

TO: NAMI Maryland Supporters, Experts, & Affiliate Leaders
RE: NAMI Maryland 41st Annual Conference Workshop Proposals
DATE: July 2023

We have begun to develop the program for the 41st NAMI Maryland Annual Conference, which will be held virtually **on October 13-14, 2023**. This two-day virtual conference is attended by a diverse group of decision makers and stakeholders with sessions tailored for specific audiences, including:

- local NAMI affiliate leaders;
- service providers;
- researchers;
- individuals with mental illness and their family members; and
- professionals working in criminal justice, social services, health, and veterans affairs.

Please note that approximately 50% of attendees on Friday are mental health and health service providers receiving CEUs. The remaining 50% include individuals and families personally affected by mental illness, disability advocates, academics, and community members. Saturday has a smaller percentage of people seeking CEUs, but a higher number of individuals and families personally affected by mental illness.

We welcome input on other possible workshop presentations. You may forward the letter and form to other potential presenters.

What We Look For:

- **Practical Information and Resources for:**
 - a. Community and health providers and employers; and/or
 - b. Individuals with psychiatric disorders and their loved ones.

Sample topics include: accessing benefits; emerging and best practice treatment for specific disorders; benefits; supportive services; trauma-informed, recovery oriented, and/or peer services; early intervention; and handling specific situations like crises, disappearance, criminal justice, etc.

- **Practical Information and Resources about and/or for “Special Populations”:**
 - a. Veterans/military;
 - b. Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC);
 - c. Children, youth, and young adults;
 - d. Newly symptomatic individuals;
 - e. Individuals for whom “traditional” services do not “work”;

f. Other under-served populations.

- **Practical Information and Resources about and for providers and advocates working with “co-occurring” issues like:**
 - a. Addiction and substance use;
 - b. Physical health;
 - c. Tardive Dyskinesia and related disorders;
 - d. HIV/AIDS;
 - e. Developmental and behavioral disorders.
- **Policy and Advocacy Topics like:**
 - a. Health Care Reform and increasing access to services;
 - b. Criminal justice and mental health crisis response;
 - c. Reduction of racial health disparities;
 - d. Substance use/behavioral health integration;
 - e. Specific policy topics, etc.
- **Advocacy and outreach skills training:** Some workshops have provided both practical information as well as advocacy and policy information (i.e., what is available right now, and what should be.)

Please use the attached form to submit your proposal.

Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis until Friday, August 25th, 2023.

Feel free to make as many copies of the form as needed. In addition to the proposal, we ask that you submit a biographical sketch, resume, and photo (if desired) of each presenter. ***Your proposal will not be considered until you provide these additional materials.*** Please submit your form and supplemental information to: mfourth@namimd.org

Recommendations to consider:

- Keep in mind that **the more complete and detailed your proposal is**, the easier it is for us to make a determination. This includes correct spelling of names, degrees, titles, addresses, and telephone numbers of the workshop panelists. If chosen, much of the information we are requesting will be used in the program.
- **Please indicate on the form which category or categories you feel your workshop fits.** We recommend including an explanation as to *why* you think the particular topic, handout materials, and/or speakers will provide useful information that a conference attendee can share within their own networks, including professional or social networks as well as affiliate networks. This helps us determine what tracks, if any, your workshop may fall under.

- Please also disclose if information regarding health and/or mental health disparities, co-occurring substance use, behavioral and physical health, diversity or multicultural issues, will be addressed in the workshop in any way.

The number of presenters for any one workshop is limited to a maximum of 4. We encourage you to include individuals living with a mental illness and family members as presenters. The length of each workshop slot is **one hour**. To provide a longer time frame, you may request two back to back sessions, but we cannot guarantee availability. You may apply for more than one workshop on different topics.

NAMI Maryland does not pay honoraria, cover presenter expenses, or reimburse for materials used in workshops. However, we do offer speakers a complimentary two-day registration as thanks for your participation in our event.