The leaves are falling and the scent of fall is definitely in the air. Soon we'll be pulling out our winter clothes and start planning for the holidays. Here's some things to include in your planning:

~Gathering: Although we had considered the possibility of returning to our in-person potluck Gathering this fall, we have decided to keep it virtual for October and November due to Covid-19 concerns. So this month’s community Gathering will be online via zoom on Wednesday, October 20 at 6:00 pm. Our guest speaker will be Matthew Santelli, Education and Outreach Specialist with Pierce County Aging and Disability Resource Center. He'll be sharing the resources, programs and benefits available for individuals and older adults with disabilities, as well as for their families, caregivers, and service providers. Grab your dinner and join us! 

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkfu2pqjMqHNSJrOZWDP0l6DlzozV7Xgm1X

Our next month's guest speaker for the November Gathering will be Wendy Haddow, spokesperson and Public Information Officer for the Tacoma Police Department. She'll be speaking about law enforcement response to mental health crises and the new police reform laws.

~ December Volunteer Recognition Award Dinner: This year's Recognition event will be held Wednesday December 15 in lieu of the monthly Gathering. We are working towards a hybrid event...an in-person and zoom combined event...and more information will be coming soon. In the meantime, mark your calendars! This annual event is our opportunity to recognize our volunteers for their time and commitment and the support they've given NAMI Pierce during the year.

~NAMI 2022 Signature Program training: NAMI WA has announced the 2022 Signature Programs training schedule for anyone interested in becoming a teacher, facilitator, or presenter for one of our programs. The schedule is posted on our website at http://namipierce.org or https://apply.namiwa.org/apply/
The first training will be for the Connection Support Group on January 21-23, 2022; however, applications are due next month on November 28 and space is limited so please complete your application as soon as possible. All state trainings will be held virtually via zoom next year.

~Lobby Day: The NAMI WA Public Policy Committee held their first retreat recently as they prepare to put together priorities for our Lobby Day on February 21. If you have any mental health issues you’d like to see addressed statewide, (not local city or county issues) contact us at info@namipierce.org or Kevin Ballard, NAMI Pierce Legislative Director, at kevin.ballard@namipierce.org.

~Register for NAMI Smarts: NAMI Smarts for Advocacy workshops are being offered on the first Tuesday of each month thru December from 6:00 - 8:30 pm. This is a hands-on advocacy training that helps individuals, families, and friends transform their passion and lived experience into skillful grassroots advocacy and teaches how to use the power of your story to influence others. Use this link to register
**Volunteer Needed:** The NAMI Pierce County Board is seeking a Board Secretary to join the Board of Directors. If you are a good listener and have good note-taking skills and want to make a difference, we need YOU! Please contact board president Lovey Offerle, at info@namipierce.org or kekulu@ymail.com for more information.

**Peer Support Specialist Wanted:** The Department of Social and Health Services is seeking a full time Peer Support Counselor with lived experience to join their Fort Steilacoom Competency Restoration Program. An excellent opportunity to use your wisdom and experience and help others. For more information, click this link:


Keep safe...and remember, you are not alone!