

NAMI Genesee County Annual Report 2024

Our affiliate continued rebuilding after Covid 19, when we lost membership. We added new Board members and replaced officers who had resigned. The Board voted to go from monthly in-person meetings at the Flint Library to virtual Zoom meetings in April, increasing attendance.

We continued our phone line, responding to many requests for information and advocacy, some from out of state. Our outreach and education efforts included providing information tables at six community events. We provided discussion panels at the three 2024 Genesee County Crisis Intervention Trainings for police officers and first responders. We had Family Support groups twice a month and Connections Support groups once a month. Twelve participants graduated from our fall semester Family-to-Family course of eight classes. We published a monthly newsletter that was e-mailed to more than 150 addresses every month and mailed to two addresses. The newsletter lists our events, community resources, research reports, book reviews and educational information about mental health issues.

Our affiliate has had representation on the Mental Health and Substance Use Task Force of the Greater Flint Health Coalition since the Task Force was founded in 2002. The Task Force is currently working to educate the community about addiction disorders in an attempt to reduce addictions, get people into treatment, and save lives. One of our members sits on the Recipient Rights Committee at McLaren Health Center. She also talked to TTI about NAMI Genesee County services.

A community member, after investigating what we do, approached us asking for permission to have a fundraiser for our affiliate. He proposed that we help him organize and implement a suicide awareness event, "Walk/Run for the Appreciation of Life." Held at the Clio City Park on May 11. It was well attended despite rainy weather and was a very successful fundraiser for our affiliate. Adam Castillo subsequently was appointed to our Board.

We participated in the annual Soberfest at the Union Ball Field on July 21 by providing an information table. We had two representatives at the Ann Arbor NAMIwalks on September 8. We paid the fees to the Longway Planetarium for Connections participants for two programs.

Board members December 31, 2024, were: President, Ramona Deese; Vice President, Tia Coles; Secretary, Tarnesa Martin; Treasurer, Shawna Sims; Members at large: Adam Castillo, Lacey Benjamin, April Cook-Hawkins, Latressa Gordon, Dante Jennings, Mark Langdon, and Shearese Stapleton. Special recognition goes to Karen Henry, former Board member, who schedules and facilitates our education programs and support programs, and answers the phone line. She provides advocacy for many callers and serves as a knowledgeable speaker who represents NAMI well to community organizations.

Major financial support for the Walk/Run for the Appreciation of Life" was provided by Genesee Health System, A.E. Castillo Investments, Amsted Industries, Dort Financial Credit Union, Happy Camper Ice Cream, Hurley Medical Center, Neuestra Coltura, Smoke Rattle and Roll, UAW Local 598. Knights of Columbus provides funding for our education programs. Ramona Deese, President