Happy Valentine's Day!

Have a wonderful weekend with lots of love surrounding you and yours.

NAMI California News

There's still time to join this year's film contest. The Directing Change Student Film Contest has extended the submission deadline to midnight PST February 16, 2015!

You can get more information here.

If you have any questions, please contact Eugenia Cervantes at Eugenia@namica.org
Students throughout California are invited to Direct Change by submitting 60-second films in two categories: "Suicide Prevention" and "Ending the Silence about Mental Illness". The winning teams and their associated schools will win prizes, receive mental health or suicide prevention programs for their schools, get to participate in a meeting with state legislators on these topics, and attend the award ceremony at the end of the 2014-15 school year. Visit the campaign website for contest rules and information: [www.directingchange.org](http://www.directingchange.org).

**Submission Deadline has been extended to: February 16, 2015.**

We are now seeking judges to help us select the winning films. Do you have expertise/interest in directing, writing, editing, acting, journalism, public service announcements, video production, suicide prevention and/or mental health? Contact us about becoming a judge today! The entire process would take less than 2 hours of your time, all of which can be done online from home.

Judges …

- Participate in a brief 30-45 minute judging
orientation in (via phone or webinar) in January or February 2015.

- Review up to 12 sixty-second film submissions and complete an online scoring form for each (time commitment of less than two hours.) The judging period will be taking place in mid-March 2015.
- Are invited (but not required) to attend the award ceremony in Sacramento on May 19th 2015.
- Are recognized on the contest website and in the award ceremony program.

Want to stay updated with all things Directing Change? Subscribe to The Advocate: Directing Change Newsletter! The Newsletter features updates about Directing Change and monthly educational films about topics on mental health and suicide prevention.

DVDs of the 2014 finalists and promotional flyers are available upon request.

Please contact Lauren Hee if you have questions, need outreach materials, or have judge inquiries at lauren@namica.org or 916-567-0163
Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) is pleased to announce it has named Toby Ewing as Executive Director.

Ewing has served as a consultant to the California State Senate Governance and Finance Committee for the last four years. State Senator Lois Wolk, former Chair of the Senate Governance and Finance Committee said, "Toby Ewing is a great choice to lead the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. He is well known as a reformer and champion of oversight and improving outcomes of government programs. He knows our mental health system well, how it works and how it doesn't, and will be quick to take a strong leadership role at a time when it is needed."

Read the full announcement here: http://www.mhsoac.ca.gov/default.aspx

Save the Date: MHSOAC Commission to Meet Feb 26th.

The MHSOAC Commission will meet on February 26, from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

The agenda is yet to be published, but NAMI California will hold an advocacy conference call on the meeting prior to the 26th. If you’d like more information, or links to the agenda and supporting materials, contact david@namica.org.

The meeting will take place at the MHSOAC headquarters, 1325 J Street, Suite 1700, Sacramento, CA 95814. Make sure you bring identification as this is a federal building.

The Call-In Number is 866-817-6550 and the Participant Code is 3190377. Those on the phone will be in listen mode only. NAMI CA seeks engaged advocates to get involved with the MHSOAC. Ask david@namica.org how.

Important Upcoming Events and Conferences Around California and Online
Next Week: Each Mind Matters 7th International "Together Against Stigma" Conference Feb. 17-20 in San Francisco

The 7th International "Together Against Stigma" Conference will be held February 17-20, 2015 in San Francisco. This conference will be the first to be hosted in the United States and underscores the fact that stigma of mental health challenges is not exclusive to any one country or culture: it is pervasive, encountered at all levels of society, institutions, among families and within the healthcare profession itself.

Follow this [LINK](#) for more information:

NAMI California Programs Training News

NAMI CA FAMILY TRAININGS:

Note: These trainings are for family members to become teachers
of the education programs listed below. Support group trainings are for family members to become facilitators of a support group.

- Family Support Group: March 20-22, 2015 San Diego, California
- Family to Family: March 20-22, 2015 San Diego, California
- Family to Family: April 17- April 19, 2015 Bakersfield, California
- Family to Family: May 15-17, 2015 Vacaville, California
- Basics: May 15-17, 2015 Vacaville, California

There are also Family to Family/Basics trainings offered by the LACC (NAMI Los Angeles County). Please contact Brittney Weissman for further details: brittney@namilaccc.org

For all other trainings above, or to apply for a grant to hold a training for your affiliate, please contact Lynn Cathy, Lynn@namica.org

**NAMI PEER PROGRAMS TRAININGS - Please Note:**

Peer Programs announcements will continue to be posted on the blog at http://namifamily.blogspot.com

**These trainings are for peer members to become teachers (mentors) of the education programs listed below.**

- Peer to Peer: Fairfield, February 20-22, 2015
- Persona a Persona: Ontario, March 27-29, 2015
- Peer to Peer: Campbell, April 24-26, 2015
- Peer to Peer: San Diego, May 15-17, 2015

**Grants applications for NAMI California affiliates to put on their own trainings for Family and Peer Programs** are being accepted now. The due date is February 10th. Please visit the affiliate login section of the NAMI California website for application information or contact Lynn Cathy, State Family to Family Coordinator and Interim Peer Coordinator. lynn@namica.org

**NAMI on Campus High School:**

We’ve Successfully launched our NAMI on Campus High School (NCHS)! NCHS is a student-led club that promotes mental health and wellness. Please contact Kelly Boyles at kelly@namica.org for more information.
NAMIParents and Teachers as Allies Trainings:
We are offering two P&TasA Trainings: February 28th in Sacramento and March 7th in Ventura. If you are interested in attending either training, please contact Kelly Boyles at kelly@namica.org for more information and an application.

NAMI Provider Education Trainings:
We are offering two PE Trainings: March 28-29th in Orange County and April 11-12th in Campbell. Applications are due Friday, February 27th. If you are interested in attending either training, please contact Kelly Boyles at kelly@namica.org for more information and an application.

Send inquiries to:

- **Family Programs and Peer Programs** - Lynn@namica.org
- **Parents and Teachers as Allies, Ending the Silence, NAMI on Campus, Provider Education** - Kelly@namica.org
- **Directing Change** - Lauren@namica.org
- **Programs Director, Beth Wolf** (Larkins)- Beth@namica.org

NAMI California Office: 916-567-0163

**Check Facebook for Breaking News!**

Check [https://www.facebook.com/namicalifornia](https://www.facebook.com/namicalifornia) for breaking news about legislation or NAMI California program and events.

**Contact Us**

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