



AGENDA ITEM 6

Information

Advocacy Spotlight: NAMI California

Item Goals

- Learn about the advocacy work of the National Alliance on Mental Illness California (NAMI California), the Commission's families advocacy grantee.
- Together with its 56 local affiliates, NAMI California advocates for and with people with serious mental illness, supporting a strong, coherent continuum of care. NAMI California also works to eradicate stigma by educating families, professionals, and the public about recent behavioral health research.

Behavioral Health Landscape

- Advocacy contracts exist because of California's unique community planning process which requires counties to support public participation; empowering historically underserved communities improves the process. The BHSA affirms and expands this process, ensuring community voices are heard locally and reflected in statewide policy and funding decisions.
- Family members of those with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder have long been partners in transforming the behavioral health system.

Relevant Commission Work

- The Commission, as authorized by the State Legislature, oversees funding to community-based organizations to support the behavioral health needs of nine specific underserved populations through advocacy, training and education, and outreach and engagement activities. The Commission awarded NAMI California its families advocacy contract in March 2024.