



The Nation's Voice on Mental Illness

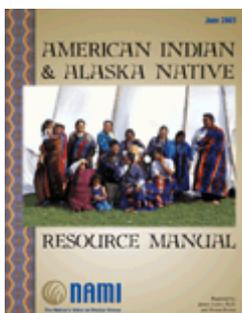
MIO PARTNER COALITION

MULTICULTURAL &
INTERNATIONAL
OUTREACH CENTER

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NAMI's American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Symposium



Advocates from across the nation came together to learn more about mental health issues that affect these communities, share their experiences, and plan strategies for the future.

On June 29th, 2003 NAMI MIO held its second annual minority mental healthcare symposium in Minneapolis, Minnesota as part of the NAMI Annual Convention. This year's focus was American Indian and Alaska Native community. This was an all-day symposium which included information on history, mental health research, substance abuse, trauma, outreach and other issues concerning mental health among the American Indian and Alaska Native community. Ultimately, the symposium was a part of NAMI's efforts to build new partnerships and alliances to confront the mental health crisis in all communities throughout the United States.

The Symposium speakers emphasized the essential need to integrate American Indian medical and cultural traditions with that of Western medicine and a mental healthcare system that is under-funded. Speakers also raised concern over the lack of scholarships available for American Indians and Alaska Natives hoping to become

mental health professionals, as well as the lack of mental training and understanding Alaska Natives hoping to become mental health professionals, as well as the lack of mental training and understanding among judges in the criminal justice system.

In attendance was former first Lady of the Navajo Nation, Wanda MacDonald, Dr. Douglas Novins, of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Dr. Dale Walker, One Sky Center: The American Indian/Alaska Native National Resource Center for Substance Abuse Services. Cynthia Lindquist Mala, Colleen Good Bear, Indian Health Services, and Nettie Grant Sikyta, Native American Health Liaison for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Mental Health.

In Conjunction with the symposium, NAMI MIO developed a resource manual to support organizing and advocacy at the local, state and national levels. This manual aids in the planning process by providing key information regarding the American Indian and Alaska Native communities, mental illness, outreach strategies, and available resources.

This manual is available for \$23.00 from the NAMI Website store or it could be downloaded for free from the Website's NAMI MIO Center section. Visit www.nami.org or contact Teresa Brown at teresa@nami.org for more information.

Future Events:

NAMI celebra el Mes Hispano

Sept 15 - Oct 15

"La ciencia ha demostrado que las enfermedades mentales no discriminan y que estas afectan a personas de cualquier raza o grupo étnico. Por este motivo, es esencial que veamos los asuntos relacionados a las enfermedades mentales desde un punto de vista pluricultural. NAMI sigue comprometida a esto y por eso continúa su campaña de inclusión de la comunidad Latina a nivel nacional. Nos enorgullese el unirnos a esta comunidad para honrar su cultura en este mes."

NAMI celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Sept 15 - Oct 15th

"Science has shown that mental illness does not discriminate and affects people of all colors and races. This makes it essential to address mental illness issues from a multicultural perspective, and NAMI remains committed to this through continued outreach to the Latino community across the country. We are proud to join with this community to honor their heritage this month."

NAMI St. Louis Partners with NOPCAS

By Kim Carter, NAMI St. Louis



“NOPCAS is a 501c (3) organization founded by three African-American suicide survivors. Its goals are to bring suicide and depression awareness to minority communities that have historically been discounted from traditional awareness programs.”

For the past three years, NAMI St. Louis has worked closely with the National Organization of People of Color Against Suicide (NOPCAS). In 2001 this relationship was strengthened when NAMI St. Louis applied for a suicide prevention grant from the Missouri Department of Mental Health.

With the assistance and support of one of NOPCAS' board members, and St. Louis resident, Mr. Keith Antone Willis, NAMI was awarded a grant to provide mental health education and suicide prevention services to children and elderly populations, with special emphasis on inner-city and ethnically diverse populations.

The purpose of this collaboration was to develop and implement suicide awareness services for youth and elderly residents of the Eastern Region of Missouri.

This program includes:

- QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Training & Education Presentations: a nationally recognized suicide pre-

vention education program.

