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## Medical Insurance for Mental Illness: Maryland Health Insurance Plan and Medicaid

Our April meeting featured a discussion of two insurance options for people with mental illness.

### Maryland Health Insurance Plan

The Executive Director of MHIP, Richard Popper, gave an informative overview of the program.

MHIP was developed as a way to provide coverage for high risk individuals, those whom other commercial insurance companies refuse to cover. It replaced a previous program called Substantial, Available and Affordable Coverage (SAAC). The program is funded 60% by premiums and 40% by the State, through an assessment on hospitals.

A person may be eligible for MHIP if s/he meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Have been refused individual health insurance due to a health condition;
- Have, or have been offered, health insurance that provides limited or restricted coverage, or that excludes coverage for a specific medical conditions,
- Offered coverage with premium that exceeds MHIP for medical reasons

- Have one of 42 qualifying medical conditions.
- Previous insurance coverage is "maxed out" or COBRA coverage is no longer available. (This applies also if the COBRA coverage was dropped).
- Covered by the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act
- Transferred from another high risk pool in another state.

There is no asset testing to enroll in MHIP. A person must meet one of the criteria above, regardless of family income or assets.

If a person is eligible for Medicaid, Medicare or Maryland Children's Health Insurance Plan (MCHIP), s/he is not eligible for MHIP.

It is important to note that MHIP functions like a regular managed care insurance company. Individuals pay premiums and enroll in either an exclusive provider organization (EPO) or a preferred provider organization (PPO). There are differences in

*(Continued on page 3)*



**Moon over  
NAMI Sale**  
**May 15, 2004**  
Saturday evening,  
6-10 pm  
Inside and Outside  
Everything will be 50% off, or better! (some exceptions)

### General Education Meeting — Thursday, May 13, 2004

## Mental Health and Suicide Awareness

**Speaker: Mary McCausland**  
President, Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program, Maryland Chapter

Social Hour: 7:30 p.m., Program: 8:00 p.m.  
Location: Cedar Lane Unitarian Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda 20814

The cost of printing this issue of the NAMI News was donated by

**Anne and Albert Girod**

**In honor of Margy and Gary Lawrence for their dedication and enormous contributions to NAMI**

If you value our NAMI News and would like to help our cause by donating an issue, we are eager to discuss this with you. Call Susan or Leah in the NAMI office.

## NAMI MC May Events



- **May 8**—Family Support Group, 9:30 am, Montgomery General Hospital, Olney, 2nd Floor, Conf. Rm. C
- **May 11**—Board Meeting, 6:15 pm, Home of Margy Lawrence
- **May 11**—Child and Adolescent Family Support Group, 7 pm, NAMI Office
- **May 13**—General Education Meeting, 7:30 pm, Cedar Lane Unitarian Church (See p. 1)
- **May 12**—Family Support Group, 2:30 pm, Rockville Unitarian Church, 100 Welsh Park Road, Rockville
- **May 15**—Spanish Family Support Group, 6:30 pm, Montgomery General Hospital, Olney, Room 201B
- **May 21**—Spouse Support Group, 7 pm, NAMI Office

## NAMI Support Groups

### Family Support

2nd Wednesday of each month, 2:30-4 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church, 100 Welsh Park Drive (off Mannakee St), Rockville. Contact: Ursula 301-384-8100

4th Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m., NAMI office. Contact: NAMI office 301-949-5852

2nd Saturday of each month, 9:30 a.m., Mont. General Hospital Conf. Room C, 2nd Floor (Community Learning Center) Contact: Helen 301-963-9472.

### Child & Adolescent Family Support

2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00—8:30 p.m., NAMI Office. Contact: Brenda 301-949-5852

### Sibling Support

*Due to very low turnout, the sibling group will be discontinued temporarily. If you are interested in meeting with other siblings, please contact the NAMI office so we can identify participants for other sibling programs and workshops.*

### Family Support in Spanish

3rd Saturday of each month, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Montgomery General Hospital, 18101 Prince Philip Drive, Olney, Room 201B. Contact: Eric 301-949-5852

### Spouse Support

Group meets one Friday each month, 7 p.m., NAMI Office. Contact: Bill 202-482-1287.

