



nami

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Find Help. Find Hope.

Rensselaer
County

Advocacy for Those With Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System

September 30th

SUNY School of Public Health

Matthew Shapiro

Public Engagement Coordinator

NAMI-NYS



nami

National Alliance on Mental Illness

New York State

How we are working to improve the
mental illness-criminal justice interface
and what role do YOU play?

TOP DOWN ADVOCACY APPROCHES

What are we doing on the state level to improve the criminal justice system for those living with a mental illness and their families?

TOP DOWN ADVOCACY APPROCHES



2015 Legislative Conference

Priorities in the New Mental Health Landscape



Tuesday, February 10, 2015 9am-3pm

The Albany Room-The Empire State Concourse

TOP DOWN ADVOCACY APPROCHES

Using our annual Legislative Conference as a tool to educate advocates and educate and build relationships with legislators



TOP DOWN ADVOCACY APPROCHES



Key pieces of criminal justice legislation
NAMI-NYS is advocating for during 2015-2016
legislative session:

TOP DOWN ADVOCACY APPROCHES

- **A02774/S01019**-Raise the Age of Criminal Responsibility from 16-18 **GOVERNOR CUOMO WANTS THIS ENACTED**
- **A01275/S04722**-Amend the mental hygiene law and the correction law to improve care for people with serious mental illness and improving New York's Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program (Kendra's Law). **PASSED NYS SENATE**
- **A1346A/S.05900**-To adopt recommendations made by the United Nations Committee Against Torture regarding the use of solitary confinement in New York prisons and jails. **PASSED ASSEMBLY**
- **A00836/S00633**-To reduce the number of prison suicides by providing additional training to corrections officers and staff. **PASSED BOTH HOUSES WAITING ARRIVAL ON GOVERNOR CUOMO'S DESK**

TOP DOWN ADVOCACY APPROCHES



HOW YOU CAN MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

- **Contact your legislators and voice your support for these bills**
- **Attend the 2016 NAMI-NYS Legislative Conference-
FEBRUARY 23rd, 2016-The Albany Room, Empire State Plaza**
- **Make sure you are signed up to receive NAMI-NYS Emails and Action Alerts**

BOTTOM UP ADVOCACY APPROCHES

What are we doing on the local level to improve the criminal justice system for those living with a mental illness and their families?

BOTTOM UP ADVOCACY APPROCHES



A National Initiative to Reduce the Number of
People with Mental Illnesses in Jails

BOTTOM UP ADVOCACY APPROCHES

JUSTICE  CENTER
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
Collaborative Approaches to Public Safety



BOTTOM UP ADVOCACY APPROCHES

NAMI-NYS will be working with our local affiliates to engage their county leaders and county sheriffs to sign onto the initiative and have them commit themselves to reducing the number of people living with a mental illness in their jails.

This is will be a major part of our advocacy work in 2016

BOTTOM UP ADVOCACY APPROCHES

NYS Counties need to keep people with mental health out of jails by:

- Utilizing Crisis Intervention Teams
- Establishing Mental Health Courts

YOU CAN MAKE THIS HAPPEN!!!

BOTTOM UP ADVOCACY APPROCHES

We need your help!!!

- We need you to contact your county leaders and tell them to sign on to the Stepping Up initiative
- If you have a story about how you or loved one was not treated properly by the criminal justice system: **TELL IT**
- **Encourage county leaders and sheriffs to attend...**

2015 Education Conference

R LOVE YOURSELF
NAMI
CAMPUS
E AWARENESS
D LISTENING
WORKING TOGETHER
E RESEARCH
F WELLNESS
I EDUCATION
ACCEPTANCE
N FORGIVENESS
I HOPE
THE NAMI EFFECT
N FAMILY-TO-FAMILY
G FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

R PEER SUPPORT
CARE
SHARE
E RESILIENCE
STIGMA-FREE
C NAMI BASICS
ADDRESSING GRIEF
O ADDRESSING TRAUMA
PEER TO PEER
V PERSON CENTERED
BREAKING THE SILENCE
E PARENTS and TEACHERS
S as ALLIES
R IN OUR OWN VOICE
HOME
FRONT
Y EARLY INTERVENTION

New Challenges, New Opportunities, New Hopes

November 13-15 | Desmond Hotel and Conference Center, Albany

Friday
**Award Winners and
Featured Speakers**



Thomas Dart,
Sheriff,
Cook County, Illinois
*Criminal Justice
Visionary Award
Recipient*



Judge Robert T Russell,
Buffalo Veteran's
Treatment Court
*Max Gabriel Veterans
Awareness Award
Recipient*

**NAMI-NYS's goal is to use the Education Conference as a tool for reform.
This is why is our providing complimentary registrations to sheriffs, police officers, court
staff and county leaders to attend the criminal justice track.**

The Criminal Justice Track Will Also Feature the Following Workshops:

10:30-11:30am Exploring Mental Health in Prison and Forensic Units

The session will explore how mental health services are delivered (or not delivered) within New York State's prison and forensic psychiatric units. Among the topics discussed will be: How to train correction officers in CIT like training to teach them how to recognize and properly handle inmates with mental health issues; How families can be more involved in advocating for the care of a loved one within the correctional system; How potential trauma inflicted in the correction system impacts people's long-term mental health and; The necessary services to properly reintegrate people living with a mental illness upon their release from the correctional system.

Jack Beck, Director of Prison Visiting Program, Correction Association of New York

Jayette Lansbury, Criminal Justice Chair, NAMI-NYS

Facilitated by Sigfrido Benitez, NAMI-NYS

2:30-3:45pm How Jail Diversion Programs Can be a Tool to Guide Recovery

Programs that identify people living with a mental illness who enter the criminal justice system can be effective both in keeping people out of jails and prisons but can also be a powerful tool to guide people towards the proper services to progress their recovery. Programs detailed in this session include the [Sequential Intercept Model](#), [Crisis Intervention Teams](#), the [Stepping Up Initiative](#) and the NYS Defenders Association [Veteran's Defense Program](#).

Dan Abreu, Policy Research Associates

Gary Horton, Director, Veterans Defense Program, New York State Defenders Association

Don Kamin, Ph.D, Director, Institute for Police, Mental Health & Community Collaboration

Phoebe Potter, Council for State Governments

4:15-5:15pm Understanding the Mental Health Impact of Solitary Confinement

The use of solitary confinement within the corrections system continues to expand. As solitary confinement has become more common, so have questions about its psychological impacts. Chief among those questions: What really happens to people deprived of social contact for months or years on end? These vital questions will be explored in this session, which will also feature the first-hand account of someone who has a mental illness and was put into solitary confinement.

Barbara Kirwin, Ph.D

Johnny Perez, Mental Health Project, Urban Justice Center

THANK YOU!!!

Contact Information

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