- Marketing the 1-800-Suicide Helpline phone number within the region: utilizing key media contacts within the communities of interest
 - Suicide Survivor Family Support Groups: development of support groups for family members of persons who have followed through with suicide, with special focus on young families, caregivers of elderly suicide victims, inner-city families, and ethnic minority families.
- (Note:** Two of St. Louis Family-to-Family teachers and support group leaders, with the permission of Joyce Burland, adapted the F2F support group training module to train our 1st team of suicide survivor support group facilitators.)
- Youth Peer Support: work with a St. Louis based youth suicide prevention agency (KUTO-Kids Under twenty-one) to develop peer support programs and teacher training modules in St. Louis schools.

NAMI St. Louis administers this project. We would not have been able to succeed without the help and support of NOPCAS, Life Crisis (a local suicide crisis hotline/therapy agency), and Kids under twenty-one (KUTO). We are especially grateful for the support of NOPCAS and its Board members, Keith Willis and Dr. Donna Barnes, for agreeing to support us in this effort. For more information contact Kim Carter at kac2@gwbmail.wustl.edu.

Coalition Members:

- Alianza Nacional de Salud Mental (Mexico)
- American Psychiatric Association
- APOIAR (Brazil)
- American Society of Hispanic Psychiatry
- Asian Community Mental Health Services
- Asociación Argentina de Ayuda a la Persona que Padece de Esquizofrenia y su Familia (APEF)
- Asociación Maníaco Depresivos (Colombia)
- Asociación Salvadoreña de Familiares y Amigos de Pacientes Esquizofrénicos
- Black Psychiatrists of America
- Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Boston University
- Fundación Contener (Argentina)
- Fundación Luz y Vida (Paraguay)
- Health Watch Information and Promotion Service
- INGENIUM, Monterrey (Mexico)
- INGENIUM, Morelos (Mexico)
- Latino Behavioral Health Institute
- Massachusetts Mental Health Services Program for Youth

International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services (IAPSRS)

IAPSRS is pleased to join NAMI's Multicultural & International Outreach Partners Coalition! The mission of the International Committee of IAPSRS is to make information about Psychosocial Rehabilitation accessible around the world using the internet.

On the IAPSRS.org website, the international side-bar includes information in English, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish, with translations pending in French and Japanese. Documents available in these languages include:

- An Overview of Psychosocial Rehabilitation
- Core Principles and Values of Psychosocial Rehabilitation
- Multicultural Principles of IAPSRS
- What Are Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services

- Outcomes Evaluations PSR Tool Kit
- Recognizing that we have learned a great deal from international presenters at our conferences, IAPSRS has also recently developed an international discussion group on the internet to engage members of the international community in a discussion group that will help psychosocial rehabilitation programs grow throughout the world: *"learning from each other."* IAPSRS has submitted invitations to participate in an internet coollist, confirming that individuals actually want to receive mailings.

Interested persons may contact International Committee Chair, Carolyn Peterson, CPRP, at cpeterson@highlandscsb.org or Latin America Sub-Chair, Maria Restrepo-Toro at mertoro@bu.edu.

NAMI'S Global Partnership Initiative

The 2003 Global Partnership Advocacy Exchange Program*



**September 29-
October 3, 2003**
NAMI
Headquarters
Arlington, VA

NAMI is organizing this full week training Program for International Partners.

This will be an intensive facilitated exchange process, in which 8-10 grassroots leaders from around the globe meet to present and exchange advocacy models, best practices, highlights and low points in their struggles for change.

Attending Countries:

- Argentina
- Australia
- Brazil
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- South Africa (2)
- Taiwan

For more information contact Teresa Brown, Program Manager, NAMI MIO at (703) 524-7600 or teresa@nami.org.

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Coalition Members:

National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association

National Council of La Raza

National Latino Behavioral Health Association

National Organization of People of Color Against Suicide

Nebraska Office of Minority Health

New Jersey Asian Association for Human Services

New Jersey Mental Health Institute

Self Reliance Foundation

Student National Medical Association

The Alliance for the Mentally Ill of R.O.C., Taiwan

The Depression and Anxiety Support Group (South Africa)

Zenkaren (Japan)



If you would like to share any comments, questions or news, contact us at:

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