

Mentoring a Potential Facilitator

Mentoring potential facilitators is an excellent way to foster new leadership within the NAMI Connection program. Most states are not able to do more than one or two Connection training events a year, so this is a good way to ensure new potential facilitators will be interested and available when the trainings occur. Mentoring would develop the facilitating skills necessary to assist in a secondary facilitator role until the person can become a certified facilitator.

Criteria

For Being Mentored

There are two situations in which an individual can be mentored in the Connection program.

1. Someone in the group would like to learn more about becoming a NAMI Connection Facilitator, or if a group's co-facilitator has to step down leaving only one facilitator to run the group – allowing the person being mentored to serve in an “assisting” position to the facilitator.
2. Someone has gone through a full NAMI Connection training event, but was not quite ready to be fully certified and received a provisional certificate.

For Becoming a Mentor

A mentor must be a certified NAMI Connection facilitator willing to work with the mentee and put in the extra time necessary to be sure the mentee grasps the NAMI Connection model.

Expectations and Responsibilities throughout the Mentoring Process

The person being mentored will:

- Set and discuss goals with the mentor, and discuss specifics the Connection model.
- Become familiar with the Facilitator Guides and be able to define the role of facilitator.
- Attend each Connection group with their goals in mind.
- Show dedication by preparing for, attending, and participating in each Connection group meeting.

- When the time is right, assist with Connection group set up, opening, group work, closing, etc... and eventually be able to guide the group through these areas using the processes and structures as outlined on the facilitator guides.
- Regularly communicate with the mentor regarding progress and tips for success.

The Mentor will:

- Notify the Connection State Coordinator that the mentoring process is starting. The Mentoring Notification Form can be found on the NAMI Connection Intranet. A manual and facilitator guides will need to be provided if the person has not already been through a NAMI Connection facilitator training event.
- Meet with the mentee outside of the Connection group to discuss the mentoring process and help set goals.
- Go over the facilitator guides with the mentee and offer facilitating tips
- Attend each Connection group with the mentee, keeping their goals in mind.
- Allow the mentee to learn and listen, then at the discretion of the mentor, take part in guiding the group through different processes and structures;
- Communicate with the state coordinator about the progress of the mentee periodically throughout the mentoring process.

Certification

A MENTEE WHO HAS NEVER ATTENDED A FULL CONNECTION FACILITATOR TRAINING MUST SIGN UP FOR THE NEXT AVAILABLE TRAINING EVENT IN THEIR STATE TO BECOME A CERTIFIED CONNECTION FACILITATOR.

A mentee who HAS attended a full Connection facilitator training and received a provisional certificate may be certified under the following conditions:

- ✓ The person has been through six months of mentoring
- ✓ The mentor believes the person is ready
- ✓ The person completes a facilitator profile form for the state office, agreeing to a one year commitment of facilitating a NAMI Connection support group.
- ✓ The person is or becomes a NAMI member

In this case, the certificate should be signed by both the mentor and the state coordinator. A template for this certificate can be found on the NAMI Connection Intranet.