

35th Annual NAMI Mass Convention

Saturday, October 28th, 2017 - Holiday Inn, Taunton

Workshop Descriptions

Morning Workshops

Finding and Creating Housing

Andrew Forman, Boston Center for Independent Living
Danna Mauch, Massachusetts Association for Mental Health

This two-part workshop will explore different aspects of housing for people diagnosed with mental health issues. Part one will focus on how to conduct a successful housing search, communicate with local housing authorities, agencies and landlords, and overcome barriers. Part two will describe best practices in supportive housing and tenancy preservation programs. It will provide participants with the tools to effectively advocate for more affordable and supportive housing in their community.

Financial Planning with a Mental Health Condition

Pamela Tames, PLAN of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

This workshop will provide an overview of planning tools and options to ensure financial security and preserve access to public benefits for people diagnosed with mental illness. Participants will learn about the similarities and differences between Special Needs Pooled Trusts and ABLE accounts, and when each is appropriate.

Introduction to the Plymouth Mental Health Court

Chris Pike, Forensic Health Services/Trial Court of Massachusetts

This workshop will provide an introduction to the Mental Health Court, an innovative option for individuals with mental health conditions that are involved with the criminal justice system.

Open Dialogue and Early Psychosis

Chris Gordon, Keegan Arcure, and Nicolas Avellaneda, Advocates, Inc.
Nima Sharifi and Shamim Sharifi

This workshop will introduce the Open Dialogue model of working with young people experiencing early episode psychosis and their loved-ones. Developed at Keropudas Hospital in Tornio, Finland, Open Dialogue is a family-based approach that has garnered international attention for its favorable outcomes.

The Stories We Tell

Maryam Mullenix, Justin Michael, and Adele Rouanet, Westford Academy
Eliza Williamson, NAMI Massachusetts

“Stories We Tell” was an event designed by students from Westford Academy to spread awareness about mental health through the voices of those with lived experience. This workshop will teach participants the process of creating a “Stories We Tell” event in their own community, and highlight how utilizing arts, poetry, and music promotes understanding and compassion, and decreases stigma.

Ask the Doctor

Dost Öngür, McLean Hospital

Dr. Öngür is the Chief of the Psychotic Disorders Division at McLean Hospital, where he manages two inpatient units, a residential facility, and a specialty outpatient clinic. He also conducts research using brain imaging techniques to study chemical abnormalities in patients with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. He will speak briefly on his research and work at McLean Hospital, then will open the floor to answer audience questions.

Barriers to Mental Health Treatment, Care, and Recovery and the Search for Solutions in Massachusetts

Natalie Litton, Health Care for All
Steve Rosenfeld, NAMI Massachusetts
Megan Wiechnik, NAMI Massachusetts

Drawing on HCFA's recent report, this workshop will discuss barriers to mental health treatment, care, and recovery and the search for solutions in Massachusetts. The conversation will draw on the perspectives of audience members to brainstorm how we can work together to create a system that works.

Families as Partners in the Search for Employment

Joan Rapp, Boston University Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation

Explore how family members and peers can be supportive partners as they consider, choose, get and keep employment. This workshop will identify the value of work, explore barriers and facilitators to employment, and addresses attitudes, knowledge, skills regarding employment. Personal stories and demonstrations will be shared.

Mental Health and Substance Disorder Recovery

Stella Stewart and Louray Barton, STEP Rox Recovery Support Center

This workshop will highlight strategies and skills associated with mental health and substance disorder recovery. It will engage participants in several activities including daily wellness plans, goal setting, meditation techniques, and crisis management that enables parties to build a recovery tool chest.

Introduction to the Advocates Jail Diversion Program

Sarah Abbott, Advocates Inc.
Chief Kenneth Ferguson, Framingham Police Department

This workshop will spotlight the Framingham Jail Diversion Program, a unique partnership between Advocates and the Framingham Police Department. Now in its 15th year, the co-responder program model's outcomes and replication activities will be presented, alongside the many lessons learned from this law enforcement and behavioral health collaboration.