

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Johnston County affiliate



2007 BRYAN FELLOW

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HOMETOWN: Clayton, NC

MAJOR/DEGREE:
Master of Social Work,
Class of 2008

PROJECT TITLE:
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of
Johnston County affiliate

FACULTY MENTOR:
Anna Scheyett,
School of Social Work

COMMUNITY PARTNER:
Johnston County Mental Health Center

PROJECT LOCATION:
Johnston County

“The Fellowship provided a unique opportunity to make a timely and ongoing impact on my hometown community’s mental health needs. In addition, I have reaped improved leadership skills, clinical insight, and increased knowledge about the community’s needs and resources.”



The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Johnston County affiliate serves adult consumers and families coping with severe, persistent mental illness. The affiliate provides consumer support through networking with peers, political advocacy, and education. Consumers may attend support groups or become involved in letter writing regarding issues directly impacting their own quality of life. Families also receive support and education through support groups and training opportunities such as family-to-family. The crisis line provides referrals and reassurance for persons seeking services.

Project Goals

1. Establish and operate a local Johnston County affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.
2. Present practical and relevant information at seminars.
3. Encourage those of marginalized ethnicities to seek mental health support and information from NAMI.
4. Remove economic barriers to acquiring information, support, and treatment.

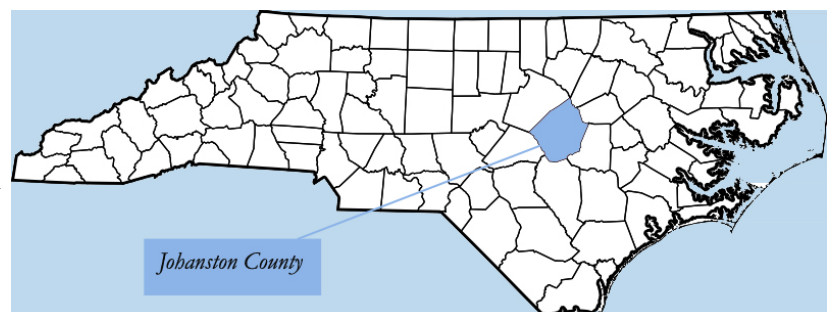
The event that took most of our efforts was the community information event on July 26. It was very heavily publicized with two local newspaper articles as well as display advertising. Local leader Rev. Dorothy O'Neal of Feed His Sheep Ministries and Anna Scheyette from UNC-Chapel Hill teamed up to present a consumer's personal story and strategies for successful recovery. It really went well and both speakers had the audience's undivided attention.



When I planned the July community information event, I had recurring anxiety that no one would show up. This was of particular concern because I had reserved the largest auditorium, assigned a technical person, and booked two great speakers. I imagined that if it was a complete flop, I might never graduate from Social Work School. The evening of the event, very few people had arrived by ten minutes before the program was scheduled to begin. Five minutes later a steady stream of people filed through the door and my anxieties were greatly reduced. We ended up with a little over forty attendees, the evening proceeded without any technical interruptions, and everyone felt it was a great success.

Through this event and the popular local support

groups, it was apparent that we were meeting a need and successfully developing the affiliate. We received numerous phone calls requesting information which allowed us to combat the stigma very prevalent in the region.



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