

NAMI NJ Board of Directors Resolution Against Racism

Approved July 2020

WHEREAS NAMI NJ represents the interests of all people with mental health conditions, regardless of age, gender, race or ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, language, socio-economic status, sexual orientation or gender identity;

WHEREAS people with mental health conditions frequently encounter attitudinal and policy barriers resulting from negative stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination;

WHEREAS NAMI NJ condemns all acts of prejudice and discrimination whether individual, institutional or structural, and regardless of whether by intent, ignorance, or insensitivity;

WHEREAS racism and racial discrimination are pervasive and persistent, can result in toxic stress and trauma, negatively impact mental health and lead to mental health disparities;

WHEREAS people of color experience pain, trauma and disrespect at the hands of our nation's health care, criminal justice and other systems that can result in fear and distrust;

WHEREAS NAMI NJ is strongly committed to the principle that all individuals, including communities of color and people with mental illness, should be treated with respect and dignity and deserve equitable health outcomes and full inclusion.

WHEREAS NAMI NJ celebrates diversity, and has begun to recognize the diversity of the State of New Jersey through the existing multicultural outreach programs (AACT-NOW, CAMHOP, SAMHAJ, NAMI NJ en Español), we recognize that positive change does not come without action and self-critique;

THEREFORE, NAMI NJ commits to fully participating in conversations and activities that aim to reject racism in all its forms;

THEREFORE, NAMI NJ commits to the development and implementation of strategies and best-practices that dismantle racism and ethnic oppression within all aspects of our programming;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NAMI NJ strongly denounces racism, in all its forms, for its negative psychological, social, educational, economic effects and supports public policy to eliminate the mental health disparities perpetuated by racism and racial discrimination.