

TO: NAMI PA, Main Line Members and Friends
FROM: Patsy Koning and Ingrid Waldron
DATE: 2 April 2006
RE: Advocacy News and Event Announcements

Advocacy News

Funding for Basic Services and Supports in Jeopardy. On Wednesday, 5 April, the House is scheduled to debate the FY 2007 Budget Resolution. The House will consider a budget that does not include the \$7 billion increase for health and education funding (the Specter-Harkin amendment) which passed the Senate overwhelmingly.

ACTION NEEDED: Ask your Representative to oppose the Budget Resolution on the grounds that it ignores the bipartisan goal of increasing public health and education funding by \$7 billion, and thereby paves the way for deep cuts to mental health support, services, and research.

If the current House Budget passes:

- Fewer calls to SAMSHA's suicide hotline will be answered
- More young people—estimated to be 2,000 on any given day—will remain incarcerated simply because community mental health services are not available
- An overwhelming number of people with mental illnesses will go untreated because of the lack of commitment to mental health support and services

Congressional District 6

The Honorable Jim Gerlach, U.S. House of Representatives
111 East Uwchlan Avenue, Exton PA 19341
610.594.1415 phone or 610.594.1419 fax

Congressional District 7

The Honorable Curt Weldon, U.S. House of Representatives
1554 Garrett Road, Upper Darby PA 19082
610.259.0700 phone or 215.596.4665 fax

This is a summary of a NMHA Legislative Alert dated 31 March 2006

Affiliate Event Announcement

Event: Speaker meeting, "**Handling Family Conflicts When Mental Illness is One of the Issues**", with Ellen Berman, M.D. and David Wohlsifer, MSW, LCSW, DHS
Date: Monday, 8 May 2006 at 7 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Lancaster and Louella Avenues, Wayne

Note: Dr. Berman is Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Dr. Wohlsifer is also affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania. Both are affiliated with Bala Psychological Resources in Bala Cynwyd. If you have questions about the event please call 610.566.5545.

Other Local Events and Seminars

- Event: Speaker meeting, "**Recovery Opportunities for Consumers**" with David Young of Welcome Clubhouse Services and Rich Ziegler, from Horizon House PACT program
- Date: 5 April 2006 at 7:30 p.m.
- Place: First Presbyterian Church of Lansdowne, 140 North Lansdowne Avenue (4-5 blocks north of Baltimore Pike)
- Note: Sponsored by NAMI PA, Delaware County. For further information call 610.623.0071.
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- Event: "**Asperger Syndrome and School Issues**" with Robert Rosenthal, Ph.D.
- Date: 11 April at 7:30 p.m.
- Place: Abington Memorial Hospital, Beardwood Auditorium, Widener Building, 1200 Old York Road, Abington
- Note: Sponsored by ASCEND. Free for members, \$5 for non-members.
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- Event: 27th Annual Biele Lecture, "**Personality Disorders: Current Controversies and New Developments**" with John Oldham, M.D.
- Date: 13 April at 11:00 a.m.
- Place: DePalma Auditorium of Jefferson Pavilion Bldg., 1020 Sansom St., Phila.
- Note: Sponsored by Thomas Jefferson University. For further information or for reservations call 215.955.9404.
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- Event: Teleconference: "**ADHD in the African American Community**" with Rahn Bailey, M.D., and Ken Duckworth, M.D.
- Date: 21 April, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Note: Sponsored by NAMI National. Call 888.858.6021, Access code 309918 to participate.
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- Event: Speaker meeting with **Andy Behrman**, author of *Electroboy: a Memoir of Mania*
- Date: 24 April
- Place: Brandywine High School, Wilmington
- Note: Sponsored by New Directions of Delaware. For more information go to www.newdirectionsdelawareorg or www.electroboy.com.
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- Event: **Annual Seminar on Autism/Asperger's Syndrome** with Tony Attwood, Ph.D. as keynote speaker
- Date: 26 April

Place: Trevoze Radisson Hotel in Trevoze
Note: Co-sponsored by Foundations Behavioral Health and Future Horizons. Fee is \$110 for family members. To register for this full day program contact Future Horizons at 800.489.0727

Event: Training teleconference: **Self-disclosure and the Stigma of Mental Illness**
Date: 27 April
Note: Sponsored by the SAMHSA ADS Center. The training is free but registration is required. For more information about the training or to register call 800.540.0320.

