Forward to Wellness: The 2021 NAMI Texas Annual Conference and Awards Celebration

Friday, November 12th - 2:00 to 8:00 pm CT  
Saturday, November 13th - 9:30 am to 5:00 pm CT

VIRTUAL EVENT

*This event is free to attend and registration is open!

Register for Forward to Wellness

Keynote Announcement
NAMI Texas is thrilled to announce that Dan Gillison, Chief Executive Officer of NAMI, will be one of the keynote speakers at Forward to Wellness.

Mr. Gillison brings expertise in non-profit leadership and a passion for advocating for people with mental illness to NAMI. Before coming to NAMI, Dan led the American Psychiatric Association Foundation (APAF), where he was responsible for strategic planning, personnel management, board communications, oversight of APAF's public education programs and outreach, and formulating strategic alliances and partnerships to further APAF's mission. Prior to APAF, Gillison led County Solutions and Innovation for the National Association of Counties (NACo) where he was instrumental in repositioning the organization's programs to provide expertise in health and human services, justice and public safety.

Mr. Gillison has over 30 years of experience and has previously held leadership positions at Xerox, Nextel, and Sprint. Mr. Gillison holds a B.A. from Southern University and A&M College.

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**Workshop Proposal Deadline Extended**

If you are interested in submitting a proposal to provide a virtual workshop at Forward to Wellness, please email your completed application form, including the requested attachments, by 11:59 pm CT on Saturday, August 14, 2021 to executive.director@namitexas.org.

NAMI Texas is hosting Forward to Wellness on the CVENT Virtual Attendee Hub. Through this virtual platform, attendees are able to view live stream and video-on-demand sessions, visit virtual exhibitor booths, and interact with sponsors, exhibitors, presenters, and each other. Delivering a workshop virtually through this platform is user-friendly and intuitive.

**NAMI Texas is a nonprofit with a limited budget, and in general does not pay fees for presenters. Most presenters volunteer their time. If you are unable to volunteer, but wish to submit an application, please do so and provide specifics on fees.**

The Conference Planning Committee has identified some areas of special interest for topics for the 2021 Conference, but all submissions are welcome and encouraged:

- COVID-19 and Mental Health
- Recovery and Resilience
- Mental Health in K-12 Schools and Colleges/Universities
- Youth/Adolescent/Teen Mental Health
- Race and Mental Health
- Inequities and Disparities in Mental Health
- Prevention and Trauma
- Advocacy and Public Policy
- Peer and Family Support + Self-Care
- Digital Technologies / Telehealth
- Veterans, Active Duty Service Members, and Family Mental Health
- Mental Illness and the Criminal Legal System
- Wellness for Health Care Professionals and First Responders
- Suicide Prevention, Postvention, and Intervention
- Sharing Our Stories

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**Nominate Your Mental Health Hero For An Award**

We are now accepting nominations from NAMI members for the 2021 NAMI Texas Awards! Nominate your mental health hero today, then join us for our (virtual) Annual Awards Celebration on Friday, November 12th.
at 6:30 pm to honor our state’s best mental health advocates, experts, providers, peers and volunteers!

Charley H. Shannon Advocate for Justice Award
Betty Fulenwider Media Award
Mental Health Professional of the Year Award
Volunteer of the Year Award
Youth Volunteer of the Year Award
Mark Korenek Peer Quality of Life Award
Jackie Shannon Enduring Volunteer

The deadline to submit an award nomination is 11:59 PM CT, Tuesday, September 7th, 2021.

See past award recipients.

NAMI Texas thanks Humana for their Champion sponsorship of Forward to Wellness.

Conference Sponsorships

We also want to share with you an opportunity to align your brand with NAMI Texas, the only statewide, grassroots peer/family-based mental health organization. We are offering opportunities to sponsor Forward to Wellness: The 2021 NAMI Texas Annual Conference and Awards Celebration. See attached Sponsorship Packet for details.

NAMI Texas is dedicated to improving the quality of life of all individuals affected by mental illness. We have nearly 2,000 members involved with 27 local affiliates covering a diverse array of communities across the state of Texas.

With your help, last year NAMI Texas improved life in Texas for people affected by mental illness:

**Educating** - NAMI Texas offered no-cost training to 270 volunteers statewide so they could offer NAMI signature programs in their communities.

**Supporting** - NAMI Texas facilitated access to online support groups for 7,220 individuals whose lives have been impacted by mental health conditions, and

**Advocating** - NAMI Texas trained more than 100 individuals on how to tell their advocacy stories, and developed a comprehensive policy platform for the 2021 legislative session.

The sponsorship deadline is 10/1/2021. Please review the Sponsorship Packet and reply now to communicate your commitment. You may contact NAMI Texas
Donate to Support the Conference

NAMI Texas is not charging for participation in Forward to Wellness: The 2021 NAMI Texas Annual Conference and Awards Celebration. However, we welcome donations from those who want to support NAMI Texas in making the Conference available. Below are a few ways to support the Conference:

Donate Online Here
Even a small, one-time donation goes a long way in helping us carry our mission forward! Or, to be an ongoing supporter, join the Circle of Hope!

Donate by Mail (write 'Conference' in memo line)
Mail a check to:
NAMI Texas
P.O. Box 300817
Austin, Texas 78703

Join the Circle of Hope
The Circle of Hope is a passionate group of monthly givers who are on a mission to improve the quality of life of all individuals living with mental illness and their families. Your monthly gift helps NAMI Texas continue to bring hope and recovery through support, education, and advocacy to thousands of Texans living with mental illness and their families.