



HIGHLIGHTS & TOP ACHIEVEMENTS

Advocacy

NAMI New Jersey plays a key role in making sure that New Jersey maintains a viable mental health system during the State's transition to Fee for Service reimbursement for mental health services. Through testimony before the legislature and media coverage, we have sounded the warning that New Jersey must maintain a safety net to assure that no one who is in need of mental health services is denied treatment because of the new payment method. To this end, the Murphy Administration has named NAMI NJ to a new Mental Health and Addiction Fee for Service Transition Oversight Board to oversee the change in Medicaid payments to community mental health providers.

Law Enforcement

NAMI NJ is working with members of the legislature to expand efforts to divert individuals with a mental illness who come into contact with law enforcement from the criminal justice system into mental health treatment. Legislation has been introduced (S2529 and S2560) that would mandate education for law enforcement personnel on mental illness including 20% of all officers receiving 40 hours of CIT training. These bills would also develop diversion pathways to mental health treatment prior to arrest and pre and post-conviction in an effort to dramatically reduce the number of individuals with a mental illness in New Jersey's jails and prisons.

Multicultural Programs



AACT-NOW received the **Groundbreakers and Innovators Award** from the 2018 Central New Jersey (NJ) Chapter of The

Links, Inc. for their dedicated community support. AACT-NOW also partnered with the Central Jersey Community Coalition to raise funds and resources for the community.



CAMHOP offers support, education, and advocacy to Chinese Americans.

- **38** support groups held at **4** locations last year.
- NAMI NJ Family-to-Family in Chinese graduated **14** participants
- Peers and family members have fun bowling as a group every month and enjoy the Chinese New Year Luncheon and Annual Summer Picnic
- **260** Handmade cards were mailed out to individuals and families offering support.



NAMI NJ en Español provides community education through workshops on mental illness. The program also reaches the community through Health Fairs and Resource Fairs. New NAMI De Familia a Familia

teachers were trained to offer family education, along with NAMI Bases y Fundamentos for families with younger children.



SAMHAJ offers support, education, and advocacy to South Asian Americans.

- **36** support groups held at **2** locations last year.
- Conducted **8** educational presentations
- Outreach to young families through schools and community organizations
- Over **100** attendees at SAMHAJ Celebration and Annual Summer Picnic

8600 SUBSCRIBERS received emails on topics ranging from advocacy to new resources and research findings.

Our Website at www.naminj.org received **16,352** unique visitors, **23,454** visits and **60,946** page views.

NIMH Partnership Outreach Program provided science based information on mental illness.



Social media presence grew:
Facebook Likes: **1,267**
Twitter Followers: **1,869**
YouTube Subscribers: **77**



174 votes cast for **55** poems to select the winners of the 2018 Dara Axelrod Expressive Arts Poetry Contest.



Walkers raised over \$132,022 through NAMI Walks NJ to fund NAMI programs at the state and local level. These programs support, educate and advocate for those affected by mental illness.

Recovery programs meet community and member needs, with two NAMI Signature Programs and one NJ unique offering. In keeping with long-standing NAMI New Jersey tradition, both In Our Own Voice and Hearts & Minds continue to present to patients in NJ's state psychiatric hospitals.



NAMI Connection groups offer open-door peer support to any adult dealing with any kind of mental health issue. We now have **19 Connection groups** meeting weekly, twice-monthly, or weekly.

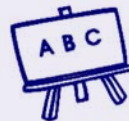


In Our Own Voice is still going strong in the program's 16th year. **Over 70,000** people have seen a presentation in New Jersey. In the past year, the program has been privileged to work with the growing number of NJ municipal Stigma Free Initiatives.



NAMI Hearts & Minds provides a variety of presentations about maintaining physical health during mental health recovery. We provide introductory sessions, coaching skills sessions, and several ongoing discussion groups.

400 educators were made aware of mental illness signs and symptoms in children and teens through **Educating the Educators** presentations and NAMI NJ School Programs Conference Exhibits.



