

Common Bond

(810)232-6498 – www.namigenesee.org namigenesee@gmail.com September 2025

If your address changes, please call (810)232-6498 and leave your name and correct mailing address and/or e-mail address.

Mailing address: NAMI Genesee County, P.O. Box 1320, Flint, MI 48501-1320

If any Genesee County public school is closed because of bad weather, our support meetings are cancelled that evening.

Important Notice: NAMI Genesee County Support Meetings Date Change We offer in person support in Genesee County.

Call ahead is not required.

Family Support Second and fourth *Thursdays* 7-8:30 p.m. at McLaren Oak Bridge Center off S. Linden Rd., 4448 Oak Bridge Dr., Flint 48532. (810)232-6498 Family support is for relatives and friends of people living with a mental health disorder.

NAMI Connections is for people with a mental disorder. Meetings are second *Thursdays* 7-8:30 p.m. at McLaren Oak Bridge Center off the east side of S. Linden Rd., 4448 Oak Bridge Dr., Flint 48532 (810)232-6498

NAMI G.C. Board Meetings, Zoom, first Mondays, 7 p.m.

NAMI support groups, classes and most activities are free of charge. Reminder: Please do not discuss anything heard in a meeting anywhere else. NAMI does not give medical or legal advice. Please consult your doctor, pharmacist or lawyer.

NAMI F-2-F Classes

NAMI Family-to-Family classes are for family and friends of adults with mental disorders to help you with your loved one and deal with the stress of care-giving. The course is 8 weeks, 2 ½ hours. Pre-registration is required. (810)232-6498. We plan to start the next classes in the fall.

Peer-to-Peer classes are for persons living with mental illness. The series of 8 classes is to provide education about your illness and help you maintain your mental health. Call (810)232-6498 for information.

NAMI Basics OnDemand is a free, six-session online education program for family who provide care for youth aged 22 or younger who are experiencing mental health symptoms. Information and registration: www.basics.nami.org

NAMI Homefront Mental Health Resources for Military Service Members, Veterans and Their Families is a free online suite of resources designed to increase understanding, communication, wellness and advocacy skills.

www.homefrontresources.nami.org

NAMIhomefront online is 6

classes for veterans' family

members on nami.org

NAMI Provider Training for mental health professionals, provides education to increase confidence and understanding of people with mental health issues. We can provide speakers by request.

"Ending the Silence" is a free of charge online presentation about mental disorders to be used in schools. www.ets.nami.org

Please Join The I Care Walk

NAMI Genesee County is having the second annual "I Care Walk" Saturday, September 27, 2-6 p.m. at the Church Without Walls,6202 Dupont St. Flint 48505. The Walk's purpose is to provide education about mental illness and increase NAMI support services in Genesee County and other areas we serve. There will food. be vendors. speakers, fellowship and fun for families. There is a non-mandatory \$20 donation for the Walk. All proceeds will benefit NAMI Genesee County. Call (810)232-6498 for information. ##

September is Suicide Prevention Month

People of all ages, sexes, and ethnicities can be at risk for suicide. The main risk factors for suicide are:

- A history of suicide attempts
- Depression, other mental disorders, or substance use disorder
- Chronic pain
- Family history of a mental disorder or substance use
- Family history of suicide
- Exposure to family violence, including physical or sexual abuse

- Presence of guns or other firearms in the home
- Having recently been released from prison or jail (Cont. pg 2)

NAMI COMMON BOND

The NAMI Common Bond is published monthly with exceptions by NAMI Genesee County. PO Box 1320. Flint, MI 48501-1320 Ph. 810-232-6498. Editor: Ramona Deese, Circulation: 157 copies via e-mail **Board Members and Officers:** President, Dave Ballenberger Vice President, Tia Coles Recording Secretary, Tarnesa Martin Treasurer, Elena Hernandez Adam Castillo Lacey Benjamin **April Cook-Hawkins** Ramona Deese Latressa Gordon Dante Jennings Mark Langdon Zoe Lynch Shearese Stapleton Danielle Snell Director Emeritus, Erma Barber Family Support Group Facilitators Ramona Deese, Karen Henry, Maureen Post, Dave Ballenberger, Jennifer Marx, Suzanne Kellom, Linda Howard

Brain Bank Contact, (617)855-2400 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Maureen Post, Karen Henry

NAMI Connections Facilitators

Annual Dues are shared between NAMI Genesee County, NAMI Michigan and NAMI. Memberships are for one year and include all benefits including newsletters. Your dues support NAMI's mission. You may join at www.nami.org (specify NAMI Genesee County) and pay dues on-line using a credit card, or you can fill out and mail the form below with a check. Please make checks payable to NAMI Genesee County. Mail to P.O. Box 1320, Flint, MI 48501-1320 "Open Door" membership \$5 Household membership \$60 Individual membership \$40 (NAMI Genesee County is a 501c3, non-profit, tax exempt corporation. Dues and donations may be tax deductible as allowed by law.)