## Other Support Groups

### For Consumers:

#### All Disorders:

- On Our Own of Montgomery County has a drop-in center, many activities and sharing groups. Call 240-683-5555.
- Recovery, Inc. offers free weekly support group meetings for people with all types of mental, nervous and emotional problems. Saturdays 10:30-12:30 pm, Mid County Service Center, 2424 Reedy Dr., Wheaton. Call Carol (202) 269-2725. For additional groups, call (301) 431-1818 or check www.recovery-inc.org.

#### Schizophrenia

Thursdays 6:30-7:30 p.m. Hughes United Methodist Church, Wheaton - Call Linda 301-571-7386

#### Schizophrenia/Schizoaffective

Thursdays 6:30-8 p.m., Wildwood Baptist Church, 10200 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda. Contact: Richard 301-977-3507

#### Depression/Bipolar/Schizoaffective

DRADA (Depression and Related Affective Disorders Assoc.). Main number: 410-583-2919.

- Bethesda chapter of DRADA is a peer support group for people with a primary diagnosis of depression or bipolar disorder. Group meets from 7-9 p.m. on alternate Wednesdays at Christ Lutheran Church, 8011 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. For more information, contact Richard Lewis at (240) 401-2764.
- Tenleytown Group, contact Kristin at 202-885-5653.
- Georgetown University Group, contact Barbara at 301-926-6913.
- George Washington University Group, contact Alvin at 301-975-3169.

Potomac Ridge Mood Disorders Psychoeducation Group. Ongoing group for adults suffering from depression. Tuesdays, 6-7 pm. Call 301-251-4539 to register.

#### Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 pm, 2424 Reedy Dr., Wheaton, Rm. 223. For information call Bruce 301-497-1589.

### For Families and Friends:

#### All Disorders:

Family Support—every Thursday except the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Bauer Drive Rec. Center. Contact Susan at 301-738-2448 to confirm that group is meeting.

#### Borderline Personality Disorder

Metro Washington Borderline Personality Disorder Education and Support Group. For information call Diane at 301-469-6101.

#### Depression/Bipolar/Schizoaffective

Potomac group meets 1st and 3rd Fridays. Call Diane at 301-299-4255. For additional groups in Montgomery County, Call DRADA (Depression and Related Affective Disorders Association) at 410-583-2919

OCD: Families meet in area homes. For info. call Nancy at 301-340-1452.

#### Suicide/Grief Related Support Groups

Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program - Call Mary McCausland 301-530-4761.

Seasons—Cedar Lane Unitarian Ch. 2<sup>nd</sup> Weds of each month. Call Corrine Melton 301-460-4677 or Doug Tipperman 301-330-4984.

Griefworks—Contact Celia Ryan 301-871-3478.

## What Does NAMI MC Offer?

### Helpline:

Our telephone helpline is open 10 am – 2 pm, Mon-Fri. Confidential referrals to providers of mental health services, including housing, vocational rehab., legal assistance, day treatment, doctors, therapists and more. Our helpline is staffed by NAMI staff and trained volunteers. For more information or to be trained as a volunteer, contact Leah Nichaman at [namioffice@namimc.org](mailto:namioffice@namimc.org)

### Monthly Education Meeting

2nd Thursday of the month NAMI MC has a speaker on a topic of interest to consumers and family members. The meeting is at the Cedar Lane Unitarian Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda. Social Hour 7:30 pm, Program 8 p.m.

### Support Groups:

See previous page.

### E-mail Listserv:

Twice a month NAMI sends an e-mail with information about upcoming events and items of interest. Sign up for our listserv by sending an e-mail to [namioffice@namimc.org](mailto:namioffice@namimc.org) with the word "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.

### Educational Programs:

**Family to Family**—A 12-week free course for family members of adults with mental illness. This class covers all of the major mental illnesses, brain chemistry, medication review as well as communication skills, empathy, and self-care for relatives. For more information contact Frances Shuping at [fshuping@namimc.org](mailto:fshuping@namimc.org).

