



## **NAMI** *Louisville*

National Alliance on Mental Illness - Louisville, KY  
Louisville's Voice on Mental Illness

*Support Groups for those who  
care about someone with a  
brain disorder*

### ***Support Groups (Jefferson Co.)***

**Date:** 2nd Wednesday

**Place:** Sts. Mary & Elizabeth Hosp.  
1250 Bluegrass Ave.  
Kyle Pratt Community Room

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Date:** 2nd Saturday

**Place:** First Lutheran Church  
417 East Broadway (Door C)

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Date:** 3rd Thursday

**Place:** Christ Lutheran Church  
9212 Taylorsville Road

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Date:** 4th Sunday

**Place:** Christ Lutheran Church  
9212 Taylorsville Road

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

### ***Support Group for Parents of Children and Adolescents***

**Date:** 3rd Thursday

**Place:** Our Lady of Peace

**NO MEETING THIS MONTH**

### ***Support Group (Oldham County)***

**Date:** 2nd Tuesday

**Place:** LaGrange Community Ctr.  
307 W. Jefferson

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

## **Integrating Central State Hospital and Seven Counties Services into a System of Care**

At the NAMI Louisville Education Meeting on March 10, Dr. Howard Bracco, Ph.D., President & CEO of Seven Counties Services (SCS) gave a very well received address on the topic above. The mission of SCS is to build healthy communities by helping families and individuals who are affected by mental illness, developmental disabilities, addictions and abuse realize their potential. The vision of SCS is that all persons affected by mental illness, developmental disabilities, addictions and abuse live satisfying, productive and valued lives in our community.

For more information about the discussions at the Education Meeting, see the *President's Letter* on page two.

## **NAMI 2008 Annual Convention in ORLANDO! Friday, June 13 thru Monday, June 16**

Improved treatments, new social supports for employment, housing, and a host of other services needed to sustain recovery, significant progress in the realm of criminal justice, widespread education efforts, and a strong and vital consumer movement—these and other innovations are making possible what just a few years ago seemed unattainable for many people living with mental illness—RECOVERY!

Join other NAMI members to celebrate progress, map our course for the near—and long-term future, strategize on how to achieve our goals, water our grassroots, and revel in being a part of the NAMI family. For more information check out the website [www.nami.org/convention](http://www.nami.org/convention).

## **Wellspring Tenth Annual Derby Preview Party**

**Tuesday, April 22, 2008  
Millionaires Row 4, Churchill Downs  
Live and Silent Auctions**

Your support helps Wellspring provide housing and hope for adults with severe and persistent mental illness.



Call 502-637-4361, ext. 12  
[www.wellspring-house.org](http://www.wellspring-house.org)



1 in 5

**For information about NAMI call 502-245-5287**

**email: [namilouisville@netzero.net](mailto:namilouisville@netzero.net)**

**[www.namilouisville.org](http://www.namilouisville.org)**

**April, 2008 Volume 9 Issue 4**

As budgets are set for the next two years and plans are made for the future, it is important for us to consider any developments that may occur in our area. At our recent education meeting Dr. Bracco, CEO of Seven Counties Services (SCS) talked about DIVERTS and Integrating *Central State Hospital and Seven Counties Services into a System of Care*. While I have written about DIVERTS in a previous issue of our newsletter, I think it worthwhile to repeat some of the things I said then, and to enlarge on them in light of Dr. Bracco's comments.

The state program **DIVERTS**, an acronym for **D**irect **I**ntervention: **V**ital **E**arly **R**esponsive **T**reatment **S**ystem was developed collaboratively by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and NAMI. Its first phase began at Western State Hospital in 2006 and involved four Comp Care Centers in that region. Phase II is now a statewide program, still with NAMI involvement. As DIVERTS prepares to enter Phase II, the Department for Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services (DMH/MR) proposes four focus areas or goals:

1. reducing unnecessary hospitalizations in psychiatric facilities
2. diverting individuals from jail to treatment
3. reducing homelessness linked to mental illness & substance abuse
4. reducing suicides of persons identified as having serious mental illness

The overarching goal is to build community capacity in each region of the state for appropriately and effectively meeting the treatment needs of persons with mental illness and co-occurring disorders who are in acute distress. SCS received notification in August 2007 that DMH/MR had allocated \$121,000 for Phase II. While we do not know if the current administration will continue this direction, SCS does feel its plan is consistent with what it would seek to build in this community regardless of DIVERTS.

