



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
222 SOUTH WARREN STREET
PO BOX 700
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0700

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

JENNIFER VELEZ
Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

LYNN A. KOVICH
Assistant Commissioner

Dear NAMI members/Colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know about a program which the NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) has designed in order to partner with family members and friends of those who have been or currently are hospitalized in one of NJ's State psychiatric hospitals. The goal of this program, called the Family Partnership program, is to improve the quality of care and treatment in the State Hospital system. DMHAS strives to provide the best quality of care to patients in our hospitals, and has created a two-pronged approach to accomplish this goal; the Family Monitoring program and the Concerned Family program.

The Family Monitoring program is a program in which volunteers receive orientation and training prior to conducting tours of units and programs, with the goal of sharing findings with the hospital administration. Volunteers are asked to commit to conducting several tours during each quarter, and writing their findings on standardized forms which are then aggregated in order to identify broad based systemic issues and areas needing improvement. The data is then reviewed in a quarterly meeting consisting of hospital and Division administrators and family representatives.

The second part of this two pronged approach is a program in which family members and loved ones meet with hospital administration in order to provide direct feedback/input and to advocate for changes in the delivery of services and other issues of mutual concern. This program is called the Family Advisory or Concerned Family group, which meets with the hospital administration on at least a quarterly basis to advise and be advised of new initiatives and changes occurring within the hospital as well as items of interest that were identified by families who attended previous meetings. Primary family members are encouraged to participate in various hospital workgroups and programs with the goal of information sharing. Hospital leadership will share new initiatives and changes occurring within the hospital and update family members on issues presented at previous meetings. A question and answer period will allow families the opportunity to convey specific concerns.

We sincerely hope that you may find some time in your schedule to participate in one or both of these programs. If interested or you have additional questions, please contact the family liaison at the facility of your choice, as listed below.

Ancora Psychiatric Hospital – Elizabeth M. Capoferri at 609.704.4982
Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital – Robert Stemcovski at 973.538.1800, Ext. 4930
Trenton Psychiatric Hospital – Michelle Senni at 609.633.1586

Sincerely,

John Whitenack, Assistant Director
Office of State Hospital Management
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services