

NAMI

BUILDING BLOCKS:

***GROWTH
and
DEVELOPMENT***

of

***LOCAL AFFILIATES
and
STATE ORGANIZATIONS***

➤ to provide education relating to brain disorders to individuals and families in the community, as well as to professionals and the public.

What is a NAMI affiliate?

A group of 5 or more individuals (family members, consumers, or friends) who:

- Accept the mission of NAMI,
- Have joined together for support, education, and advocacy purposes, and
- Have started the process of establishing an affiliate through connections with their State Organization and NAMI.

Beginning Affiliates or Support Groups:

Membership: 5 to 9 or more individuals and/or families

Functions:

- provide local outreach through community newspapers and bulletins,
- subscribe to or augment a central referral service through the state organization,
- provide referral services to local families and consumers, and
- report to the state organization on local issues and needs.
- conduct local family and consumer education

Needs:

- information about how to facilitate a support group,
- training in group facilitation and group advocacy,
- contact names,
- linkage to and mentoring from established affiliates, and
- leadership training.

Small Working Affiliates:

Membership: 10-39 members, a combination of relative groups, consumers, and friends

Functions:

- Board of Directors and one or more working committees
- Bylaws
- Regular newsletter
- Monthly educational meetings and regular monthly or quarterly business meetings
- Public presentations
- Educational programs and forums
- Information and referral services (or augment a central referral service through the state organization)
- Family, consumer and/or friend education, such as the Family to Family Education program
- Facilitating one or more support groups
- Advocacy in the community and the state level
- Ability to take advantage of technology--this could mean the acquisition of an answering machine and/or fax capability
- Successfully identify problems and resources
- Achieved or working towards incorporation and a 501(c)(3) status

Small Working Affiliates (cont.):

Functions:

- Fundraising activities for local, state, and/or NAMI
- Working with the media
- Mental Illness Awareness Week activities
- Active membership growth
- Established two-way communication and information sharing with the state organization
- Participation in the work of the state organization (Board, Committees, etc.)

Needs:

- Leadership training,
- Technical assistance and mentoring from the state organization and/or nearby large working affiliates;
- Outreach and assistance for development of corporate structure, bylaws, bulk mail permit, achieving 501(c)(3) and non-profit status; and
- Options it can choose to assist in its growth and development.

Large Working Affiliates:

Membership: 40-500 or more members, consisting of all different relative groups, consumers, friends and professional members

Functions: A structured organization, with bylaws, incorporation, non-profit status, 501(c)(3), and an active Board of Directors and working committees.

- A working agenda of support, education and advocacy
- Fulfills most of the functions of a small working affiliate
- Provides formal, centralized information and referral services, hot lines, and 800 numbers
- Involves other community groups in the NAMI mental illness agenda
- Engages in grassroots advocacy on local, state, and federal issues
- Secures local media publicity and community relations

Large Working Affiliates (cont.):

Functions:

- ✦ Is a conduit for information to and from the State Organization and NAMI regarding new issues and initiatives
- ✦ Actively participates at the state organization level.
- ✦ May assist in coordinating the activities of other affiliates in the area.
- ✦ May have a centralized office and salaried staff.

Needs:

- ✦ Technical assistance in leadership training, and fundraising, and
- ✦ Other options from which it can choose to assist in its growth and development.

Are there any other requirements for Local Affiliates?

Yes. According to the NAMI Bylaws, Affiliates shall be independent of other agencies and advocacy groups not affiliated with NAMI. Additionally, affiliates cannot share bylaws, articles of incorporation, or boards of directors with such other groups.

And..... In order to become a NAMI Affiliate, the State Organization must endorse the application for affiliation.

Additionally.... Affiliates must maintain compliance with the NAMI Bylaws and the procedures developed for endorsement by the State Organizations.

What is the role of the State Organization?

The State Organization is the single group within each state, chartered by NAMI, that coordinates the work of the affiliates within its state.

The State Organization must have a structured organization with bylaws, incorporation, non-profit status, and a 501(c)(3) status. Additionally, it must have an elected Board of Directors and active, working committees.

