



National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI El Dorado County

A brief history of our affiliate....

September 2018

Our NAMI El Dorado County affiliate is among the original few in the state of California.

NAMI San Mateo County was the birthplace of NAMI. Watch this video:

<https://namisanmateo.org/about-us/birthplaceofnami/>

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) as it is known today, is the result of the efforts of a few courageous San Mateo County parent leaders, families, friends and professionals who worked tirelessly in the 1970s and 1980s to give birth to an organization that would completely change the way the community viewed mental illness.

This site contains original hand-written notes from founding members:

<http://histpubmh.semel.ucla.edu/archive/pascalifornia-alliance-mentally-ill-cami>

“When the social history of our era is written, the plight of persons with schizophrenia will be recorded as having been a national scandal.” E.Fuller Torrey

Pre-1990's: We were known as PAMI (Parents Alliance for Mental Illness) – this began in El Dorado County.

1996: Changed to CAMI (California Alliance for Mental Illness) and NAMI El Dorado was formed, non-profit status was received, with two councils: Western Slope and South Lake Tahoe.

2000: May is Mental Health Month Celebration and Board of Supervisors breakfast hosted by NAMI El Dorado was started

2005: NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program launched within our affiliate.

2007: Behavioral Health Court implemented with NAMI El Dorado support and participation. The first in the nation started in Florida in 1997 and the first in California started in 1999.

2008: NAMI El Dorado participated in the first training of El Dorado County Sheriff Deputies in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). Art class at the County Wellness Center began to be supported weekly by NAMI El Dorado.

2009: Multi-disciplinary team led by the Sheriff's office was formed with NAMI participation. The purpose is to educate multi-disciplinary agencies and provide intervention for mentally ill people at risk within our community (at risk for relapse, homelessness, or arrest). We received our first grant from Marshall Hospital for educational materials.

2010: Healthy eating/active living grant to provide nutrition education and cooking skills for mental health clients in partnership with local food bank (non-traditional NAMI service/support).

2011: NAMI El Dorado in partnership with El Dorado County Mental Health Division hosted multi-county NAMI Provider Education.

2012: In partnership with United Outreach and Community Resource Center, provided materials and speakers to educate community volunteers serving the homeless population.

- Developed first strategic plan as an affiliate.
- Developed and launched first website (www.namiel dorado.org) maintained by peer mentor.
- Participated in the first annual Northern California NAMI Walk in Sacramento.

NAMI El Dorado County: Support, Education and Advocacy

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2013: Conducted a four-part education class for Marshall Hospital Certified Nursing Assistants. Sent two individuals to NAMI In Our Own Voice training.

2014: Western Slope implemented a NAMI Peer-to-Peer class and began a NAMI Peer Connection support group that met until 2016.

2015: South Lake Tahoe NAMI new partnership with Barton Hospital and local healthcare providers. First NAMI Family-to-Family class taught in South Lake Tahoe. NAMI El Dorado became “NAMI El Dorado County Western Slope and South Lake Tahoe.” NAMI El Dorado County continues leadership at monthly Mental Health Commission meetings and is proactive with local government advocacy and media visibility.

2016: Launched new social media including new website : <http://namiel Dorado County.org>, committed to science-based focus and actively updated/maintained. Established Facebook page: [NAMI El Dorado County](#). Doubled the size of our free newsletter subscriptions. Participated in training over 120 law enforcement officers in CIT in 2016/17. We are strong participant at the Barton hosted CMBHC (Community Mental and BH Cooperative – a team of community leaders in South Lake Tahoe working to improve services/supports). The following measures are put into place: Mental health information kiosks in South Lake Tahoe are acquired and maintained in partnership with Barton Foundation volunteer; post-hospital-transition tip sheet is developed; a recommended reading list is developed.

Two NAMI Support Groups grow in size ranging from 12-22 (Placerville and South Lake Tahoe). NAMI Spanish outreach begins in South Lake Tahoe at Family Resource Center and Spanish warmline added. Rack cards are developed. Large donation of over 70 new books donated (thanks to the Barton Foundation) to the county library making this county among the best for mental illness education in Northern CA.

2017: Launched first NAMI On Campus pilot (brain health leadership club) reaching over 300 students at South Tahoe High School, first NAMI Peer-to-Peer held in South Lake Tahoe. Many community grants awarded in support of our volunteerism. We participate on the Executive Leadership team for HRSA grant to Barton and many other community forums. Five Mental Health kiosks added to Western Slope and South Lake Tahoe kiosks expanded to eight. We reached over 900 in the community with warmline support, education programs and outreach and provided thousands of free NAMI educational brochures to the community. We funded two peers to the National NAMI Conference who in turn taught their first Peer-to-Peer class.

2018: We now officially do business as “NAMI El Dorado County.” Beautiful new rack cards developed and distributed to our 15 community mental health kiosks. We are the 3rd affiliate in the state to complete NAMI CA’s rigorous re-affiliation process! A centralized warm-line is added (rather than our personal cell phones) – over 500 callers per year given free support. Over 1,000 people in the community provided with support, education and advocacy. Largest fundraiser completed to expand Family-to-Family training across the community in honor of Louis Hjerpe (\$32,000 donated by over 120 individuals and Johnson&Johnson).

New strategic plan for 2019 is in process

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