**Visions for Tomorrow** — An 8-week free course for primary caregivers of children or adolescents with mental illness. Classes are taught by trained parents who are themselves caregivers. For more information contact Brenda Bickel at [bbickel@namimc.org](mailto:bbickel@namimc.org).

### **In Our Own Voice** —

A recovery-education interactive presentation given by trained consumer presenters for other consumers, family members, friends, and professional and lay audiences. For more information, contact Brenda McArthur at 240-602-7439.

## MHIP and Medicaid (continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

premiums, deductibles and co-payments, depending on whether or not a person enrolls in the EPO or the PPO. A person with a pre-existing condition may pay higher premiums for coverage of that condition during the first 6 months in the plan. Prescription drug coverage varies, depending on the plan (EPO vs. PPO). Doctors are encouraged to prescribe generic drugs that are included in the MHIP formulary. If a generic or non-formulary drug does not work, the doctor must show proof in the medical record that the covered drug was tried, before MHIP will cover a non-formulary drug.

Currently all of the major hospitals in Montgomery County are considered "in-network." Because of the high rates for medical care in the county, there are not as many doctors "in-network" as MHIP would like so current subscribers may have limited options for physician choice. MHIP is working on establishing agreements with more local doctors in order to expand the network.

All mental health and substance abuse services are administered by Magellan Behavioral Health. Subscribers must have services coordinated by a Magellan Care Manager and must obtain referrals in order to obtain services, but there are no established limits on the number of visits. This is left to the discretion of the Care Manager.

In summary, while the extent and cost of coverage may not be any different from other commercial insurance carriers, the major benefit of MHIP is that it will cover people who have too many financial resources to qualify for Medicaid or other need-based public plans, and are considered "uninsurable" in the regular insurance market.

*Information about MHIP is at [www.marylandhealthinsuranceplan.state.md.us](http://www.marylandhealthinsuranceplan.state.md.us) or 1-866-780-7105. Contact the NAMI office for copies of the MHIP presentation.*



### Medicaid

The Medicaid program was presented by David Carter, Supervisor in the Income Assistance Program, Aging and Disability Services, Montgomery County Health and Human Services.

Mr. Carter prepared an extensive document with answers to common questions about Medicaid. Our limited space in the newsletter will not allow us to print the answers however, we are listing the questions below. *[If you would like the answers to these questions, please contact the NAMI office to receive the Medicaid document via e-mail or regular mail. We will also post it on our website.]*

- What is Medicaid?
- What is Medicare?
- Can I have both Medicaid and Medicare at the same time?
- If I have private health insurance, can I be eligible for Medicaid? (the answer is yes...)
- How can I get Medicaid?
- What will I need to do when I apply?
- How will the eligibility worker decide if I can get Medicaid?
- How much money can I have and be eligible for Medicaid?
- How much income can I get and be eligible for Medicaid?
- What if I have too much money?
- What is a Spend-down?
- What are the different eligibility categories?
- What medical services are available if I am eligible for Medicaid?
- How will I receive my medical care?
- How do I join a managed care organization (MCO)?
- What if I don't choose an MCO?
- If I don't qualify for Medicaid, is there any other help for me?
- What if I am involved in an accident or am injured before or after I become eligible for Medicaid?

### Medicaid Contact Numbers:

Which local dept. of Social Services office to go to: 1-800-332-6347

Questions about Medical Assistance Eligibility Policy: 1-800-492-5231.

## Advocacy News

# How to Get Your Insurance Company to Authorize or Pay

The following are tips from one of our board members who has been very successful in getting insurance companies (private and Medicaid) to pay claims.

**KNOW THE RULES.** Request a copy of the complete "Certificate of Coverage" (COC) for your private company insurance plan. This should include all the rules for filing claims, appeals, benefits covered, etc. If this does not include the medical necessity criteria for procedures that are used, such as hospitalization, outpatient therapy etc., request a copy of these as well. Make all requests in writing.

For Medicaid, request a complete copy of the Medical Necessity Criteria from the Consumer Affairs office of Maryland Health Partners at 410-453-1806.