Roles:

- To decide on goals and objectives within their respective states which reflects the needs of all areas of their respective states,
- To encourage and facilitate outreach, education, and membership development to consumers, families of children and adults, siblings and offspring, and to ethnic and multiculturally diverse populations,

Roles (cont.):

- To publish a statewide newsletter to educate members, professionals, and the public, and to encourage networking among affiliates and grassroots members,
- To assist local affiliates in technology acquisition and knowledge,
- To conduct advocacy at the state level within the legislative, executive and judicial branches,
- To monitor the activities and the budgets of state agencies,
- To encourage coordination of local advocacy and national advocacy efforts,
- To provide technical assistance to support growth and development of local affiliates in response to their needs,
- To provide a state information and referral service;
- To conduct state conferences; and
- To report on state issues to NAMI

Ideally, the State Organizations should also:

- ✚ Provide resources for the Affiliates in the state,
- ✚ Analyze capabilities of and coordinate activities for the Affiliates in the state,
- ✚ Have a central office and salaried staff,
- ✚ Be actively engaged in fundraising,
- ✚ Implement a Consumer Council to encourage consumer participation,
- ✚ Encourage the development of new affiliates where and when they are needed,
- ✚ Support efforts aimed at geographical/political coordination of local affiliates,
- ✚ Implement policies and outreach activities with special populations, and
- ✚ Provide formal, centralized information and referral services, hot lines, and 800 numbers.

Are there other requirements for State Organizations?

Yes. According to the NAMI Bylaws, State Organizations must be independent of other agencies and advocacy groups not affiliated with NAMI. Additionally, state organizations cannot share bylaws, articles of incorporation, or boards of directors with such other groups.

And..... State Organizations have the responsibility of endorsing all applications for initial and ongoing Affiliate membership in NAMI according to the procedures that NAMI prescribes.

Additionally..... State Organizations have the responsibility to maintain compliance with the requirements of NAMI Bylaws and state chartering criteria. Annual submission and approval by NAMI of any revision (amendments) of their state organization's bylaws subsequent to state chartering is required.

What is the role of NAMI in the process of Local Affiliate endorsement by State Organizations?

- To establish the criteria, processes, and models for initial and ongoing Affiliate endorsement by the State Organizations.

What is the role of NAMI in assisting the State Organizations and Local Affiliates?

- To serve as a clearing house and coordinator of State Organization, Affiliate, and other organizations' activities, ideas, products, etc.
- To assist State Organizations and Affiliates in developing guidelines for organizational structure and geographical/political coordination efforts.

NAMI also provides opportunities for:

- Regional training conferences sponsored by NAMI and State Organizations,
- State and national conferences,
- Technical assistance provided by NAMI and state leaders and staff, state and national experts, and others,
- Participation in state, local, and national joint membership and fundraising efforts,
- Participation in public relations, education, and advocacy efforts,
- Expanded use of technology and media, and
- Access to communication and resources through the *ADVOCATE*, the NAMI Bookstore and the *NAMI-NET*.

To keep NAMI strong and vital.....

We must ensure the lifeblood of grassroots organizations -- motivated members, their ideas, energy, and information -- continues to circulate at all levels. The evergreening of the NAMI nationwide movement is the responsibility of each level: national, state, and local.

Fulfilling the mission of NAMI is the shared goal, with shared responsibilities:

- ✚ *Setting the NAMI agenda*
- ✚ *Supporting the current leadership while nurturing new leadership*
- ✚ *Expanding and retaining membership*
- ✚ *Promoting equality of opportunity, acceptance, and full community integration for all persons affected by brain disorders*

Open Your Mind



*Mental illnesses
are brain disorders*

NAMI: The Future is Now!

Together, we will become a strong vibrant nationwide organization, with a fully-invested grassroots membership! As a unit, our voices resonate together with a community message of support, education and advocacy for all people with brain disorders. As the Local, State, and National levels of this organization, our chorus is heard throughout the nation as one voice!