Who We Are

NAMI South Dakota is the state chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation’s largest grassroots mental health advocacy organization.

The mission of NAMI South Dakota is to provide education, support and advocacy to individuals and families impacted by mental illness.

We accomplish this by equipping and empowering local volunteer leaders to be the voice on mental illness in their own communities, using their lived experience and rigorous training to deliver NAMI signature programs. Peer-led classes and activities provide help and hope to those living with mental illness and their families, and public awareness presentations educate the general public and eradicate stigma.

We provide training and support for local leaders, and outreach to underserved communities and groups. We advocate for better treatment and access on a statewide level, and work to educate governments, employers, health providers, school systems and faith communities.

We are supported in this mission and work by the efforts of hundreds of volunteers, donors, state and community partners, and faith communities.

Our Staff and Board of Directors

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<th>BOARD:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole Burger, President</td>
<td>Scott Stubbe</td>
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<td>Stacey Tieszen, Vice President</td>
<td>David Braun</td>
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<td>Priscilla Stevenson, Secretary</td>
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<td>Tom Silverthorn, Consumer Council Chair</td>
<td>Lois Knoke</td>
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<th>STAFF:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Lindquist</td>
<td>Wendy Giebink, Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paula Brown</td>
<td>Marilyn Charging, Outreach Consultant</td>
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<td>Robert Giebink</td>
<td>John Williams, Development Consultant</td>
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<td>Shirley Gross</td>
<td>Sarah Fugleberg, Office Manager</td>
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Education

NAMI Basics is a class for parents and other family caregivers of children and adolescents who have either been diagnosed with a mental health condition or who are experiencing symptoms but have not yet been diagnosed. In 2016 we trained 10 new Basics teachers and taught 1 class. Our group of teachers is ready to reach many more parents and caregivers in 2017.

NAMI Family-to-Family is a class for families, partners and friends of individuals with mental illness. The course is designed to facilitate a better understanding of mental illness, increase coping skills and empower participants to become advocates for their family members. In 2016 we trained 12 new Family to Family teachers and taught 6 classes. This program also serves families of veterans in cooperation with the Veterans Administration.

NAMI In Our Own Voice is a presentation designed for the general public to promote awareness of mental illness and the possibility of recovery. In 2016 we trained three new presenters and gave 75 presentations to audiences around the state.
Support

NAMI Family Support Group is a peer-led support group for family members, caregivers and loved ones of individuals living with mental illness. Participants gain insight from the challenges and successes of others facing similar circumstances. In 2016 we trained 11 new facilitators. We now have groups in 7 communities. In two short years, this program has experienced rapid growth to meet the needs of families.

NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group is a free, peer-led support group for adults living with mental illness. The groups meet on a bi-weekly, weekly or monthly basis. By sharing experiences in a safe and confidential setting, members gain hope and develop relationships. NAMI Connection encourages empathy, productive discussion and a sense of community.

In 2016 we trained 10 new facilitators.

We now have Connection groups meeting in six communities.
NAMI Walks 2016 was held on May 21. Estimated crowds of more than 400 walkers and runners attended our event. Community partners staffed information tables, and musical entertainment and children’s activities added to the fun. Our Walk raised $80,409 this year! Thank you!

We would like to thank our 2016 Walk Sponsors for their generous support:

South Dakota Premier Sponsor: Avera

Silver Sponsors: Sanford, First Premier, Lewis, Pierre Indian Learning Center

Bronze Sponsors: Sands Drywall, First Bank & Trust, Southeastern Behavioral

Supporter Sponsors: Carroll Institute, Jason Foundation, Keystone, Johnson & Christensen Law Office, Sanford Psychiatry & Psychology Clinic, Preferred Printing


Media Sponsor: Townsquare Media
Annual NAMI South Dakota Conference

The 2016 Annual Conference was held in Sioux Falls in September, with 236 people in attendance. Three keynote speakers and twenty breakout presenters educated family members, people living with mental illness, and mental health professionals. 71 people received scholarships through the generosity of others.

We would like to thank our sponsors for the conference:

Avera, Sanford, SD Department of Social Services, Southeastern Behavioral Health, SD Quitline, Jason Foundation, Keystone, Lutheran Social Services, Helpline Center, Volunteers of America-Dakotas, Relationship University, SD Council on Mental Health Centers, Relationship University, PhARMA, and Transition Liaison Services Project

Our Nine Local Affiliate Groups

Our Signature Programs of education and support would not be possible without the efforts of our nine NAMI South Dakota affiliate groups. Volunteers in each of these communities answer phone calls, provide help and referrals, conduct community awareness activities and provide classes and support groups. Donations to NAMI SD support programs in each affiliate.

NAMI Aberdeen  NAMI Brookings  NAMI Huron
NAMI Northern Hills  NAMI Pierre  NAMI Rapid City
NAMI Sioux Falls  NAMI Watertown  NAMI Yankton
NAMI South Dakota Activities

Shown above: Representing NAMI South Dakota at The Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Health Board Conference; the annual NAMI SD Affiliate Leaders Retreat in Chamberlain; Mental Health Day at the Legislature in Pierre; raising awareness and reducing stigma on the radio.
Thank you to our many supporters and donors for partnering with us to provide help and hope to South Dakotans living with mental illness and their families and communities. Together, we are fulfilling our mission to provide education, advocacy and support.