

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

State of Georgia
Crisis Intervention Team
Training Program

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

- Dedicated to the eradication of mental illnesses and to the improvement of the quality of life of all whose lives are affected by these illnesses through:
 - Advocacy
 - Education
 - Research
 - Support

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

- 240,000 members nationwide
- 120 state and local affiliates
- The nation's largest grassroots organization dedicated to improving the lives of people with severe mental illnesses
- The American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP), the nation's leading charity watchdog, awarded NAMI an A+ for its cost-effective charitable spending and fund-raising practices.

NAMI Georgia

- A family-based, grassroots, support and advocacy organization
- Comprised of parents, children, spouses, siblings, treatment professionals, and friends of persons with several mental illness
- Believe in recovery and work together to build a better life for their loved ones

NAMI Georgia

- Provides education about mental illness and other brain disorders
 - These diseases are like any other disease such as heart disease, diabetes, or cancer.
 - These diseases are common and widespread.
 - An estimated 54 million Americans suffer from some form of a mental illness or other brain disorder in a given year.

NAMI Georgia

- Advocates for certain standards of care that include access to:
 - Appropriate medication
 - Inpatient care
 - ACT programs
 - General medical care
 - Integrated services for dual diagnosis
 - Family psycho-education and support

NAMI Georgia

- Advocates for certain standards of care that include access to: (cont'd)
 - Peer provided services and supports
 - Supported employment services
 - Affordable housing and supports
 - Jail diversion programs
 - A non-stigmatizing and non-discriminating environment

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program

- Involves collaboration among consumers, family members, treatment professionals, educators, law enforcement, and private citizens
- Provides community-based training for law enforcement officers, resulting in improved morale, professional development, and skill efficiencies
- Addresses the No. 1 reason cited by the Surgeon General's Report on Mental Illness that people do not accept or receive treatment, which is the stigma associated with mental illness

Stigma

- Stigmatization of people with mental illness and other brain disorders is manifested by:
 - Bias
 - Distrust
 - Stereotyping
 - Fear
 - Embarrassment
 - Anger
 - Avoidance

Stigma

- Contributes to:
 - Low self-esteem
 - Isolation
 - Hopelessness
- Reduces access to resources and opportunities
 - Schools
 - Housing
 - Jobs

Stigma

- Leads the public to avoid living, socializing, or working with, renting to, or employing people with mental illness and other brain disorders
- Deters many from seeking and wanting to pay for the care of those with mental illness and other brain disorders
- Results in discrimination and abuse of those with mental illness and other brain disorders
- Deprives these individuals of their dignity
- Interferes with their full participation in society

Family Experiences

- Families who have a loved one with a mental illness or other brain disorder often share similar experiences and may:
 - deny warning signs.
 - worry about what other people think.
 - wonder what caused the illness.
 - blame themselves.

Family Experiences

- The person with the illness or disability often becomes the focus of family life.
- Other family members may feel ignored or resentful, and experience difficulty pursuing their own interests.
- Whenever possible, families should:
 - seek support from friends or other family members.
 - find a support group or self-help channel.
 - consider therapy as a possible option.

Presentation Prepared By:

Nora Lott-Haynes
President, NAMI Georgia
Nar-Anon Member

David J. Lushbaugh
Manager, Training Support Services
Georgia-Pacific Corporation