This will enable you to ensure that claims and appeals sent by you or a provider contain all required information and are filed on time. Check the rules for inappropriate denials and quote the rules in your appeals. If the provider is filing an appeal, it may help to send them a copy of the pertinent rules if they don't have one.

**BECOME THE HEALTH CARE AGENT:** Ask the consumer to sign a Health Care Agent from that specifically gives you the authority to communicate orally and in writing with mental health care providers (and substance abuse providers if needed) and insurance companies, as well as receive records. Forms and information are available at the NAMI MC office. Fax or mail a copy of the completed Health Care Form to the insurance company and ask that your name be entered in their computer

system as a Health Care Agent. Send a copy to any provider you need to speak with about the bill also. As Health Care Agent you will be able to speak to the insurance company about authorizations and claims, and file claims and appeals on behalf of the consumer.

### STAY ORGANIZED:

**A. KEEP AN ACTIVITY LOG** and separate folder for each claim. The log should include: Provider name, address and phone number, date and cost of service, date, time, names, and content of each conversation with anyone concerning the claim, the date of each written correspondence sent or received, including letters, bills, Explanation of Benefits (EOB), etc. Keep copies of all correspondence and papers from a single claim in a separate folder.

**B. KEEP TRACK OF DEADLINES:** Keep a separate activity log, with one line for each claim. Columns should include provider, type and dates of service, cost, date claim filed, date of EOB, amount paid by insurance, and date appeal filed, date of appeal response, and amount paid.

**IN GENERAL, PUT EVERYTHING IN WRITING,** rather than trying to request information or appeals by phone. Writing more reliably produces a prompt response and documents lack of response for later appeals. It avoids wasting your time repeatedly explaining your case to many people, often the wrong people, who confuse the facts. Just send a letter and it usually gets referred to the right desk. Phone calls are sometimes helpful if you can quickly obtain basic information such as authorization numbers, days authorized, denial code explanations etc. Appeals should always be in writing.

**USE CERTIFIED MAIL TO SEND CORRESPONDENCE WITH FILING DEADLINES,** such as claims, and appeals. Return receipts are convenient but not necessary if you can print out the certified mail tracking information from the web. If the insurance company "loses" your correspondence, you then have proof you filed on time.

### VERIFY THE INFORMATION

**USED FOR DENIALS:** For example if a service was denied for lack of authorization, call the provider and insurance company to see if there was in fact an authorization and the dates of any authorization. Mistakes are VERY common, both by providers and insurance companies. Ask for a printed copy of the EOB or authorization decision letter from the insurance company. (Always check against the printed rules, don't trust anyone to know the rules accurately. If a contracted provider failed to follow required procedure for authorization, you may not be liable. Also you can appeal authorization denials even after receiving the service.)

**APPEAL, APPEAL, APPEAL:** If you think that, based on your plan's medical necessity criteria or Certificate of Coverage rules, an authorization or claim should not have been denied, send a formal written appeal with as much explanation of the circumstances as possible. Also include why you believe the service should have been authorized and quote from your Certificate of Coverage or Medical Necessity Criteria. Include a listing from your activity log of all pertinent conversations: date, time, person, and content. Include copies of all pertinent documents. (Bills, EOB's, correspondence etc.). Keep appealing to as many appeal levels as possible. At least one appeal should be reviewed by an

*(Continued on page 5)*



*(Continued from page 4)*

appeal board. If your provider is filing an appeal, you can join the appeal by sending your own letter. This is often more effective than the provider alone appealing, since you may have time to write a letter based more specifically on your plan's provisions.

A final denial decision by the insurance company may be appealed to the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA). You can also call the MIA with questions about Maryland insurance law (1-410-468-2170). Sometimes, just citing Maryland law or an MIA ruling can inspire an insurance company to pay a claim appropriately. For example, one insurance company, in violation of MIA Life and Health Bulletin 99-25, had no mention in their COC that Maryland law requires denial of ancillary hospital charges (such as doctor charges, medications, labs) to be based on separate medical necessity criteria from hospitalization. The company's routine denial of charges for ancillary services on days not authorized for hospitalization, stopped when reminded of this bulletin.

