



September 6, 2016

Affiliate Leadership,

This is the fifth letter this year to update you on happenings at NAMI Illinois - previous letters are available from the office should you have missed them. A list of them is at the bottom of this letter.

This letter is designed for Board Presidents, Executive Directors and others in affiliate leadership positions - please forward to those appropriate so they can subscribe to receive these letters.

Topics:

1. NAMI Illinois
2. NAMI Illinois Board of Directors Nominations
3. NAMI Illinois State Conference
4. Federal Legislation: HR 2646
5. State of Illinois Transformation
6. Affiliate Issues
7. Training Results and Plans

NAMI Illinois



NAMI Illinois is pleased to announce Mary Colleran MSW will join the organization as Executive Director September 15. Most recently she was Chief Operations Officer at Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare. She will be located in an office in the Chicago area, and have oversight responsibility for the Springfield office. Mary's CV is included at the end of this letter. Plans are to announce her arrival more broadly in mid-September.

Board Presidents and Executive Directors located above I-80 are requested to join the NAMI Illinois Board of Directors at their meeting at 10:00 am to 1:30 pm, September 17, at the Union League Club of Chicago. This will provide you an opportunity to meet the NAMI Illinois Board of Directors and Executive Director, and talk about the Legislative Action Program, Re-Affiliation, and other topics of mutual interest. Please RSVP to Holly McCaffrey at the NAMI Illinois Springfield Office by Monday, September 12th and directions will be provided.

NAMI Board of Directors Nominations

Consider this a call for nominations for people to join the NAMI Illinois Board of Directors. We welcome Traci Powell, MD, Behavioral Health Medical Director, Harmony Health Plan who joined the Board July 23, 2016. We are seeking people with knowledge of NAMI programs, a treasurer, those with knowledge of the behavioral health system (current and how it should be), public relations/communication, and other skills. Should you know of someone you think would be a good fit, please let us know. We are entering an exciting future with NAMI Illinois and need the leadership who can help us realize our potential.

NAMI Illinois Conference

The NAMI Illinois Conference October 14/15 will be held in Northbrook Illinois at the Techny Towers Conference Center. This event will include many not-to-miss sessions. Some highlights:

1. NAMI Vision: Mary Giliberti, NAMI Executive Director - "The NAMI Movement"
2. Treatment: approaches for treatment resistant patients (panel); many other topics of interest to families or persons living with a mental illness.
3. State of Illinois: insight into the budget, and major initiatives - "The Transformation", and the success of the NAMI-developed education program at the Department of Corrections.
4. CEU's: for various professions
5. Advocacy: sitting legislators in panel format describe how NAMI can be a more effective advocate. Friday evening is a legislative forum with Rep. Dold / challenger Schneider - one of the hottest US House races, and we have invited Senator Kirk / challenger Duckworth to a second Town Hall that evening (one of the hottest Senate races this year).
6. Private meeting of Executive Directors / Board Presidents with Mary Giliberti on Saturday morning October 15 following the Annual Meeting.

Please publicize this Conference widely to your complete mailing list.

Federal Legislation

H.R.2646 - Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016: sponsored by Representative Tim Murphy Ph.D. (R- PA 18) on July 6 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 422 - 2. It now goes to the Senate, which has its own similar bill. At a meeting in Waukegan / Lake County July 19 Tim Murphy asked NAMI to let its Senators know we would like a similar Senate bill passed as quickly as possible (hopefully in September). His concern is that the bill might become embroiled in other issues, such as gun control. Keep it simple - get it passed. Also, Michael Bost, Murphysboro (R-IL 12) did not vote on this bill - if anyone knows him and can call on him please do so - we need him to understand the importance of this legislation.

State of Illinois

The State of Illinois - Health and Human Services held two Town Hall meetings this summer, one in Springfield June 16 and one in Chicago (at the University of Chicago - School of Social Work) June 22. The subject was to describe the behavioral health transformation project currently being implemented (early stages). Highlights are on the following web page: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=85710>

Some highlights of the HHS Transformation:

1. Focus on client needs (repositioning from procedures focus)
2. Increase use of community-based care (versus institutional care)
3. Eliminate gaps in coverage - places where someone can fall through the cracks
4. Shift to outcomes focus - and make increased use of measurements
5. Within HHS - create shared sense of mission - eliminate silos
6. Funding - utilize Federal funding to the maximum, but overall State budget neutral - and integrate effectively with the Affordable Care Act

NAMI Illinois was called out during the Town Hall meetings for its assistance with training (mental illness basics and de-escalation techniques) of IDOC corrections officers - 5,500 of 11,500 had received training by that time and a reduction in incidents was already evident. NAMI was also asked to participate in HHS Transformation Teams. More to come on this.

