



Conference Agenda: Highlights

Friday, November 11th:

- **Veteran's Day Recognition**, NAMI-NYS will pay a special tribute to our veterans and military families.
- Lunch Plenary: **The Importance of Recognizing and Addressing Trauma**. This session will explore how to handle trauma in children, with veterans and military families, in multicultural communities and in the criminal justice and forensic system. Panelists for this session include: **Diane Cameron** and **Dr. Joseph Benamenti**, more panelists will be announced shortly.
- **Zero Suicide Initiative**: NAMI-NYS will be exploring this important issue with four concurrent workshops which will provide information on preventing suicide in the general population as well as prevention for children and young adults, within the military community and in the criminal justice system.
- **Focus Tracks** on children and adolescents, veterans and military families and criminal justice issues.
- **New Horizons in Effective Engagement**, Friday's dinner program will explore how we can expand awareness about mental health and mental illness in diverse communities. We are thrilled to welcome **Elise Banks**, Miss International 2015 who will discuss her work as a NAMI Ambassador to raise awareness of mental health issues in the African American community and **Oscar Jiménez-Solomon, MPH**, Research Coordinator, Center of Excellence for Cultural Competence, New York State Psychiatric Institute, Columbia University who will detail the combined efforts of the CECC and the NAMI Starr Center to increase cultural competency in care and engagement by multicultural youth.

Saturday, November 12th:

- **New Horizons in Partnerships: The Benefits of Forming Recovery Teams**, this panel discussion details the proven benefits of an individual living with a mental illness working with their family members and providers to form a recovery team with shared goals and open communication. All perspectives will be represented in the panel. The panelists for this session are: **Nina Schooler, PhD, Thomas Jewell, PhD., Bill Perun, JD, and Shelia Sutton, RN**
- **Enhancing Insight and Personal Perspective on Mental Illness**, NAMI-NYS is delighted to welcome back **Dr. Donald Goff**, director of the Nathan Kline Institute, who will discuss communication strategies when someone refuses treatment and denies having a mental illness or mental health issue.
- **NIMH Research Update**, NAMI-NYS is proud to serve as the NIMH Outreach Partner for New York State and we are honored to welcome **Robert K. Heinssen, PhD., ABPP**, the Acting Branch Chief of NIMH's Adult Treatment and Preventive Intervention Research Branch, to provide an update on research conducted by NIMH.
- **Mental Health in the Workplace and the Corporate World**, employment plays an important role in recovery which is why it is vital that awareness of mental illness and mental health issues are expanded within the corporate culture and all workplaces. Panelists for this discussion will be announced shortly. Employment issues will also be explored in two workshop sessions. **Michael Thompson**, President and CEO, National Business Coalition on Health, will lead this panel and other panelists will be announced shortly.
- **Working to Integrate Wellness**, NAMI-NYS is thrilled to welcome back **Dr. Lloyd Sederer**, Medical Director of the NYS Office of Mental Health, who will be discussing how individuals can work with their providers to integrate wellness in their recovery and the importance of wellness for caregivers.
- **Life in Recovery** following dinner there will be a screening of *Life In Recovery*, a documentary about 2015 NAMI-NYS Young Adult Award winner **Allie Hill** and her family as they navigate her road to recovery. Following the screening, there will be a panel with the film's director **Morgan Malecki**, Allie and her mom **Tina Lee**.
- **Workshop Sessions** exploring the newest research and treatments for specific diseases, as well as major issues for individuals and families impacted by mental illness.
- **Wellness Area**, along with Dr. Sederer's presentation, wellness will be incorporated by once again having a wellness room which will host workshops and special presentations. More information coming soon!
- **Young Adult Track**, NAMI-NYS is excited to use the conference to help develop the next generation of mental health advocates by having a track exploring issues impacting young adults and giving them the tools to project their voices. Full details of the track are coming soon.

Sunday, November 13th

- **Town Hall on Advocacy** this special Town Hall session will explore key issues and next steps following Election days and how to build on one of the most beneficial legislative sessions in recent history for individuals and families impacted by mental illness.
- **Ask the Doctor** as is tradition, we will conclude the conference with our trusted advisor **Dr. Lew Opler** answering your questions.

Full conference agenda coming soon!