Every Mind Matters Mental Health Educator Toolkit Training was conducted for health teachers and counselors in the Boonton School District. A packet including activities that can be used for Mental Health Awareness Month in May and Mental Illness Awareness Month in October was developed and added to the EMM toolkit. New books and resources have been reviewed and added to the EMM resources.

NAMI NJ School Programs participated in a legislator education day with the psychiatrists of NJPA and NJCAAP and as exhibitor at the LDANJ (Learning Disabilities Association of NJ) annual conference.



NAMI NJ hired a new Executive Director in January 2018, **Meredith Masin Blount**. Ms. Blount assumed the Executive Director role following the retirement of founding Executive Director Sylvia Axelrod in December 2017.



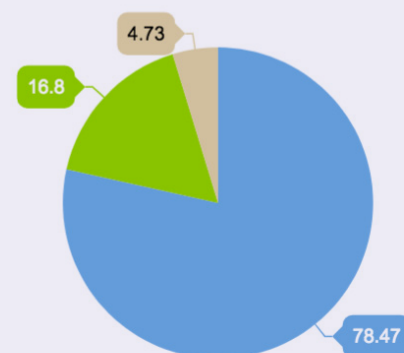
10 new F2F teachers trained. NAMI NJ offered **27 classes** for family caregivers of individuals with severe mental illness to learn the facts, coping skills, and advocacy.

Family Support Groups

16 Family Support Group facilitators were trained to run NAMI support groups.

NAMI affiliates offered **216** family support groups across the state.

Allocation of Programs, Management, & Fundraising



■ Programs (78.47%) ■ Management (16.80%) ■ Fundraising (4.73%)

THANK YOU DONORS!

Without your generous help, NAMI New Jersey could not continue to provide our free programs of support, education, and advocacy throughout the state of New Jersey.

2017-2018 Officers and Board of Trustees

President: Mark Perrin, MD

1st Vice President: Ellen Grassman

2nd Vice President: J. Michael Jones

Treasurer: Anju Makhijani

Northern Region

Sherman T. Brewer, Jr., Esq.
Pamela Garanger
Mark Perrin, MD
Robert G. Stern, MD
Stephen W. Williams

Southern Region

Francine Bates
Laura L. Bryant, Esq.
Ellen Grassman

Central Region

Suresh C. Chugh
Ingrid D. Diaz, Ph.D.
J. Michael Jones
Rajiv Malhotra
Dale Oftei-Ayisi, MA, LCSW

Trustees-At-Large

Anju Makhijani
Grace Travinsky

NAMI New Jersey Staff & State Program Coordinators

Executive Director: Meredith Masin Blount

Associate Director (Advocacy/Public Policy)

Phil Lubitz, MSW

Executive Assistant

Celina Sanchez

Database Manager/SAMHAJ Coordinator

Beena Bhatcar

Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Sharon Marshall

Communications Technology Manager

Stephanie Har

Coordinator, NAMI NJ en Español Program

Martha Silva

Associate Director (Education/Communications)

Aruna Rao, MA

Program Tech. Resources Director, CAMHOP Coordinator

Maggie Luo, MA

Program Resources Assistant/ Outreach Coordinator, AACT-NOW

Cynthia H. Miles-Small

Program Outreach Coordinator/ Stigma Council Staff Assistant

Lisa Powell, MA

Director of School Education Programs

Lorrie Baumann

IOOV Program Scheduling Coordinator/Trainer

Jill Zwick

AACT-NOW Central Region Coordinator

Donna Williams

AACT-NOW Southern Region Coordinator

Winifred Chain, MA

AACT-NOW Program Family Specialist

Melanece Walker

NAMI SMARTS Coordinator

Fern Fine

Family-to-Family Education Program Director

Marilyn Goldstein

IOOV Program Coordinator/Peer Liason Hearts & Minds Coordinator

Jay Yudof

CAMHOP Support Assistant

Cathy Chen

Expressive Arts Poetry Program Coordinator

Jacquese Armstrong

Affiliate Liaison

Lynne Malloy

Walk Coordinator

Mikaela Grande



www.facebook.com/NAMINewJersey



www.twitter.com/NAMI_NJ