### Presenters Scheduled for 2009

**January 5, 2009**

*“Family Perspectives: A Candid Talk with Rosa Warder, MFA, BHCS Family Relations Manager”*

Rosa Warder, MFA, BHCS Family Relations Manager

**February 2, 2009**

*“Mental Health Updates”*

Marye Thomas, M.D., *Director of Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services*

NAMI Tri-Valley is pleased to present Marye Thomas, M.D., Director of Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services. This is her 4th year to present at NAMI Tri-Valley. Please come meet Dr. Thomas and learn about our county mental health system updates as well as the latest on the Mental Health Services Act.

**March 2, 2009**

*“Family/Caregiver & Patients’ Rights Advocacy”*

Beverly Bergman, *Family/Caregiver Advocate, Mental Health Association, Alameda County*

Beverly Bergman is a 14-year staff member of the Mental Health Association in Alameda County. Her expertise as benefits advocate for 11 years successfully helped over 500 people receive SSI/SSDI. The past 2 years, Beverly has advocated for family/caregivers by providing support, advice, education, advocacy, information and referrals. Beverly guides families through dispute resolutions and assists with filing complaints. Other services include help with completing forms, explanation how the Alameda County mental health system works and strategies when the system doesn’t work. Beverly has a family member with a mental illness and understands first hand the challenges in obtaining help for a loved one while maintaining the health of the family/caregiver.

Francesca Tenenbaum, *Director, Patients’ Rights Advocates of Alameda County Mental Health Association, Alameda County*

Francesca Tenenbaum is Director of Patients’ Rights Advocates Programs for Alameda County and San Mateo County. She has 18 years of experience in advocacy and has been a Patients’ Rights Advocate for over 11 years. Currently there are 10 advocates in Alameda County and 3 advocates in San Mateo.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 6, 2009</td>
<td>&quot;Wellness, Recovery and Beyond&quot;</td>
<td>Jim Sondecker, LCSW Associate Administrator, John George Psychiatric Pavilion</td>
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<td>Jim Sondecker, LMSW, is Associate Administrator for Fairmont Hospital and John George Psychiatric Pavilion. Mr. Sondecker has experience in executive management and clinical operations in acute specialty hospitals. On staff with the Alameda County Medical Center, his management style is “hands-on”, quality, customer service and positive outcome oriented.</td>
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<td>May 4, 2009</td>
<td>&quot;Ask The Doc&quot;</td>
<td>Daniel Kostalnick, M.D.</td>
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<td>NAMI Tri-Valley is pleased to present Daniel Kostalnick, M.D. Dr. Kostalnick will field questions from the audience on a variety of topics such as the brain, medication and psychiatric disorders. Dr. Kostalnick is a board-certified psychiatrist with a private practice in Pleasanton. Please note that Dr. Kostalnick’s information is for educational purposes only and is in no way intended to diagnose.</td>
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<td>June 1, 2009</td>
<td>&quot;Housing as Housing and Services as Services&quot;</td>
<td>Robert Ratner, MPH, M.D. Housing Services Director, Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services</td>
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<td>An estimated 1,000 individuals with serious mental illness are homeless each night in Alameda County. Between 20-50% of individuals that receive public mental health services throughout the United States experience one or more episodes of homelessness during their lifetime. Nationally, an estimated one-third of homeless individuals have a serious mental health problem. The largest mental health provider in the United States is the Los Angeles County Jail. How did we get to this place? What we can do about it? How can we help family members with mental illness find and keep housing?</td>
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<td>July 6, 2009</td>
<td>&quot;Criminal Justice Mental Health Updates&quot;</td>
<td>Millie Swafford, LCSW Director, Criminal Justice Mental Health &amp; CONREP Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services</td>
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<td>Millie Swafford, L.C.S.W., is Director of Alameda County's Criminal Justice Mental Health and Conditional Release Program. She will present updates on the Court Advocacy Project, Behavioral Health Court, a website link to BHCS and other websites to help families contact jail mental health providers, the budget audits impact on Criminal Justice Mental Health, and address challenges that remain for a person with mental illness that is in the criminal justice system.</td>
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August 3, 2009

“In Our Own Voice Presentation”

In Our Own Voice (IOOV) is a unique public education program developed by NAMI, in which two trained consumer speakers share compelling personal stories about living with mental illness and achieving recovery.

October 5, 2009

"The Soloist"

NAMI Tri-Valley will be showing the film “The Soloist” at the October meeting. The Soloist is based on the true story of Nathaniel Ayers, a musical prodigy who develops schizophrenia during his second year at Juilliard School. Ayers becomes homeless in the streets of downtown Los Angeles, while still playing the violin and the cello. The movie was based on the book of the same name by Steve Lopez, a Los Angeles Times columnist. In July at the NAMI National Convention in San Francisco, Mr. Ayers was honored with the Rona and Ken Purdy Award for helping to decrease the stigma of mental illness by telling his story.

November 2, 2009

"Children's Mental Health: A Panel Discussion"

Linda Wurzbach, Special Education Consultant

Suzi Glorioso, Parent and Advocate

Dana Girard, Clinical Psychology Doctoral Candidate pursuing a Psych.D.

NAMI Tri-Valley has invited three very knowledgeable individuals to offer their expertise and answer questions you may have about advocating for families of children diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder. Many people associate serious mental illnesses and/or serious emotional disturbances with teens and adults. However, some children as young as 4 years old are being diagnosed with a variety of brain disorders and, with the right support systems, are able to better their lives.

Linda Wurzbach is a Special Education Consultant, providing expertise in education laws and regulations and helping parents, professionals, and teachers to collectively work together on children's mental illness issues.

Suzi Gloroso is a parent of a child with a serious mental illness and has created the twice-a-month support group, Parent Resource and Support Group, for parents of children suspected of or diagnosed with a mood disorder.

Dana Girard, a Clinical Psychology doctoral candidate pursuing her Psych.D., will talk about her dissertation titled: “Discovering Inner Strength During Chaos: The Impact of Children Diagnosed with Mental Disabilities on Parental Caregivers.”