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!

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.
The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) Services Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday February 11, 2015 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

The Services Committee is tasked with making recommendations regarding the quality of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) programs and services. As the MHSOAC develops key Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) regulations, the Committee is responsible for adherence of services to regulatory guidelines, identifying relevant implementation issues, and assuring consistency of reporting for evaluation.

The PEI regulations move California toward a proactive, integrated response to helping people with mental illness before their symptoms are acute.

The meeting will take place at the MHSOAC offices, 1325 J Street, Suite 1700, Sacramento, CA.

The Call-in Number is 866-810-5695 and the access Code is 9546397

In other news about PEI programs, CalMHSA's RAND report shows that
statewide initiatives are "reaching targeted California populations, reducing mental illness stigma, increasing the number of Californians with the skills to intervene with and refer individuals with mental health challenges, and disseminating evidence-based practices through online resources and strategic collaborations."

Senator Beall and Assemblymember Thurmond Join Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC)

The MHSOAC announced the addition of two new Commissioners: Senator Jim Beall, San Jose - Senator Beall was elected to the California State Senate in 2012 and represents the 15th Senate District. He was elected to the State Assembly in November 2006, representing District 24. He is the chairman of the Senate Mental Health Caucus. He has spent three decades in public service as a San Jose City Councilman, a Santa Clara County Supervisor and an Assembly member. On the Commission, Senator Beall represents the member of the Senate selected by the President pro Tempore of the Senate.

Assemblymember Tony Thurmond, Richmond - Assemblymember Thurmond was elected to represent California's 15th Assembly District in November 2014. The district includes the East Bay communities that stretch along the I-80 corridor from Hercules to Oakland. First elected to the Richmond City Council in 2005, Thurmond served as Council Liaison to Richmond's Youth Commission, the Workforce Investment Board and the West Contra Costa Unified School District. On the Commission, Assemblymember Thurmond represents the member of the Assembly selected by the Speaker of the Assembly.

NAMI California will continue to work with Senator Beall and Assemblymember Thurmond at the MHSOAC Commission and on mental health care issues in the legislature. We encourage NAMI members to participate in MHSOAC Commission meetings. Please contact David@namica.org to learn more and attend the next meeting with other NAMI members!
Important Upcoming
Events and Conferences
Around California and Online

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.

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.

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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