



**NAMI**

National Alliance on Mental Illness

**Alger/Marquette**

NAMI Alger/Marquette Affiliate Newsletter

Summer 2017

## Notes From the Chair

By Cindy K. Bertucci, Chairperson NAMI Alger/Marquette

**Hello everyone! It is Spring and summer is on its way however it seems to be taking its sweet time. However, when it starts to get hot I probably will be complaining it is to HOT! No matter what just enjoy it as it could be a lot worse. So I am happy to live in the UP.**

**Again there has been a lot going on with our new government in so many areas. Of course there is a lot of concern for our medical coverage and of course including our mental health benefits. There will be some articles and links you can read to get more information and there may be somethings you can voice your opinion and if need be contact our government officials as they need to know our interests, wishes & needs.**

**We all know it seems mental health is the first thing to be cut so we need to work together on this. NAMI National/State are fighting for mental health, as they always do. Please take time to read what NAMI is working on for all of us whether you are the individual with a mental illness or family/friend/etc. of such a person.**

**I attended our NAMI Michigan State Conference on May 18 & 19<sup>th</sup> in Livonia. This was my first time at any NAMI Conference and it was a wonderful experience. I attended the sessions on making our affiliate better than ever. I was very proud to represent our UP NAMI family. There were many ideas for fund-raising and connecting with our NAMI Members (even the ones who are not members) we can work together.**

**Please don't forget our Support Group meetings as we would love to see as many people as possible. These meetings can help in so many ways and are confidential. Thanks to everyone that keeps volunteering to make our life even better.**

# **CALL TO ADVOCACY!**

## **New CBO Score on AHCA Confirms Devastating Losses to Mental Health System**

**BY Lauren Gleason, Director, Public Relations & Media, Communications & Public Affairs  
NAMI National**

**ARLINGTON, Va., May 25, 2017 – Today, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) noted that the newly released Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score confirms devastating losses to mental health care in the House-passed American Health Care Act (AHCA).**

**“Under the American Health Care Act, it is estimated that 23 million Americans will lose coverage for mental health care by 2026, including 14 million who will no longer be covered by Medicaid,” said Mary Giliberti, CEO of NAMI. “This will force people with mental illness out of work, onto the streets, and in our jails and emergency rooms. All this will do is shift costs and overwhelm local communities, emergency rooms and law enforcement.”**

**According to the CBO report, the AHCA will slash \$834 billion from Medicaid over ten years. “Medicaid is the cornerstone of the public mental health system. Cuts of this magnitude will deplete mental health services and jeopardize care for people with the most severe mental health conditions,” said Giliberti.**

**The CBO also makes it clear that premiums for health insurance will drop for younger, healthier people because older people and people with chronic conditions, like mental illness, will be forced to carry the burden and be charged much more for coverage. In addition, states will be able to allow health plans to no longer cover mental health treatment.**

**“People shouldn’t be charged more because they have a mental health condition and it’s outrageous that mental health coverage could be optional. No one would ever consider making coverage for diabetes or heart disease optional,” said Giliberti, “Mental illness does not discriminate by political party and it’s an issue that has strong bipartisan support. This CBO score makes it clearer than ever that the Senate should reject the AHCA and work to improve, not dismantle, our nation’s mental health system.”**

### **CONTACT YOUR LAWMAKERS:**

**CONGRESSMAN JACK BERGMAN Phone # 906-273-2227**

**SENATOR DEBBIE STABENOW Phone # (906) 228-8756**

**SENATOR GARY PETERS Phone # (906) 226-4554**

## **REQUEST FOR URGENT ACTION:**

**Please contact your House and Senate members urging them to make sensible changes to the final 298 boilerplate language. Timing is critical, we have roughly ONE WEEK to put pressure on lawmakers as they finalize the FY18 budget. We are asking that you reach out to your lawmakers between now and June 2, urging them to remove the Senate language in Section 234 and to not include health plan run pilot programs in the final version of section 298.**

**We also need you to ask that the members of your Board of Directors, your staff, and your community partners make those same contacts - SIMPLY FORWARD THEM THE ACTION ALERT. These contacts are critical, legislators must hear from us in order to counter the efforts by others opposed to the public management of the state's publicly sponsored behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disability services and supports system.**

