August General Meeting Speaker

Ellen Schwarzenberg, San Joaquin County Public Defender, was the main Speaker at the August 2, 2018 General Meeting with a record number of NAMI SJC Members in attendance with standing room only.

Ms. Schwarzenberg graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania and received her law degree from the Santa Clara University School of Law in 1978; she started practicing law and has been serving as the SJC Public Defender. She has spent years in her profession and is highly respected among her peers and is considered a legend in the community. Ms. Schwarzenberg is known for her passion in defending mentally ill offenders.

Ms. Schwarzenberg had solicited questions from NAMI SJC Members prior to her August 2nd speaking engagement which she answered throughout her presentation in general terms. She provided the audience with an overview of her duties ranging from attending 3 competency hearings representing the interests of the mentally ill in different locations on a weekly basis. Additionally, she also provides legal representation to mentally ill offenders in court describing various hurdles in the current system.

She was very enthused that the Governor allocated $100 Million over three years for counties to enter into contracts with the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) to provide mental health treatment and wraparound services with an accompanying trailer bill AB 1810/ SB 844 which would allow DSH to contract with counties for the development of pre-trial diversion programs under Penal Code Section 1001.35. This code section allows a court to divert mentally offenders if specific criteria are met. When evaluating proposals priority will be given to programs that demonstrate the potential to reduce referrals to DSH (which costs $250,000 to $300,000 per patient per year) of felony Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST’s) that there are provisions of clinically appropriate or evidence-based mental health services across a continuum of care to meet the individual need of the diversion program participant as well as collaboration between community stakeholders and other partner government agencies in the diversion and a connection of individuals to services in the community after completion of the diversion program.

The trailer bill also provides additional language that one of the additional considerations will be the number of county felony IST referrals, which are very high in San Joaquin County according to Ms. Schwarzenberg. DSH may also provide funding for the cost of post-booking assessment of defendants who are likely to be found IST on felony charges to determine if the defendant will benefit from the diversion program. DSH can also provide funding for in-jail treatment prior to placement in the community for up to a certain number of days for defendants who have been approved by the court for the diversion program.

On Wednesday, August 15, 2018 NAMI San Joaquin County hosted a Regional Advocacy Meeting in conjunction with NAMI California on the Delta college campus. Marcel Harris the community engagement manager from NAMI California hosted the event and kicked it off with training on how to meet with, and correspond with our state legislators regarding bills that are beneficial to our causes. He covered everything from how to draft correspondence, to how to present in person, how to dress, how to speak, how to follow up etc. There was no stone left unturned, it was a very complete presentation.

Next we had introductions from the various organizations attending the meeting. The introductions included our own Edna Ealey representing NAMI San Joaquin, Michael Fields representing the Wellness Center, Heather Bradford representing Delta college. The other organizations represented are too numerous to list but no segment of the community was left out, San Joaquin County was very well represented.

Marcel next gave an update on the bills pending in the California legislature that affect our concerns.

After lunch we had a panel discussion with Francis Hutchins and Angelo Balmaceda from SJC BHS. They covered a wide range of topics that they are working with in conjunction with various organizations in the county, and the progress that is being made.

The last segment was breakout groups. Each group was able to discuss a different topic that was important to the members of that group and what could be done to implement changes to address the group’s concerns.

It was a fruitful day. There were many contacts and connections made, good ideas were shared and new friendships made.

NAMI San Joaquin County, would like to thank, Heather Bradford, John Weston, Marcel Harris & Zuleima Flores for their help in coordinating this event along with San Joaquin Delta College and NAMI CA for hosting the event.

Aug. Gen. Meeting Cont’d from Pg. 1

included in the contract. (SJC will have to demonstrate a 10% match). Submitted by: Gertie Kandris

Quotes

I know that if I could really understand mental illness, then it would be appropriate to make a big career shift. I would become a therapist and a leader in terms of mental illness. But I’m not in the position. **John Forbes Nash, Jr.** an American Mathematician, Researcher, Professor who lived with Schizophrenia

I think one thing is that anybody who’s had to contend with mental illness - whether it's depression, bipolar illness or severe anxiety, whatever - actually has a fair amount of resilience in the sense that they've had to deal with suffering already, personal suffering. **Kay Redfield Jamison** an American clinical psychologist and writer living with Bipolar

We are **strongest** when we are **united** for the same cause.

**Our cause:** Better lives for those affected by mental illness.

**Become a NAMI Member!**
NAMI Connection is a recovery support group program for adults living with mental illness. Groups are led by trained facilitators living in recovery, providing a place that offers respect, understanding, encouragement, & hope in a casual and relaxed approach to sharing the challenges and successes of coping with mental illness. Meetings are held at the following locations & times:

**Lodi**
Lodi Memorial Hospital - Main Board Room
975 S Fairmont Ave, Lodi, CA 95240
Every Friday 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Contact: Drew Strachan (209) 366-4923

**Stockton**
SJC Behavioral Health 1212 N. California
1st Thursday each month at 5:30 PM
Contact: NAMI Office 209.468.3755

- Spanish Connection Group
  SJC Behav. Health Serv. 1212 N. California
  Every Friday 5:00—6:30pm
  America Villasna (209) 356 - 8793

- LGBTQ Connection Support Group
  SJC Behavioral Health 1212 N. California
  1st & 3rd Friday 5:30 - 7:00p
  Contact: NAMI Office 209.468.3755

