Multicultural Networking Groups

About

The NAMI Multicultural Networking Groups bring together individuals from across the country and from all areas of the organization. Each of the five groups represents major racial/ethnic and cultural communities in the U.S—African American; American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIAN); Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI); Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT); and Latinos—who come together on the following objectives:

- Embrace and celebrate diverse perspectives within the mental health arena by providing a venue for communication and networking
- Illuminate and work creatively to address the unique needs of represented communities
- Support advancement of cultural competence within NAMI
- Provide feedback on NAMI initiatives and planning

The networking groups focus on severe mental illness, recovery, cultural competence, and other mental health related issues that impact cultural communities. Since one of the main goals of the networks is to advance cultural competence within NAMI, most of the work of the groups focuses on NAMI itself.

The Multicultural Networking Groups meet regularly via conference call and/or webinar and communicate via email group.

Member Benefits

Members of the NAMI Multicultural Networking Groups can expect several perks of participating, including the following:

- Individual members are given the opportunity to provide suggestions for group meeting agendas, topics for discussion, guest speakers and generally take the lead in shaping the focus of the group's engagement.
- Opportunities for networking, leadership and skill building.
- Advance notice of upcoming NAMI events and activities, particularly those of the Multicultural Action Center.
- Use of a group email address for sharing announcements, opportunities, news and/or resources among members and from staff liaisons.
- Scholarship opportunities for attending NAMI's annual national convention (competitive application process offered exclusively to members).
- Speaking opportunities at NAMI or partner events and in conference call and webinar presentations.

For more information or to submit your request to join a group, contact us at:
MACenter@nami.org

How to Join

Individuals interested in joining one or more NAMI Multicultural Networking Group should simply contact the NAMI Multicultural Action Center at macenter@nami.org to express this desire and provide basic profile information (described below). Be sure to identify which networking group(s) you would like to join (African American, AIAN, AAPI, GLBT or Latino).

- Name
- Location
- Affiliation and title
- Role(s) within NAMI (at any level of the organization)
- Contact information (indication of whether this can be openly shared with others)
- Responses to the following prompts (all optional):
    1. Primary area of expertise/ experience
    2. A personal strength or skill
    3. Top 3 topics of interest related to the networking group
    4. List of membership or involvement with other groups of interest

Once the above information is received, the Multicultural Action Center staff will add you to the appropriate email group(s) and you will begin receiving group communications thereafter.

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