
NAMI Scott County

*Community Voice on Mental Illness
Empowering People toward Recovery*

December 2006

Christmas Party December 18

NAMI Scott County will hold its annual Christmas party Monday, December 18, beginning at 5 pm.

Knights of Columbus Hall
1111 W. 35th St., Davenport



President's message

Handle the stress for a happy holiday season

The upcoming holiday season can be an extremely joyful occasion to some, while others may view the season with dread. Included in this month's newsletter is an informational brochure developed by Susan Gregg Schroeder and Mental Health Ministries, which provides some helpful tips for consumers and family members on managing the holidays successfully to decrease stress and increase the joy of this holiday season! Please share this brochure with anyone you feel would benefit from viewing it!

Don't miss the upcoming NAMI Scott County Christmas party. This year the party is being held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1111 W. 35th St., Davenport, IA. Our event had to move this year because we've outgrown the space available at Frontier. If you need a ride to this event, please contact Greg Paulline at 322-5276. Pizza, pop, veggies and a variety of holiday desserts will be served. The party is FREE and

there will be games and prizes after the meal. The doors open at 5 pm. There is no monthly education meeting this month due to the Holiday party. Educational sessions will resume January 15, 2007.

It is my wish that every member of NAMI have a safe, happy and healthy holiday season and all the best in the New Year

Respectfully,
Christine Urish
President, NAMI Scott County

Paul Yeager awarded

Paul Yeager, formerly of KWQC and moderator for some NAMI Scott events, received a "Heroes in the Fight" Award at the NAMI Iowa Annual Conference December 1, for his work with NAMI Scott County.

There will be no Family Support Group meeting in December, because the 4th Sunday falls on Christmas Eve.

Advocacy ongoing for mental health

The NAMI Scott County Advocacy Committee and the Vera French Consumer Council sponsored a meeting with local legislators and county board members December 4.

Lori Elam, Scott County Human Services, provided information on the funding shortfall for mental illness and developmental disability services. State Senator Frank Wood and Representatives Jim Lykam and Cindi Winckler expressed support for resolving the problem. Over 10 years ago, the state made a commitment to provide funding for 50% of mental health service needs, but it has not been able to fulfill that agreement. Compounding that problem, it legislated a cap on the amount of tax money going into the programs, so that inflation and increased needs for services are unfunded.

Thirty-six people attended the meeting, including consumers, Vera French administrators, NAMI Scott members and other mental health supporters.

Can you refer someone to Family to Family or Peer to Peer?

Do you know someone who has mental illness or has a family member with mental illness who has not yet taken the Peer to Peer or Family to Family classes? These NAMI Signature Programs for family members and for people with mental illness will be offered free of charge again in early 2007. NAMI Scott County and Eastern Iowa Community College District sponsor the programs.

The Family to Family class, for family members of a person with mental illness, is a series of 12 sessions beginning February 14 and ending May 2, on Wednesday nights from 7 to 9:30 pm. The facilitators will be Robert and Lynette Cline. The location is the Urban Center, above the bus station in downtown Davenport.

The Peer to Peer classes, for persons diagnosed with a mental illness, will meet Thursdays from 6 to 8 pm from March 8 until May 3 in the Urban Center above the Davenport bus station. Peer mentors are Alice Thiemann, Tim Lawlor and Janet Darmour-Paul.

To register for either of these classes, call Mary Briones at Eastern Iowa Community College District, 336-3447. The Family to Family course number is 30887. For information about Family to Family, call Anne Corbi at 322-6554.

The class number for Peer to Peer is 30891. For more information about the class, call Alice Thiemann, 323-7453; Tim Lawlor at 323-6582; or Janet Darmour-Paul at 391-5723.

NAMI Scott County

Christine Urish, President, 333-6281
Dana Beneker, Vice President, 355-5502
Anne Corbi, Secretary, 322-6554
Connie Williams, Treasurer, 322-6247, ext. 224

Local Voice Mail: 1-888-491-9267
NAMI Scott Address: P.O. Box 3803,
Davenport IA 52808
Website: namiscottcounty.org

Family Support Group: 4th Monday each month at 7 pm at Unitarian Church, 3707 Eastern Ave., Davenport, Iowa

NAMI-C.A.R.E. Consumer Support Group: 2 to 3:30 pm the first and third Sundays of each month at Vera French Manor Community Room, 215 W. 37th St., Davenport, Iowa

NAMI members need to watch Medicaid changes

As the election season ends, state legislative leaders will turn their attention to the 2007 legislative season. Medicaid will likely be a hot issue in 2007, as it has been for many of the sessions of this decade. The urgency in 2007 is accentuated by the availability of general revenue surpluses, the call for healthcare reform, and new flexibility provided to states as part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. To assist NAMI leaders in developing necessary skills to be effective in Medicaid advocacy, the NAMI State Policy team has prepared important resources that will aid leaders in their legislative and policy efforts. NAMI materials related to Medicaid are available online at www.nami.org/medicaid. For a comprehensive toolkit that will help leaders prepare for anticipated state Medicaid reform efforts, special attention should be paid to the [NAMI Medicaid Toolkit](#).

NAMI Scott County dues

NAMI Scott County membership dues have been reduced to \$30 per year, beginning January 1. Of that amount, \$10 will go to national, \$10 to state and \$10 to local NAMI. Open Door membership is \$3. Please respond with your renewal when you receive a notice that your NAMI Scott membership is about to expire.

NAMIWalks May 5, 2007

NAMIWalks 2007 next planning meeting is Wednesday December 13, 2006, at 6:00 PM at the Bettendorf Library.

Confirmed Committee Chairs for 2007 NAMIWalks are:

Business Chair: Dick Whittlesey
Family Team Chair: Carl & Kathy Anderson
Sponsorship Chair: Teri Paulline
Walk Team Development: Teri Paulline
Kick-Off Luncheon: Renae VanZuiden & Vicki Zude
Accounting: Connie Williams
Walk Day Logistics Chair/printing: Greg Paulline
Publicity chair: Sharon Kendall Dunn & Rose Rivera
Post Walk Publication chair: Christine Urish