Event: **NAMI PA Philadelphia Press Conference**
Date: 1 May at 10:00 a.m.
Place: City Hall, Philadelphia
Note: This press conference is to kick off Mental Health month. For more information contact Rea York at SReaYork@aol.com.

Event: **Breaking the Silence** with Dr. Wade Berrettini, Alison Malmon, Ross Szabo and Gail Griffeth
Date: 1 May, at 6:45 p.m.
Place: Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, Lancaster Ave. and Remington Rd., Wynnewood
Note: Four speakers on issues that affect 1 in 3 young people: depression, eating disorders, mood swings, suicide and more. RSVP to rgevents@gmail.com.

Event: Introduction to **Wellness Action Recovery Plan (WRAP)**
Date: Beginning 3 May and continuing for 11 weeks. Groups held Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m., Fridays at 1:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m.
Place: Bryn Mawr Consumer Center, 1001 W. Lancaster Ave., Bryn Mawr
Note: For more information call 610.527.1511

Event: **"Divided Minds: Twin Sisters and Their Journey Through Schizophrenia"** with Pamela Spiro Wagner and Carolyn S. Spiro, M.D.
Date: 4 May at 7:30 p.m.
Place: The George School, Walton Auditorium, Newtown, PA
Note: Sponsored by NAMI Bucks County and others. Books will be available for purchase. For information call 866.399.NAMI or email namibucks@rcn.com

MHASP - Presentations and Problem Solving

Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania's Training and Education Center is sponsoring a series of workshops for family members of adults with mental illness. No fee for Philadelphia residents. To register call 215.751.1800 x232 or x233 or email emannion@mhasp.org.

Event: **Negotiating about Treatment with a Loved One Who Does Not Think S/he Needs It.**

Dates: 10 April¹ or 13 April²

Event: **Spouse and Partner Workshop**

Dates: 25 April¹, for six consecutive weeks

Event: **Dealing with a Difficult Professional**

Dates: 8 May¹ or 11 May²

Times and Locations:

¹7-9 p.m., Belmont Center, 4200 Monument Avenue, Room 139, Philadelphia

²10 a.m. - noon, MHASP, 1211 Chestnut Street, 12th floor, Philadelphia

MCES Community Lectures

Montgomery County Emergency Services (MCES) community lectures are held in the 2nd floor conference room at 50 Beech Drive, Norristown. All lectures are three hours beginning at 9:00 a.m. The cost is \$20 and a limited number of scholarships are available. For more information or to register call Sharon Bieber at 610.279.6100.

Event: **Coping with the Dark Side**

Date: 6 April

Event: **Impact of Co-Occurring Disorders on the Family, a Personal Perspective**

Date: 13 April

Event: **Treatment of Psychiatric Conditions: Holistic Approach to Mental Illness**

Date: 20 April

Event: **Treatment of Psychiatric Conditions, Psychotropic Medications**

Date: 27 April

Event: **Elder Suicide: What Do We Know? What Can We Do?**

Date: 4 May

Opportunities to Provide Input on Services

Event: **Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Public Meeting**

Date: 11 April, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Place: Norristown OVR District Office, 1875 New Hope Street, Norristown

Note: State Plan Amendments will be discussed. If you are not able to attend you are welcome to send your written comments to Russell Czajka, District Administrator, at the above address or email ovr@state.pa.us.

Event: **Community Care Behavioral Health Family Advisory Committee Meeting**

Date: 12 April at 5:00 p.m.

Place: Holcomb Behavioral Health Services, 930 E. Lancaster Ave., 2nd fl, Exton
Note: Community Care Behavioral Health manages mental health and drug and alcohol services for individuals who have Medical Assistance under the Health Choices program in Chester County. For more information call 866.622.4228.

Event: **Community Care Behavioral Health Member Advisory Committee Meeting**
Date: 12 April at 11:45 a.m.
Place: Human Services, 520 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown
Note: Community Care Behavioral Health manages mental health and drug and alcohol services for individuals who have Medical Assistance under the Health Choices program in Chester County. For more information call 866.622.4228.