NAME (s)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
ADDRESS	
CITY, STATE, ZIP _	
Telephone e-mail	

Please go to nami.org and pay dues to NAMI Genesee County.

Exposure, either directly or indirectly, to others' suicidal behavior, such as that of family members, peers, or celebrities

Although risk factors for suicide are important to keep in mind, someone who is showing warning signs of suicide may be at higher for danger and need immediate attention.

Stressful life events (such as the loss of a loved one, legal troubles, or financial difficulties) and interpersonal stressors (such as shame. harassment, bullying, discrimination, or relationship troubles) may contribute to suicide risk, especially when they occur along with suicide risk factors.

Warning signs that someone may be at immediate risk for attempting suicide include:

- Talking about wanting to die or wanting to kill themselves
- Talking about feeling empty or hopeless or having no reason to live
- Talking about feeling trapped or feeling that there are no solutions
- Feeling unbearable emotional or physical pain
- Talking about being a burden to others

- Withdrawing from family and
- Giving away important possessions
- Saying goodbye to friends and family
- Putting affairs in order, such as making a will
- Taking great risks that could lead to death, such as driving extremely fast
 - Talking or thinking about death often
 - Displaying extreme mood swings, suddenly changing from very sad to very calm or happy.
 - Making a plan or looking for ways to kill themselves, such as searching for lethal methods online. stockpiling pills, or buying a gun
 - Talking about feeling great guilt or shame
 - Using alcohol or drugs more often
 - Acting anxious or agitated
 - Changing eating or sleeping habits
 - Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge

Create a safety plan or crisis plan—with specific response instructions for what to do and how to get help when having thoughts about suicide. Stay connected and follow up with people who are at risk. Increase safe storage of lethal means. Source: National Institute of Mental Health website. nimh.nih.gov

Local GHS Crisis Services
810-257-3740, 1-877-346-3648
www.genhs.org/helpnow
National Suicide Hotline 988
NAMI Helpline
1-800-950-6264
Text NAMI to 741741 to
reach help in a crisis

Anyone Can Become Addicted, Know the Signs

Addiction doesn't care how old you are, how much money you make, or the color of your skin; it has no bias. While the initial choice to use a drug is often voluntary, the powerful effects of addiction makes it very hard to stop, even if someone wants to.

Addiction is a chronic and treatable disease. Using drugs repeatedly changes the brain, including the parts that help exert self-control. That's why someone may not be able to stop using drugs, even if they know the drug is causing harm, or feel ready to stop.

Some common behaviors of addiction and substance use disorder include:

- 1. Trying to stop or cut down on drug use, but not being able to.
- 2. Using drugs because of being angry or upset with other people.
- 3. Taking one drug to get over the effects of another.
- 4. Making mistakes at school or on the job because of using drugs.
- 5. Drug use hurting relationships with family and friends.

- 6. Being scared at the thought of running out of drugs.
- 7. Stealing drugs or money to pay for drugs.
- 8. Being arrested or hospitalized for drug use.
- 9. Developing a tolerance, and needing larger amounts of drugs or alcohol to get high.
 Overdosing on drugs. Source: SAMHSA "Find Treatment for Drugs ##

For help finding treatment, call GHS Access Center (810)257-3740 or UCAN in Genesee County (810)397-7375 ucanmichigan@gmail.com

Suicide Prevention Website www.LetsTalkGenesee.com

GHS Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center, New Location

The new Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center located at the east side of the new GHS services center, 1040 W. Bristol Rd., Flint 48507 is now open. Hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Phone (810)496-5500 (877)-346-3648

NAMI has updated the information about PTSD on www.nami.org. Look for "Trauma and PTSD: Dispelling Myths, Inspiring Hope." ##

Websites to Help Locate Missing Kids

www.missingkids.org
1-800-843-5678
National Runaway Safeline
www.1800runaway.org
1-800-785-2929
Adult missing person information
on www.nami.org ##

Michigan Disability Rights for Medicaid Eligible Children

Due to a lawsuit, Michigan is providing more services for kids with mental health conditions. Information: (800)288-5923

Free health care career training: (810)232-2228 geneseehealthcarecareers.org

Do You Need Support Services?

The Genesee County Prevention Coalition has a Partners in Prevention Portal with 37 links to help for everything from abuse to Veterans services. (810)285-9047 www.info@theGCPC.org ##

One Stop Housing

Comprehensive housing placement services for Genesee County people who are experiencing homelessness, at risk of becoming homeless or have special needs.

www.ccsgc.org/onestophousing
OneStopHousing@ccsgc.org ##

Domestic Violence Hotline:
(800)799-7923

Do You Need Help? Dial 211 for information to get human services help. Findhelpgenesee.org

Information for most problems, food, clothing, housing, medical care, etc. ##

GHS New Outpatient Therapy Services Location, Davison

9171 Lapeer Rd., Suite 200, Davison 48423. Therapy for anxiety, depression, grief, family problems, worry and stress. Park behind the building. ##

Under Stress and Need to Talk?