- Wellness Center Connection Group
  Saturday’s 10:00am – 11:30am
  The Wellness Center
  1109 N. California St., Stockton
  Contact: (209) 451-3977

**Manteca**

- Doctors Hospital of Manteca
  1205 E. North St. - Manteca
  1st & 3rd Monday each month
  6 - 7:30p.m.
  Contact: NAMI Office: 209) 468-3755

- Healthy Connections
  35 E. 10th St., Suite. B2 - Tracy, Ca. 95376
  Every 2nd & 4th Friday from 6 to 7:30
  Contact: NAMI Office: 209) 468-3755

**Lathrop High NAMI On Campus**
Students from Lathrop High School, Representing and promoting the LHS NAMI on Campus Club during their Back-to-School-Night (Thursday August 30, 2018). Many of the club participants were not available for the pictures.

In the photo (L-R): Ana De La Cruz - Club Treasurer, and Will Smith - Club Commissioner.

In the photo: Isis Payton - Club Secretary and Will (again).

Photos taken at the recent Peer-to-Peer Training, hosted by NAMI SJC. The graduated participants are:

In the photo below: L-R
Edna Ealey, America Villasna, Yolanda Dawson Medrano, Tom O’Neel, Pat Barrett, Wendy Knowles (State Trainer) and Vaunita Duval.
**NAMI SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY Family SUPPORT GROUP & Board Meetings**

**Stockton**

**Family Support Group**  
4th Thursday each month except holidays*:  
Sept 27 & Oct 25 6:00 PM  
**Contact:** Irene Sherman 209-368-1469  
Or Jocelyn Spurgeon 209-369-5936  
**Location:** Lodi Avenue Baptist Church Fellowship Hall—2301 W. Lodi Avenue, Lodi, Ca 95242  Down the street from Raley’s

**Manteca**

**Family Support Group**  
**Returning Soon!!!**  
call the NAMI office 468-3755  
**Location:** Doctors Hospital of Manteca 1205 E. North St. - Manteca

**Stockton**

**Spanish Family Support Group**  
Last Friday each Month 5:30—7pm  
**Contact:** Jessica Alvarez (209) 513-2373  
or Karen Valles (408) 829 - 1565  
**Location:** SJC Behavioral Health 1212 N. California St. Suite B—Stockton

**Tracy**

**Family Support Group**  
is Back!!! 2nd Tuesday each month  
Sept 11 & Oct 9 6 - 7:30  
**Location:** Healthy Connections 35 E. 10th St., Suite B2 - Tracy, Ca. 95376  
**SUPPORT GROUP & Board Meetings**  
3rd Thursday  
Sept 20 & Oct 18 6:00 PM  
Meetings held at:  
SJC Behavioral Health Board Mtgs.  
1212 N. California St. Suite A & B Stockton

**SJC Behavioral Health Board Mtgs.**  
3rd Wednesday each month  
Sept 19—Oct 17 5:00 PM  
San Joaquin County Behavioral Health 1212 N. California St. Suite A & B

**S.J. Co. Behavioral Health Services**  
**Family Advocate:**  
Richard Black  
209-401-6087

**NAMI SJ Board Mtgs.**  
3rd Thursday  
Sept 20 & Oct 18 6:00 PM  
Meetings held at:  
SJC Behavioral Health Services  
1212 N. California St. Suite A & B Stockton

**NAMI SJ C Behavioral Health Board Mtgs.**  
3rd Wednesday each month  
Sept 19—Oct 17 5:00 PM  
San Joaquin County Behavioral Health 1212 N. California St. Suite A & B

**NAMI SJ Board Mtgs.**  
3rd Thursday  
Sept 20 & Oct 18 6:00 PM  
Meetings held at:  
SJC Behavioral Health Services  
1212 N. California St. Suite A & B Stockton

**S.J. Co. Behavioral Health Services**  
**Family Advocate:**  
Richard Black  
209-401-6087

**NAMI SJC Membership Drive**  
Use the form on this letter to submit your renewal or new membership dues. **Your membership and support are essential** to NAMI San Joaquin County and enable our affiliate to provide education, support, advocacy and to grow.

---

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
- **Group:** NAMI San Joaquin, NAMI California and NAMI  
- **Type of Membership:** Individual, Household  
- **Payable to:** NAMI San Joaquin County  
- **Address:** 35 E. 10th St., Suite B2 - Tracy, Ca. 95376  
- **Website:** www.namisanjoaquin.org  
- **P.O. Box:** 448  
- **City:** Stockton, Ca 95201  
- **State:** CA  
- **ZIP:**  
- **Phone:**  
- **Email:**  
- **Total Enclosed:** $________

Please consider giving an additional $25 or more to NAMI San Joaquin County. Your donation supports our local services for those with mental illness and their family members.

- **MEMBERSHIP IS FOR:** NAMI SJC, NAMI California and NAMI.
- **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:** Membership is for NAMI SJC, NAMI California and NAMI.
- **New Member:** $60  
- **Household:** $40  
- **Individual:** $36  
- **Open Door (Limited Income):** $5  
- **Additional Donation:** $________

Please consider giving an additional $25 or more to NAMI San Joaquin County. Your donation supports our local services for those with mental illness and their family members.

**Please mail this form to:**  
NAMI San Joaquin County  
P.O. Box 448  
Stockton, CA 95201

NAMI San Joaquin County is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.