken Berrick (Seneca Family of Agencies and Alameda Board of Education), Rusty Selix (California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies (CCCMHA) and Mental Health America of California (MHAC)), Ron Powell (Desert Mountain SELPA)

### Call me Crazy Movie Screening- Merced



Following the May 28th Annual Meeting, NAMI Merced County offered a screening of the movie, "Call Me Crazy," to a full house. The movie was shown in a "theater" atmosphere, complete with popcorn, soda, and candy. Following the movie, three people whose lives have been radically changed by mental illness shared their stories.

A mother recounted how the lives of her family were turned upside down when her son was diagnosed with a mental

Each year many donors elect to give a gift in celebration of an event, in honor of a special individual or in memory of a loved one. The Tree of Tribute formalizes this tradition by providing a lasting acknowledgement for individuals who are remembered, individuals who are honored or have an enduring record of a significant celebration.

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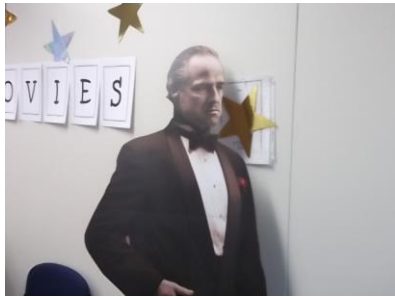
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illness in his mid-twenties; a consumer shared the story of his personal battle with alcohol addiction and bipolar disorder and how he successfully learned to cope; and a daughter discussed how her teenage years were impacted by her father's depression as she cared for him on a daily basis.

Many people identified with one of the characters in the movie or with those on the panel and expressed a need for NAMI services. Mary Hofmann is shown at the registration table, while "Marlon Brando" welcomed the guests.



## Working Well Together

Working Well Together's (WWT) 5-year plan of 2009-2014 is coming to a close on June 30th. It is with great pleasure and an honor to have served Peers with lived experience of both the Central and LA Regions. Due to WWT trainings, visits, and product deliveries over the past two and half years, attendees and leaders have observed, witnessed and experienced - the 'transformation of workplace environments' within the mental health industry.

Ongoing feedback has been noted that individuals have gained from the support materials, Peers have become empowered, and most importantly, clients of your respective workplaces have been 'better served'.

As we move forward with the next WET (Workforce, Education & Training) 5-year plan, diverse voices have requested mentoring for career development, linguistic responsiveness as the new cultural competence, WRAP as 'workplace support' in all 58 counties, the adoption of Peer Certification, and most importantly, the 'value & wisdom' gained by Peers with lived experience - as contributing team members.

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NAMI California and help  
us achieve  
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State Advocacy  
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Visit NAMI's State Advocacy Page

Blessings of abundance to all stakeholders of California's Mental Health & Wellness Communities.

Ron Shaw, Regional Coordinator of WWT's Central Region

## **Give People Mental Illness Treatment, Not Jail [an excerpt from the Miami Herald]**

The recent decision by leaders in the state Legislature to back away from a bill that would have jeopardized Florida's system of community-based crisis stabilization units (CSUs) in favor of a more-thoughtful analysis of how beds in these facilities are being utilized is a welcome and potentially life-saving alternative to what would have been a disastrous shift in public policy.

CSUs provide short-term treatment to indigent people who are experiencing psychiatric emergencies. These units are critical to preventing the need for more costly care in hospitals and the criminal-justice system. However, CSU funding is not the real problem. It is a symptom of larger problems plaguing an underfunded, outdated and fragmented system of care, which often contributes to the inappropriate criminalization of people with mental illnesses. The costs to taxpayers are staggering, and the effects on individuals and families are heartbreaking.

Consider: The Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida examined costs associated with 97 individuals in Miami-Dade County diagnosed with serious mental illnesses (SMIs) and identified as frequent recidivists to the criminal-justice and acute-care treatment systems. Almost all of these people were diagnosed with schizophrenia and were homeless.

Over a five-year period, they experienced 2,200 arrests, 27,000 days in jail and 13,000 days in hospitals and emergency rooms. The cost to taxpayers is conservatively estimated at \$13 million with no demonstrable return on investment.

Read more here:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2014/05/17/4121793/give-people-with-mental-illness.html#storylink=cpy>

## NAMI California 2014 Conference News:

### *Mariel Hemingway announced as Keynote Speaker*

Mariel Hemingway is Keynote Speaker for the NAMI California 2014 Annual Conference, held August 1 and 2 at the Newport Beach Marriott Hotel and Spa. Ms. Hemingway is an iconic Academy Award nominated actor from a celebrated family. In 2013, the rich and evocative documentary, *Running From Crazy*, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Produced by Oprah Winfrey, the film is an examination of the Hemingway family's history of mental illness and suicide, and focuses on Mariel's boundless advocacy for mental health awareness.

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For more information on the conference, [click here](#).

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This educational newsletter is supported, in part, by an educational grant from Lilly USA, LLC. For further information concerning Lilly grant funding visit [www.lillygrantoffice.com](http://www.lillygrantoffice.com).

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