**QUOTES FROM MEDICAL RECORDS MAY HELP WITH AUTHORIZATION APPEALS:** If the consumer is comfortable, you can request copies of admission or discharge reports or other medical records that contain provider statements or event records that indicate medical necessity criteria were met. Providers often do not have the time to search records for quotes to use in appeal letters, which demonstrate medical necessity.

## A New Voice is Added to NAMI MC

Welcome to our new Peer-to-Peer Coordinator, Sarah O'Brien. Sarah has been involved with NAMI as a presenter and trainer for In Our Own Voice, a regular contributor to NAMI Maryland's *Connections* newsletter, and a volunteer in our office. Sarah will be a great addition to our staff.

Our new Peer-to-Peer program will begin this fall.

## Support Groups Need New Facilitators

We are looking for people who find that being in a support group makes such a big difference in their lives that they want to become support group facilitators. We are starting an "apprentice" program for anyone who would like to "try on" being a facilitator working with trained, experienced, leaders.

Interested?  
Call Ellen Menis at 301-530-2635.

## Don't Fall Prey to Identity Theft!

A message came through our e-mail from Marty Raaymakers, NAMI National Consumer Council Chair, regarding identity theft from social security recipients: Identity thieves will sometimes call beneficiaries stating the Social Security computer broke down or they need to verify information. They request the social security and the bank account number in which the check is deposited. Then they submit paperwork to have the check deposited in their account.

**NEVER GIVE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR YOUR CHECKING ACCOUNT NUMBER OVER THE PHONE!** Be careful of anyone posing as a person from Social Security. Ask for their number and call them back before giving information.

*Note: This information came from OCAInfo, the e-list of NAMI's office of Consumer Affairs. If you would like to subscribe to this e-list, send a message to [ocainfo@nami.org](mailto:ocainfo@nami.org) with only one word, subscribe, in the body of the message.*

## Family-to-Family Classes— Help Spread the Word

The best recruiters for the Family-to-Family Education course are NAMI members, and **YOU** can help to spread the word (1) to any potential class participants you might know and (2) to health care providers.

The Family-to-Family course is a series of 12 weekly education classes to help caregiver family members understand and support their relatives while maintaining their own well-being. The course is appropriate for family members of persons with severe mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, major depression, obsessive compulsive disorder and panic disorder, and brain disorders with co-occurring addictive disorders. The course is taught by trained NAMI family member volunteers who know what it's like to have a loved one struggling with one of these brain disorders. And, the course is **FREE** for participants.

### Current classes scheduled are:

1. Saturday, May 8, 12 noon - 2:30 p.m., Montgomery General Hospital, Olney, MD
2. Tuesday, September 14, 7:00 p.m.- 9:30 p.m., Suburban Hospital, Bethesda, MD.

For more information, e-mail [fshuping@namimc.org](mailto:fshuping@namimc.org) at NAMI Montgomery County or call 301-949-5852 ext. 4.

## Child and Adolescent News

# The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

### ***What is the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)?***

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 created a new children's health insurance program under Title XXI of the Social Security Act. CHIP is specifically targeted to serve uninsured children from low- and moderate-income families.

### ***What is the difference between the Medicaid program and CHIP?***

In some states there is no difference. Chip can simply be an expansion of the Medicaid program and allows children of parents with higher incomes than in the past to participate and receive health insurance through Medicaid. In other states, CHIP is a separate program from Medicaid and covers children that are older and/or children with parents with incomes higher than the state's Medicaid eligibility levels.

### ***Who is eligible for either CHIP or Medicaid?***

The programs are designed to provide health insurance coverage to children in families that are unable to afford private health coverage. While eligibility criteria vary by state, most uninsured children in families of four who earn up to \$33,400 a year would qualify.

### ***Who is not eligible for CHIP or Medicaid?***

Children who presently have health insurance coverage and some immigrant children (see the question below on legal immigrants).

### ***How do I apply for CHIP or Medicaid?***

To find out if a child qualifies in your state, call **1-877-KIDS-NOW (1-877-543-7669)**. You will be connected automatically to your state's CHIP and Medicaid information hotline. In most states, you can request that an application be sent to you. You would then fill out the application and send your completed application back to the state for review.

