

## PROVIDER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The NAMI Provider Education Program is a **free, 10-week course** appropriate for mental health professionals, case managers, residential care givers, front office staff, RN's, psychologists, homeless outreach workers, vocational rehabilitation and job counselors, club house programmers, psychiatrists, therapists, and all those who serve individuals with serious mental illnesses. The course is taught by a **trained 5 member team** consisting of 2-Family-to-Family instructors, 2-Provider Education Program trained consumers, and 1-mental health professional. The **purpose of the program is to help providers better understand and support individuals with serious mental illnesses and their families.** Mental health providers across the United States who have participated in this program describe how their own clinical practices have changed in response to what they learned in this class.

Class Handouts are furnished for each class lecture, along with the charts and graphics used for that class. All handouts are compiled by class members into a NAMI Provider Course Notebook which they keep for future reference. An extensive glossary of terms is provided, plus a selected reading list of pertinent references relating to each class.

- Week One:** Introductions; Principles of Medical Family Therapy and Family Consultation; Principles of the biopsyo-social model of treatment
- Week Two:** Clinical Bases: Secondary prevention/intervention. Experiencing a thought disorder.
- Week Three:** The three Major Mental Illnesses: diagnostic checklists for schizophrenia, major depression and mania; symptoms of psychosis.
- Week Four:** Types and subtypes of mood disorders/diagnosis of panic disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder.
- Week Five:** Research into the Biological Bases of Mental Illness.
- Week Six:** Medication review, medication side effects.
- Week Seven:** Inside mental illness. What it's like to contend with brain disorders.
- Week Eight:** Responding effectively to families in stage 2; handling issues of confidentiality with families and clients.
- Week Nine:** Meeting the whole family/problem solving. Learning about the whole family's experiences.
- Week Ten:** Why advocacy? Helping families in stage 3/certification

**For information on this program or when and where it is offered, please contact:  
NAMI at (850) 671-4445 or [www.namifl.org](http://www.namifl.org)**