The SCS region has a long mission-driven history of developing and implementing services that are consistent with the objectives established for the DIVERTS program. In developing programs, SCS employs a systemic approach that seeks to understand the effect each element has on the system as a whole. Expansion of existing programs or creations of new initiatives are not stand-alone efforts. To fully realize the greatest potential outcomes, they should be viewed in an overall system of care that effectively integrates each of the elements in the continuum.

The overall system of care encompasses the work of many organizations and entities throughout the SCS region. The regional effort integrates the work of 25 affiliated groups, all effectively creating and delivering expert services that address the many specialized behavioral health needs of its area's population.

The desired outcomes of DIVERTS Phase II parallel the attainment of Seven Counties' mission. The creation of a seamless mental health system with a single point of

accountability will provide the best opportunity to fulfill the objectives of the DIVERTS initiative and, in so doing, best meet the needs of the priority population and realize SCS' mission. An effort to create such a system would be incomplete without the full integration of Central State Hospital (CSH) into SCS' current service system, inclusive of affiliates.

Currently, CSH and SCS operate under different authorities while serving the same consumers. Approximately 420 of Central State's 500 staff are Seven Counties' employees, supplied by contract. Except for the Hospital Director, virtually all senior managers and medical staff are Seven Counties' employees. CSH and SCS have already achieved a high level of collaboration. They have developed a memorandum of understanding that communicates shared values and commitments. There are many existing administrative and clinical links.

SCS operates the Center for Rehabilitation and Recovery (CRR), a 38-bed personal care home in the Flynn Building on the grounds of CSH, serving former CSH patients. CRR, funded through DMH/MR, provides 24-hour residential service, counseling and supervision to individuals who have traditionally had difficulty adjusting to community living after inpatient service. This is one collaborative effort that has reduced inpatient usage at the hospital.

SCS proposes that it will assume the management of CSH by assignment of the hospital budget to SCS' contract. SCS will meet all program requirements and standards and will manage them within the agreed budget assuring the availability of an agreed upon number of beds. Any substantive changes in programs, services, or capacities will be based upon assessed needs, utilization data, include consumer input, and be approved by the Department. A detailed plan for transitioning operations, services, and personnel will be developed in dialogue with DMH/MR and Cabinet for Health Services' officials.

The main advantages of this proposal are that by incorporating the hospital and SCS' operations under one management system, savings will be achieved that could then be reinvested to support an array of services, all of which make significant contributions to the four focus areas of DIVERTS Phase II.

SCS expects the following positive changes will occur as a result of its management of CSH:

- Continuity of care will result in higher quality outcomes and a further reduction in inpatient time and costs.
- Savings will be realized through economies of scale (merged maintenance, training, accounting, housekeeping, purchasing, management information, etc.).
- Increased dollars and staff will be available for additional community based *and* inpatient services to meet community needs.

(continued on page 3)



 **1 in 5 NAMI Louisville**

Louisville's Voice on Mental Illness  
10510 LaGrange Road, Bldg. 103  
Louisville, KY 40223-1228

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*Watch this space for information on our  
Summer Education Meeting.*

**NAMI CONNECTION** Recovery Support Groups are led by individuals who are in recovery themselves. NAMI Kentucky trains consumers of mental health services to facilitate these support groups. For information call the NAMI Kentucky office—502-245-5284.

**First Street Support Group**

**Date:** Mondays

**Place:** Seven Counties Services  
758 S. First Street

**Time:** 12:00—1:00 p.m.

**St. Matthews Support Group**

**Date:** Tuesdays

**Place:** Beargrass Christian Church  
4100 Shelbyville Rd, Rm 201

**Time:** 1:00—2:00 p.m.

**Depression-Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)**

**Date:** Tuesdays

**Place:** St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 2000 Douglass Blvd. Room 110, (corner of Douglas & Bardstown Road)

**Time:** 7:30-8:30 p.m. (coffee afterwards)

For more information contact  
Mike 635-6142 or Carl 479-9941  
<http://dbsalouisville.org>

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**April 5—Volunteer “Meet and Greet”, 1:00-3:00 p.m., NAMI Louisville office**

**April 25-27—F2F Train the Teacher, St. Louis, MO**

**June 13-18—NAMI 2008 National Convention, Orlando, FL**

**July 18-19—NAMI Kentucky Annual Conference, Mariott East, Louisville**

**Social Club**

If you missed the “St. Paddy’s Day Party” you missed a great time!

The next event is **April 20, 2-4:00 p.m.** Meet at the **Louisville Science Center**, 727 W. Main Street. We’ll have a snack and then see the IMAX movie “*Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs*”.

**Call 245-5287  
to make your reservation.**

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