### ***How and when do I find out if my child is covered?***

After you send in your application with the necessary documentation, you will receive notification if your child is eligible for CHIP or Medicaid.

### ***If I accept this coverage, am I on welfare?***

No. These programs are designed to provide all children with the healthy start they deserve. Many of the eligible children have parents who do not have access to affordable health insurance through their employers.

### ***Will I be allowed to choose my child's doctor?***

Yes. In most states, you will have the ability to choose from several HMOs and doctors who participate in your state's CHIP and/or Medicaid.

### ***If I have more questions, who can help me?***

Call the toll-free number **(1-877-KIDS-NOW)** for more detailed information about your state's program.

### ***Are Native American children eligible for this benefit even if they have Indian Health Services (IHS) coverage?***

Yes. The federal statute is very specific about the inclusion of Native American children. However, the state can use 100% federal funds to purchase health care services from the IHS under the Medicaid option.

### ***Are legal immigrant children eligible for these programs?***

Generally, legal immigrant children who were already in the United States before August 22, 1996 can be eligible for Medicaid and CHIP. Immigrant children who entered the United States on or after August 22, 1996 as lawful residents and have been continuous residents for 5 years, may be eligible for CHIP and Medicaid. (Earliest eligibility for this group will be August 22, 2001.)

Under Federal law, undocumented children are completely excluded from coverage in CHIP, just as they are from Medicaid. States may use 100% state funds to provide health care to these children.

### ***Does the state offer a different benefit package for children with special health needs?***

States that choose to expand Medicaid as their children's health insurance program offer these children Medicaid benefits. In states with separate state programs, some states offer different benefits for children with special health care needs, while others do not. All states with separate state programs must include supplemental services for children with special health needs based on medical necessity as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### ***What will it cost for my child to get health coverage through CHIP or Medicaid?***

For families with children in the Medicaid program, there is no cost to the family. For families with children in their state's Children's Health Insurance Program, costs will vary. Most state programs do not have co-pays and premiums for families at or below 150% of the federal poverty level (\$25,050 for a family of four). For families with higher incomes, premiums and co-pays are minimal and vary from state to state.

### ***What benefits will be child receive once enrolled in CHIP or Medicaid?***

In most states children will receive regular check-ups, immunizations, doctor visits, eyeglasses, prescription drugs, hospital care, and more.

## Happenings Around Town...



**May 7—Craig Knoll, Executive Director, Threshold Services, will speak at the DRADA Potomac meeting.** Threshold Services is a nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive mental health services throughout Montgomery County, Maryland. 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. at the parish hall of St. Raphael's Catholic Church, 1213 Dunster Road, Rockville. For more information call 301-299-4255.

**May 15—Thin Skinned Kids: Helping Overstressed Children.** This is a Pathways Schools Community Workshop. 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Christ Congregational Church, 9525 Colesville Road, Silver Spring. Free to parents, \$50 for professionals.

**May 18—Video on Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Skills—Marsha Linehan's "This One Moment: Skills for Everyday Mindfulness"** will be shown at the meeting of the Metro Washington Borderline Personality Disorder Education and Support Group, 7:15-9:30 at Suburban Hospital, 8600 Old Georgetown Road. Check at Hospital Info Desk for exact room. Group is open to family members, consumers and mental health professionals. For more information, call Diane at 301-469-6101.

**May 21—The County's Approach to Dual Diagnosis. Speaker: Karen Riibner, Acting Supervisor, Program Monitoring, MC Department of Health and Human Services.** Riibner will discuss departmental directions as well as the county's approach to treatment of dual diagnosis. 7:30—9:00 p.m. at the parish hall of St. Raphael's Catholic Church, 1213 Dunster Road, Rockville. For more information call 301-299-4255.

**June 5—NAMI Maryland Public Policy Committee Meeting, 10 am—12 noon** at the NAMI MC office. Call the NAMI office, 301-949-5852 for more information.

**SAVE THE DATE: September 8-12** NAMI's 25th Anniversary Convention, Washington, DC, [www.nami.org/convention](http://www.nami.org/convention). Convention scholarships available. Call the NAMI Office.