**Below are quick talking points:**

**REMOVE LANGUAGE - Section 234 of the Senate DHHS budget, specifically language referring to total Medicaid benefit and financial integration by 9/30/20, which would transfer all Medicaid resources to Medicaid Health plans.**

**This language predetermines the outcome of the process without any input from pilots or other measurables and completely ignores the 298 work group process and the will of the people.**

**INCLUDE LANGUAGE - Ensure that the policy and management role for Michigan's Medicaid behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disability services and supports system remains public.**

### **Concerns Regarding a Health Plan Run Pilot**

**Health Plans do not have a good track record managing behavioral health services**

**Mild/moderate services track record**

**Duals initiative**

**Less money available for services**

**Higher overhead cost**

**What are we trying to accomplish?**

**What are we measuring? Outcomes/metrics?**

### **CONTACT Phone Numbers:**

**SENATOR TOM CASPERSON (517) 373-7840**

**STATE REP. SCOTT DIANDA (906) 369-3338**

**OFFICE OF JOHN KIEVELA (517) 373-0498**

## **New Genetic Research on Depression in Australia yields findings**

### **As reported by ABC News Australia:**

A gene has been linked to depression in a study which researchers hope will shed light on the little-understood condition.

To investigate the mental illness which affects over 300 million people worldwide, researchers studied the genetic makeup of a group of almost 2,000 people in an isolated village in the south west Netherlands.

The team at the Erasmus University Medical Centre in the Netherlands and the Russian Academy of Sciences in Novosibirsk found that the NKPD1 gene accounted for a 4 per cent rise in the risk of experiencing the symptoms of depression. These include including feelings of worthlessness, a lack of concentration and fatigue.

A person's genetic make-up is believed to play a role in the likelihood that they will develop the mental illness, however a single gene has not been categorically linked to the condition and environmental factors are also thought to play a part.

The team at the Erasmus University Medical Centre in the Netherlands and Russian Academy of Sciences in Novosibirsk sequenced the DNA of participants to make their findings published in the journal 'Biological Psychiatry'. The data originated from the Erasmus Ruchpen Family study into 22 families who have been isolated in The Netherlands until recent decades. Their small gene pool therefore amplifies rare variants, including NKPD1.

The results were then replicated in a sample of people which represented the general population. However, different variants within the NKPD1 were identified.

"We are the first to show a possible genetic connection in this respect," co-author Dr Najaf Amin of the Erasmus University Medical Centre said in a statement.

He added that he hopes the findings will enable researchers to target depression on a molecular level, and allow the disease to be measured and diagnosed in an objective manner.

"NKPD1 may be one such molecular mechanism," she said.

The findings come after researchers in Australia launched the world's biggest genetic study into depression. The Australian Genetics of Depression Study hopes that around 20,000 adults in the country will offer a swap of saliva to aid the investigation, Australia's ABC News reported.

## **NAMI ALGER/MARQUETTE UP COMING EVENTS:**

**ALL MEETINGS/EVENTS BELOW ARE HELD AT 129 W. BARAGA AVE. MARQUETTE UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED!**

**(also known as “Baraga Place Conference Room”)**

**MONDAY JUNE 12, 2017 Support Group Meeting 7pm to 9pm**

**THURSDAY JUNE 15, 2017 Support Group Meeting 7pm to 9pm**

**MONDAY JULY 10, 2017 Support Group Meeting 7 pm to 9pm**

**THURSDAY 20, 2017 Support Group Meeting 7 pm to 9pm**

**MONDAY AUGUST 14, 2017 Support Group Meeting 7 pm to 9 pm**

**THURSDAY AUGUST 17, 2017 Support Group Meeting 7pm to 9pm**

**THERE WILL BE NO EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS JUNE THROUGH AUGUST**

**WE WILL BE STARTING ANOTHER FAMILY TO FAMILY CLASSES STARTING IN SEPTEMBER AROUND 12<sup>TH</sup> OR 13<sup>TH</sup>. PLEASE CALL ME IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR ARE INTERESTED IN REGISTERING: CINDY 906-360-7107**

**Please remember all of our meetings are open to the individuals with a mental illness and family/friends, etc. of such an individual. Everything is confidential. A great safe place when things may not be going well but also a place to share when things are going GOOD.**

If you ever have any questions please feel free to give me a call (Cindy) At

906-360-7107

or check our website: [www.NAMIAM.org](http://www.NAMIAM.org).

**Remember: Check Your mailing label for membership expiration date.**



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