
NAMI Scott County

*Community Voice on Mental Illness
Empowering People toward Recovery*

July-August 2007

President's message

Raise Mental Health Care with Presidential Contenders

On July 2 PBS's NewsHour explored our mental health system in the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy last April. Reporters interviewed experts about the flaws they saw in the system and about what is being done to address them. While much was reported on the missed opportunities with Seung-Hui Cho in particular, one observation stood out: we do not have an integrated system of mental health services in this country.

Despite the recognition that many people have significant mental health problems, there is no continuum of services. We fail to do a systematic screening with children to identify problems early and get effective care for those problems. Typically communities do not have assertive community treatment programs that follow-up on people who receive outpatient and emergency services. Nor is care aimed at really getting people back into their lives and being fully productive. And the system typically doesn't promote recovery.

The stigma surrounding mental illness was cited as the main barrier to individual treatment and to the development of an effective service delivery system. Stigma erodes confidence that mental disorders are real, treatable health conditions. Without a better understanding of the nature of mental illness and what can and should be done for those with a mental illness, its not likely that resources will be allocated to create optimal care systems.

Further education is needed before Americans with mental illness receive the treatment and supports they need to live full and satisfying lives as valued members of the community.

As NAMI members we understand how education can create change. Living in Iowa presents us with a unique opportunity to educate our national leaders about improvements needed for our mental health system. I invite all NAMI members to familiarize themselves with NAMI's **2008 Presidential Primaries Action Agenda** posted at www.nami.org. Make a special effort to meet all the candidates and ask:

- What steps will you take to ensure that all Americans have the coverage for mental health care that they need to take care of themselves and their family?
- What will you do to accelerate investment in mental health research?
- What will you do to eliminate the disparities in mental health care?
- What will you do to make sure that healthcare for families includes early identification and treatment of mental illness?
- What will you do to ensure adequate housing and support for people with mental illness?
- What will you do to help people with mental illness return to work?
- What will you do to prevent people with mental illness from ending up in our criminal justice system?

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On a lighter note...

The installation of new board officers at the 2007 NAMI Scott County Annual Meeting ended on a light note as members enjoyed an uproarious performance by the improvisational comedy troupe at Comedy Sportz theater.

A heartfelt thanks to outgoing president Christine Urish, vice president Dana Beneker and to Connie Williams, who succeeded Greg Paulline as treasurer this past year when he became co-chair of NAMIwalk 2007. A special thanks to Jim VanHyfte who takes leave from the board after seven years of service and to Linda Lewis, who led the Family Support Group for the past 6 years or so.

Please join me in welcoming Tom Engelmann as our new treasurer and Connie Williams as secretary. Tom is a new member of NAMI. I look forward to working closely with all of you these next two years.

Anne Corbi, president

PICNIC August 12

NAMI Scott County invites all members and families to the first of two picnics this summer!

It will be at 3 pm August 12 at Crow Creek Park, off Devil's Glen Road south of 53rd, Bettendorf. Meal served at 5 pm.

If you need a ride, call Connie Williams, 322-6247, ext. 224, or Anne Corbi, 322-6554

Generations of Hope support group meets monthly



NAMI Scott County is sponsoring a support group for parents and caregivers of children with mental illness.

Generations of Hope

Support Group for parents and 24/7 caregivers of children and adolescents with mental illness meets the second Monday of every month from 6 to 8 pm at the Trinity Robert Young Center, 2200 3rd Ave., Rock Island. Dinner and childcare are provided at no cost to participants. In order to plan for the dinner and childcare, people are asked to make reservations with Mary Anselmi, 309-779-3216. Mary and Rader Hayes 9322-3173) are the co-leaders of the group.

On August 13, the program will be about Individual Treatment Plans (ITPs), which are developed for each child with a disability by the school system.

On Monday, September 10, Bernard Biermann, MD, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Vera French Community Mental Health Center, will speak on "Medication, Common Side Effects and Diagnostic Issues." There will be a question/answer session after the presentation.

Generations of Hope provides a chance for parents to discuss common problems and exchange ideas for problem-solving.

NAMI Scott County

Anne Corbi, President, 322-6554

Connie Williams, Secretary, 322-6247 ext. 224

Tom Engelmann, Treasurer, 386-2672

Local Voice Mail: 1-888-491-9267

NAMI Scott Address: P.O. Box 3803,
Davenport IA 52808

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

NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group:
2 to 3:30 pm every Sunday at Vera French Manor
Community Room, 215 W. 37th St., Davenport, IA
Generations of Hope Support Group for parents and caretakers of children and adolescents with mental illness: 6 - 8 pm on the 2nd Monday of the month at Trinity Robert Young Center, 2200 3rd Ave., Rock Island. Includes meal and babysitting; rsvp Mary Anselmi at (309) 779-3216

Lance Baker receives *Heroes in the Fight* Award



Lance Baker, shown at the podium above, received the NAMI/Eli Lilly *Heroes in the Fight* Award in Des Moines June 5. Margaret Stout, executive director for NAMI Iowa, is shown on the left in the picture. Lance is chair of the NAMI Scott County Advocacy Committee. Earlier this year on April 4, he received Advocate of the Year Award from ID Action, presented in Des Moines by Governor Chet Culver.

Payments available in Class Action: Children who took Paxil

A class action settlement has been approved that provides reimbursement to parents and guardians who purchased Paxil or PaxilCR for their minor children or wards.

Under the terms of the settlement, parents or guardians may recover 100% of their documented out-of-pocket costs for the purchase of Paxil. Those who cannot document their purchases can recover up to \$100. In order to receive payment, parents and guardians must submit a claim form, to be received by the Settlement Administrator by August 31, 2007.

To learn more about the settlement or to receive a form, visit PaxilPediatricSettlement.com, or call toll-free (866)494-8404.

Save the dates:

NAMI Scott County picnics will be Sundays, August 12 and September 16, 3 to 6 pm, with meal served at 5 pm. Crow Creek Park, Bettendorf.