### NAMI MC extends condolences to the family of **Virginia DeMoss**

Ginny was a member of the NAMI MC Board and was very active in the Thrift Shop, serving as volunteer bookkeeper for many years. Her husband, Ernest DeMoss, MD, was past president of the NAMI MC Board. Our thoughts and prayers are with the DeMoss family.

Thank you to all of the members and friends of NAMI MC who gave generously during the month of March 2004.

Thank you to **Jiffy Plumbing and Heating of Hyattsville** for donating a computer for use by our new Peer-to-Peer Coordinator. Thanks also to Board Member Alan Kerxton and to Bob Diener for facilitating this donation.

#### Sponsors (\$500 or more)

A special thank you to Ellen Menis for her generous gift in support of the Peer to Peer program.

#### Contributor (\$100-\$249)

Sy and Susan Miller

#### Friends (up to \$99)

Susan Davis, *in honor of Brenda Bickel*

Jenny Ebert

Ed Erikson, *in memory of Betty Erikson*

Barbara Glaser

Dorothy Przygocki, *in memory of*

*Janice Enagonio*

Kathy Roos

Pat & Fred Spahr

#### In Memory of Muriel Mackay:

Patrick Archer

Mr. & Mrs. Richard T. Fiske

Mrs. Gertrude Collins

Sara Jamison

John and Nancy Pond

Doris Wright

Gregory Pryor

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur A. Maryott

Jean C. Newman

Barbara O'Brien

Patricia Payne

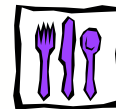
Agnes S. Price

## Welcome new members:

Loren Amdursky, M.D.  
Niki Asimakopoulous  
Nancy Flowers  
Haggith Gor Ziv  
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Hawk  
Judy and Arthur Kay  
Fred & Kristin Ruckdeschel  
JoAnn Shapiro  
Dwight Ufford  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Verfuert  
Mary Wilson

## Wish List:

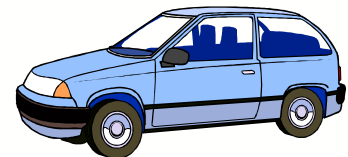
**We need one more computer for our staff expansion. If you have a Pentium III or higher computer or laptop to donate, please call Leah or Esther in the NAMI office.**



## Bethesda Beatnik's Dinner Club

*"The Dinner Club for People Who Are a Little Off-beat"*

Join the Greater Washington Area's only Dinner Club for people with psychiatric disabilities. The club meets every other Wednesday night, 6:30 pm, at the Out-back Steakhouse on Woodmont Avenue in Bethesda. Call "Beatnik Pete" Warner for details on how you can join: 301-279-2578.



## NAMI MC Now Takes Car Donations!

Donating your old car or truck provides NAMI MC with much needed cash and gives you a tax deduction.

Please contact us at 301-949-5852 if you would like to donate your vehicle to NAMI MC. It will be picked up for free within 4 days.



# NAMI Montgomery County

The County's Voice on Mental Illness

10730 Connecticut Avenue

Kensington, MD 20895

Phone: 301-949-5852

Fax: 301-949-5853

Email: namioffice@namimc.org

Web: www.namimc.org

Thrift Shop: 301-949-5731

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## Moon over NAMI Sale

NAMI Thrift Shop

Saturday May 15, 2004, 6-10 pm

Everything will be 50% off,  
or better! (some exceptions)

### NAMI Montgomery County Board of Directors

Karen O'Brien, *President*  
Margy Lawrence, *Vice President*  
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Program Coordinator*  
Frances Shuping, *Family to Family  
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Become a part of a 25-year old grassroots organization — with over 220,000 national members and 800 members in Montgomery County alone.

### Membership Benefits:

- Support from people who understand
- Concurrent membership at local, state and national NAMI levels
- Our informative monthly affiliate newsletter
- Our influence in advocacy at County, State and Federal levels

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If you would like to receive NAMI information and alerts via e-mail, please provide your e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Dues:

\_\_\_\_\_ New Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Basic \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Sustaining \_\_\_\_\_ \$55 Professional \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Patron

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