"Warm Line" Peer support 10 a.m.-2 a.m. 7 days a week. 1(888)733-7753 ##

Vista Drop-in Center

Genesee Valley Mall, Open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday (810)766-7085 www.vistacenter.info Activities and support for mentally ill and developmentally disabled adults.

Disaster Distress Helpline

Text TALKS WITH US to 66746 Available 24 hours, 7 days. ##

Mothers of Joy University

mothersofjoyuniversity@gmail.com Support and information for parents.

Help to Find Health Care Insurance For Kids

Greater Flint Health Coalition (810)853-6458 ##

Autism Alliance of Michigan www.lookingthroughthepuzzle.com

Center for Parent Information and Resources: 1 (800)552-4821

www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance Meetings

Call before attending. Faithbased, Holy Family Church, Grand Blanc, 6:30-8 p.m. first and third Thursdays. (810)347-4706

NAMI Helpline Resource Directory

From nami.org on the left side of the home page, click on NAMI Helpline, then on Resource Directory.

Help for Veterans

<u>Veteran's Support for</u> <u>Servicepersons:</u> <u>Crisis Line</u> (800)273-8255 ext. 1, or text to 838255, or click the Veterans tab www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

National Call Center for Homeless
Veterans (877)424-3838
Genesee County Dept. of
Veterans Services counselor
available Mon. 8-6 & Tues. 9-3
(810)257-3068
1101 Beach St., Flint 48502
Saginaw County Veteran's Affairs
Call for veteran's peer support
group information (810)257-3068

<u>Disabled American Veterans</u> (810)742-9220

M, T, W, Th, F 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Transportation office for disabled veterans (810)742-9220

NAMI Homefront Mental Health Resources for Military Service Members, Veterans and Families available online 24/7 days. www.homefrontresources.nami.org

Medications

Reach an FDA pharmacist 888-463-6332. FDA Medwatch 800-332-1088 to

report adverse drug reactions.
To check on-line pharmacies:
Safe.pharmacy/buy-safely or
BeSafeRx:KnowY ourOnlinePharmacy
vipps.nabp.net
LegitScript.com

To check licensing of Canadian pharmacies: cipa.com/verifypharmacy Canadian law allows generic versions of drugs to be only 80% as effective as brand names. U.S. generics must be essentially equivalent to the brands.

Assistance with Medical Costs

Assistance Fund 1-(855)-845-3663

SAMHSA 1-(800)-662-4357 referrals to low-cost and sliding scale mental health care www.findtreatment.SAMHSA.gov

www.needymeds.org 1(800)503-6897 non-profit information source for patient assistance programs for medications and free or low-cost clinics.

To check board certifications and licensing of medical professionals, www.michigan.gov/my/license

Advocacy for Prisoners

www.prisoneradvocacy.org (734)761-8283

To locate a prisoner: www.michigan.gov/corrections/click "offender search"

Citizens for Prison Reform Resource Guide: www.micpr.org

Promise of Hope (810)275-2690 www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org support group for family members Smart Recovery Family & Friends support group for families of persons with addiction disorders. Saturdays 2-3 p.m. at the Bridge Church, G-3326 Corunna Rd. Flint 48532 (810)285-9047, info@thegcpc.org

Help for Sobriety Court Members www.partners4recovery.org

UCAN (United Community Addiction Network) (810)397-7175 in Genesee County ucanmichigan@gmail.com

Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, 855-3784-3733 or text 55753

Website for opioid information, addiction treatment, etc. www.KnowMoreGenesee.org

OK2SAY@mi.gov Hotline to report threatened suicide by teenagers or threats to schools.

Voices for Children Advocacy Ctr.

<u>www.voicesforac.org</u> (810)238-3333 Ext. 209 ##

Public Mental Health System
Board Meetings, September
Genesee Health System services
1040 W. Bristol Rd., Flint MI
48507 Services: (810)257-3705
Meetings are held in the Board
room on the second floor.
Consumer Council, 9/15
Board of Directors 9/25, 4 p.m.
Region 10, Fri, 9/19, 9 a.m., Port
Huron

Saginaw Co. CMHA Board

(989)797-3400 sccmha.org Meetings are held at 500 Hancock St, Saginaw, Michigan 48602 Board of Directors, 9/8, 5:15 Recipient Rights 9/17, 5:15 Governance, 9/18, 5:15 Ends, 9/22, 5:15 Executive Limitations, 9/24, 5:15 CMHA Walk A Mile in My Shoes Rally, 9/17