Affiliates

Re-Affiliation

On July 7, 2016 NAMI Cook County North Suburban was approved by the NAMI Board of Directors for re-affiliation. This is the first Illinois affiliate to receive such approval and is a major milestone within our State. Re-affiliation is a NAMI certification program to ensure affiliates meet certain standards of operation and employ certain best practices. It needs to be a goal of each affiliate. NAMI has not set a re-affiliation deadline as such, but expects all affiliates to reach this milestone by the time the end date is set, perhaps at the end of 2017.

NAMI Illinois has designated Sue Spears and Holly McCaffrey to serve as the State trainers to provide training, technical assistance and support for use of the NAMI Profile Center, the repository used in the re-affiliation process. Sue will serve as the immediate point of contact for NAMI Illinois Affiliates. After being trained the affiliate's trainees will be granted access to the NAMI Profile Center with ongoing support provided as needed to ensure successful re-affiliation status.

Please provide us with the contact information of the person responsible for overseeing your re-affiliation program, and the names of the two affiliate persons to be trained in the use of the Profile Center. Send contact information to Holly McCaffrey (hollymac@sbcglobal.net).

Affiliate Growth

At the present time we have 23 affiliates in Illinois. Many communities remain unserved by an affiliate. Last March we announced a plan supporting two affiliate models, one I will refer to as "full service" with (501c3, insurance, bylaws) and one whereby larger affiliates can provide support for smaller affiliates (or affiliate want-to-be's). NAMI Southwest Illinois, for example, provides support for 12 counties.

We are interested in assisting other communities create an affiliate. Should you know of one, let Sue Spears know of it.

Training Schedule

During 2016 NAMI Illinois has provided the following NAMI Signature Program training.

Family-to-Family

June 2016 - 8 graduates

Basics

February 2016 - 12 graduates

Family Support Group

January 2016 - 18 graduates

June 2016 - 11 graduates

September 24/25 - planned in Chicago

Connection

June 2016 - 13 graduates

August 2016 - 6 graduates

In Our Own Voice

April 2016 - 10 graduates

July 2016 - 11 graduates

SMARTS - December 2-4, 2016 at NAMI DuPage

In April 2016 NAMI Illinois sent 6 individuals to Arlington, Virginia to be trained as Illinois State Trainers: one for "In Our Own Voice"; one for "Peer-to-Peer" and four for "Connections".

2017 Training Schedule

Family-to-Family - February & September, 2017
Basics - February 2017
Connection - March & October, 2017
Family Support Group - March & October, 2017
In Our Own Voice - July 2017

Potpourri

NAMI Convention in Denver: if you did not attend, you missed a lot. Consider coming to Washington DC next June 28 to July 1, 2017. Make sure funds are in your budget.

At the State of IL Caucus at the Convention we recapped successes within Illinois for the past six months, had some of the affiliates cover key successes, had an update on the Consumer Council from Susan Ling - retiring Consumer Council representative, and heard about the Mental Illness Awareness Tour (The Chicken Car Tour) - which wrapped up a 48 State anti-stigma tour in the Chicago Area Saturday July 30.

Mary Colleran - NAMI Illinois Executive Director

On September 15, 2016, Mary Colleran will assume the role of Executive Director of NAMI Illinois. She joins the organization at a pivotal time to focus on helping improve the behavioral health system and to ensure the right services are provided to families and persons living with a mental illness. Mary will work with the NAMI Illinois Board and staff to strengthen NAMI throughout the State, and to engage community partners to help improve the lives of people affected by mental illness through education, support and advocacy.

She will be located in a new Chicago area office, and have oversight responsibility for the existing Springfield office.

Most recently, Mary served as the Chief Operations Officer at Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare in Chicago. In this position, Mary was a member of the senior leadership team and was responsible for the development and oversight of Trilogy's federal and municipal grants, evaluation, quality assurance and research efforts.

Mary's experience at Trilogy has afforded the opportunity to build relationships with community partners and collaborate extensively within the behavioral health network in Illinois. As a Certified Instructor in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and Youth MHFA, Mary has witnessed the effects that education has on reducing stigma and increasing support for persons with mental illness, their families and the community at large.

After receiving her bachelor's degree from Saint Joseph's University, Mary began her career working with a variety of populations in the non-profit sector, including women fleeing domestic violence, homeless families and isolated elderly. Mary received her Master of Social Work degree, with a focus on Program Management, from Boston University.

Mary has more than fifteen years of experience in nonprofit development and management. She has presented at a number of conferences and meetings across the country on the topics of behavioral healthcare, integrated healthcare and program evaluation.

Mailing List

To subscribe / unsubscribe: contact Holly McCaffrey, NAMI IL Program Director at holly@namiillinois.org or (217) 522-1403.

Previous letters:

1. December 12, 2015
2. January 7, 2016

2. January 7, 2016
3. February 11, 2016
4. April 13, 2016

Yours truly,

John Schladweiler
Board President - NAMI Illinois
