NAMI CA State Conference Coming Soon!

Friday and Saturday, August 21-22 2015 in Newport Beach

You can get more information here.

If you have any questions, please contact Eugenia Cervantes at Eugenia@namica.org

NAMI California News

Looking for Potential Judges for Directing Change!

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.
**JUDGES Needed!**
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.
Important Upcoming Events and Conferences Around California and Online

Advocate Alert! Save the Date for MHSOAC Community Forum March 19 3:00 PM - 6:30 PM in Fairfield.

The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) will hold a Community Forum in Fairfield, CA on March 19th. The Community Forum is a great opportunity to talk directly to the Commission about challenges and opportunities in Solano County. How are your local mental health services impacting your life? Is your voice heard when programs are created? Do you know where and how to access services? Where are the gaps in coverage and how can they be filled?

These listening tours take place only four times per year, so it's important for you to make your voice heard. Let the Commission know that there are engaged, active advocates in Solano and surrounding counties. Feedback from the community can begin the process of real change in your community.

Further details on location for the Forum will be released. Please plan on attending!

Online Workshop: Disability Discrimination Lawsuits: Ensuring Equal Access to Advocacy for Clients with Mental and/or Developmental Disabilities
Thursday, March 12, 2015
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. PST

This event will be live streamed: http://youtube/Yb1XlaX2A-A
Check our website for updates.

Speaker: Steven Bruce, Esq., Legal Director, People With Disabilities Foundation

A plaintiff with a psychiatric and/or developmental disability such as autism, severe anxiety, depression, dementia, or psychosis, e.g., schizophrenia, may have more difficulties pursuing discrimination litigation than someone with a physical or intellectual disability. This may be due to a vulnerable mental state (e.g., suicide), because of difficulty in establishing medical evidence, or due to the advocate's fear or stigma of the disability. This program will discuss ways to overcome barriers to litigating on behalf of this population. These solutions will include strategies for different pathologies and will be based on strategies PWDF used successfully in U.S. federal court (e.g., reasonable accommodations for depositions) for clients with a variety of mental and/or developmental disabilities.

This course is approved for 1 hour of self-study MCLE, including 1 hour in Elimination of Bias, from the State Bar of California. FREE live stream viewing, $25 if requesting California CLE credit. Tax deductible donations are appreciated.

To make a donation or request California CLE credit, contact: education@pwdf.org or call (415) 931-3070. For anyone needing accommodations, please contact us no later than March 5, 2015.

NAMI CAN
Participate in February 26th Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) Meeting:

The MHSOAC Commission meetings are an opportunity for NAMI California members to share their experiences with MHSA funds with the Commission that is responsible for statewide oversight and assistance. Participate in this meeting to share:

- Which MHSA funded programs are active and effective in your county?
- What would you like your county to be able to learn from other counties?
- Are there any issues that your affiliate or county is struggling with? How might the MHSOAC Commission assist?

The Commission will review the recently released Little Hoover Commission report addressing oversight and accountability for MHSA funds and programs, available [HERE](#).

Also on the agenda is an overview of crisis stabilization services. Learn what are considered best known methods for crisis stabilization, and share: What's working where you are?

- Is your county doing something really well, or do they need help?
- What role has crisis stabilization played in your life or the life of those you love?

Additional agenda topics include panel on Laura's Law and alternative programs, and a report regarding behavioral health services affecting the Latino community in Ventura County.

NOTE: If you are a member of NAMI and would like to participate in this meeting in person or on the phone, please contact david@namica.org or call David at 916-567-0163. NAMI California will hold a briefing webinar
(see below) before the meeting, and assist those who wish to attend or monitor on the phone the day of the event.

Those who attend can make their remarks in person. If you monitor the meeting on the phone, you can send your remarks to David and they can be read into the record.

The MHSOAC will meet on Thursday, February 26, 2015 from 8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. The meeting will take place at the MHSOAC offices, 1325 J Street, Suite 1700, Sacramento, CA 95814.

The Call-in Number is 866-817-6550 and the Code is 3190377

**Action Item: MHSOAC Commission Preparation Webinar - February 23rd @ 4PM**

This call will cover the MHSOAC Commission meeting (details above) and how affiliate members can make their voices heard.

NAMI California Advocacy Webinar will take place on Mon, Feb 23, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM Pacific Standard Time

- Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone: [Meeting Link](#)
- Join the conference call.
  - Conference Call Line 800-944-8766 Participation Number 84893

Hope to "see" you on the call!

**Client and Family Leadership Committee to Meet**

The MHSOAC Client and Family Leadership Committee will meet on
Tuesday, February 24 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM and from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

This committee is the voice of consumers and family members in the MHSOAC, and they work very hard to make sure those perspectives are front and center in the conversation. They need your input!

One issue before the Committee is Exploring Outreach to Clients not Achieving Recovery. What are the reasons that people with mental illness are not on the path to wellness? How do you reach someone who is hard to reach? If your loved one has struggled, this committee wants to know what helps and what works.

The MHSA Issue Resolution Process (IRP). Ever had a problem with services in your county? How do you make yourself heard? What is the process to make things right? The Committee is working on the problem, and how to make the process easier and fairer.

If you are a member of NAMI and would like to participate in this meeting in person or on the phone, please contact david@namica.org or call David at 916-567-0163.

The meeting will take place at the offices of the MHSOAC, 1325 J Street, Suite 1700, Sacramento. The call-in number is 866-817-6533 and the participation code: 1189021

**NAMI California Seeks Your Story: Interaction with Law Enforcement, CIT Training**

NAMI California is collecting first person stories about the issues of the day. If you or your loved one has had an interaction with law enforcement, or how Crisis Intervention Training made a difference, we want to know! If you are part of a CIT program in your region, we are interested in your experience.
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.

- 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.

NAMI Parents 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 for breaking news about legislation or NAMI California program and events.

Contact Us

1851 Heritage Lane, Ste 150
Sacramento, CA 95815
Phone: 916-567-0163
Fax: 916-567-1757
Email: newsletter@namicalifornia.org