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
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,
Important Upcoming Events and Conferences Around California and Online

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://youtu.be/Yb1XiaX2A-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

A Rare Visit by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) Commission, Fairfield on Thursday, March 19th

The upcoming MHSOAC Forum in Fairfield is a unique opportunity for consumer and family members to make their remarks directly to the MHSOAC. The Forum is a "listening tour" the Commission goes on to hear what's REALLY happening at the county level.

What's working in your County? Where are the gaps in service? Is your stakeholder process satisfying? When you have a problem, where do you go? This is your best chance to address your concerns directly to the people who make mental health policy in the state. Feedback from these meetings informs the MHSOAC as they make decisions on what programs to promote, and how family members and consumers feel about the programs in their county.

The is a rare opportunity, and if you live in Solano, Contra Costa, Sacramento or Yolo Counties, NAMI California strongly encourages you to attend.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, March 19th at the Courtyard by Marriott, Fairfield Napa Valley Area, 1350 Holiday Lane, Fairfield, CA
from 3:00 to 6:30 pm.

You can find a flyer for the event HERE.

Please contact Davd@namica.org if you plan on participating.

Don't miss this chance to make your voices heard!

**Upcoming Regional Meeting, Free NAMI Smarts for Advocacy Training in Santa Ana April 10th**

- Would you like to be a better advocate? Learn how to tell your story powerfully and effectively.
- Would you like to learn more about your county behavioral health system? Listen to County administrators speak about MHSA programs in your area.
- Would you like to provide feedback to your County officials directly? Talk to them one on one in breakout sessions during the meeting.

Come find out how you can be a better advocate, and speak up to make your county a better place to live!

The NAMI Regional Meetings are an effort we make to train our members and facilitate dialogue between area affiliates and county mental health departments.

The meetings have two parts: first, a NAMI Smarts for Advocacy Training open to affiliate members, second, a panel presentation from county mental health departments, followed by a talk back session between counties and NAMI affiliate members.

This meeting features a free 90 minute workshop on how to tell your story with passion and purpose, and offers one on one interaction with Orange County mental health administrators.

The meeting will be on Friday, April 10th from 9:30 AM to 3:05 PM at the SSA Training & Career Development Center, 1928 S. Grand - AB101/AB105, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Seating is limited, so please RSVP to david@namica.org by April 3.

**Save the Date: MHSOAC Commission to Meet**  
**March 26th in Sacramento**

The MHSOAC Commission manages the programs funded by Prop 63. Slated to spend over $1B this year in California, the Commission seeks the viewpoints of family members and consumers on a range of issues effecting mental health services across the state.

Wherever you live in the state, NAMI California will help you participate and assist you in becoming an accomplished advocate at the State level. From programs to policy, the Commission decides on where to focus the direction of services, and how to improve the lives of those living with mental illness.

A special Advocacy Webinar will be held before the meeting on March 20th from 5:00 to 6:00 pm to orient those new to the process and deepen the knowledge of those with experience. This is a perfect way to begin to make the changes we need around the state. Members can make comment even when they are not at the meeting. Learn how in this informative session.

This is a great way to learn how things work, and who is responsible for the needed services around the state. Kick start your advocacy today! For more information on the calls and to RSVP, contact david@namica.org or call David Czarnecki at 916-567-0163

The MHSOAC Commission will meet on March 26th from 8:30 AM - 5:00
PM, the MHSOAC offices, 1325 J Street, Suite 1700, Sacramento, CA 95814.

The Call-In Number for the meeting is 866-817-6550 and the Participant Code is 3190377.

Make Your Voice Heard on the NAMI California NAMI CAN Legislative Conference Call March 18

We need to add your voice to the conversation, and NAMI California will hold an important stakeholder call this month to give you the opportunity.

The NAMI Can Legislative call will cover pending legislation as it moves through the Capitol. Learn about the legislative process, and weigh in with your opinion.

What legislation is being considered in Sacramento? How can you make your voice heard? Find out all this and more in the NAMI CAN Legislative Conference Call taking place on Wednesday March 18th from 5:00 to 6:00 PM.

Kiran Savage-Sangwan, Legislation and Public Policy Analyst will brief NAMI members on legislation currently being considered by NAMI California. Learn about initiatives for CIT training and other efforts being made by lawmakers, and voice your opinion on what works and why. For more information on the NAMI CAN call and to RSVP, contact david@namica.org or call David Czarnecki at 916-567-0163

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.

- 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

**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.

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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