Treatment, Not Jail: Criminal Justice Sessions at the 2013 NAMI Convention

The seventh largest city in the U.S., San Antonio has always been recognized as a crossroads for people of culturally diverse backgrounds. It is the perfect place for the 2013 NAMI National Convention, playing host to nearly two thousand attendees who gather from near and far to learn, network, gain inspiration and cultivate possibilities. Increase your insights and understanding through the over 75 workshops and program offerings addressing a range of topics from research and treatment to recovery and education.

NAMI welcomes criminal justice professionals, our long time allies in fighting for a better mental health system while keeping people with mental illness out of jail and prison. Hundreds of thousands of Americans living with serious mental illnesses are in jails and prisons today. We know that recovery is possible, but most communities struggle to break the cycle of crisis and get individuals the treatment and services they need. The convention will address a number of hot topics in criminal justice and mental health, with an emphasis on helping people get the treatment they need to prevent further crisis. Criminal justice professionals will receive discounted registration by entering code CIT0413 at www.nami.org/convention.

Friday June 28

11:00am -12:30pm Special Session

Out of Crisis and Into Treatment: Key Partnerships for Success

Panelists: Leon Evans, president and CEO, The Center for Health Care Services, San Antonio, Texas; Gilberto Rendon Gonzales, director, Communications and Diversion Initiatives, The Center for Health Care Services, San Antonio, Texas

Bexar County, TX has long been a national model of service integration and collaboration between key agencies serving children and adults with mental illness. These partnerships have been particularly designed to help juveniles and adults who are the highest utilizers of services, those most vulnerable to homelessness, hospitalization, or incarceration. This session will provide an overview of Bexar County’s model for building a strong infrastructure of community-based services and supports, with particular emphasis on services for youth, transition age young adults, and diverse cultural populations.

1:00-2:00 Poster Sessions

Supporting the Recovery of Justice-Involved Consumers: A Three-Part Series Tool Kit from the STAR Center

Email laurau@nami.org with questions regarding criminal justice-related sessions.

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Although justice-involved consumers experience many of the same challenges that other consumers do, justice-involved consumers have a unique set of challenges and barriers that they must successfully overcome in their recovery journeys. The presenter will share information about a three-part STAR Center resource that will help individuals assist justice-involved consumers as they reenter their communities and begin their recovery journeys.

Helping Children in Crisis
Presenter: Patrick Powell, assistant professor, Argosy University, Palmetto, Fla.

Children and adolescents are assessed and treated daily by mobile crisis teams. Some children report self-harming behaviors, while some children report threats to others. The presenter will describe the common themes found among children and adolescents assessed and treated for harmful behaviors toward themselves or others. The presenter will also provide effective interventions to limit these dangerous behaviors and develop safe environments.

2:15- 3:30pm Workshop

Ask a Cop
Panelists: Snr. Corporal Herbert Cotner, B.A., mental health liaison, NAMI Dallas/Dallas Police Department, Dallas, Texas; Sherry Cusumano, M.S., executive director of community education, Green Oaks Hospital, Dallas, Texas; Ernest Stevens, mental health officer, San Antonio Police Department, San Antonio, Texas; Marsha Rodgers, education director, NAMI Dallas, Dallas, Texas

This workshop will discuss common problems family members often face during crises with their loved ones when law enforcement has been called to assist. Participants will be able to construct a plan to prevent future crises and to be able to better communicate with law enforcement when an unavoidable crisis occurs. Such communication will enhance the chances of a favorable outcome encompassing mental health treatment rather than incarceration for their loved one.

2:15- 4:00pm Workshop

Suicide Prevention and Intervention
Panelist: Ken Norton, M.S.W., executive director, NAMI New Hampshire, Concord, N.H.

Part one (2:15 - 3:15pm) Part one will give participants a basic "suicide prevention 101" overview. This will include data, risk and protective factors, warning signs, and strategies for intervening with someone at risk. Participants will also learn about safety planning and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and other resources.

Part two (3:15 - 4:00pm) Part two will focus on psychological injuries to service members and veterans and the challenges to providing mental health supports and suicide prevention to service members and veterans. The workshop will review studies that show deployment related impacts on family members as well. This workshop will provide information for veterans and family members to promote early recognition of service related mental illness and psychological impairment as well as review resources and supports for service members and families.

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7:30- 9:30pm  **Special Presentation:**

“I’m Not Sick, I Don’t Need Help” Understanding Anosognosia  
*Panelist:* Xavier Amador, Ph.D., president, LEAP Institute, New York, N.Y.

Learn about anosognosia, a biological condition that causes some individuals with untreated mental illness to lack awareness of their illness.

**Saturday June 29**

1:15- 2:30pm  **Workshops**

**Making the Case against Solitary Confinement of Persons Living with Mental Illness**  

National concern is growing about the excessive use of solitary confinement, particularly with youth and adults living with serious mental illness. This workshop will address current efforts to reform and establish alternatives to the use of solitary confinement. An overview of medical and legal issues will be provided and attendees will receive information on how they can impact on efforts to reduce the use of solitary confinement. The workshop will also include a presentation by an individual who has experienced solitary confinement.

**Working with the Media after a Tragedy**  

Violent tragedies in the mental health community—including police shootings and suicides—are difficult situations made more difficult by intense media coverage. Learn how to work with a family and the media and how to shape the story and message. Real cases will be discussed along with tips for dealing with the media.

**Sunday June 30**

4:30 - 5:30pm  **Networking Meeting**

**Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT)**  
The CIT model of collaboration between law enforcement, mental health providers and local NAMI Affiliate advocates leads the nation in improving police interactions with people in mental health crisis. Come to learn more about CIT and network with CIT advocates and officers from around the country.

Visit [nami.org/convention](http://nami.org/convention) for registration information and to view the full program listing of over 75 sessions and workshops. Criminal justice professionals: when registering, enter code CIT0413 for discounted registration!

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