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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Learn about housing options for those with mental illness  
at a free NAMI meeting on April 7**

SAN DIEGO—On Thursday, April 7, 2011, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI San Diego) will be holding their free monthly Education and Advocacy meeting to address supportive housing options for people experiencing mental illness.

San Diego County's Mental Health Services Administration (MHSA) is partnering with service providers and housing developers to address the dual stigmas of homelessness and mental illness. Housing, in combination with mental health and social services can break the cycle of homelessness.

*Home is where recovery begins*

Supportive housing units are generally integrated in new affordable housing developments. MHSA works with developers and community partners to make a small percentage of the units available to qualified participants in the Full Service Partnership (FSP) and to provide them with mental health services, case management, recovery services, educational programs, employment opportunities or training, and social services. Participants hold their own leases and contribute to their rents and are subject to the same rules and regulations as other tenants.

Currently, there are ten County MHSA projects—with an estimated value of 34 million dollars in state and local funding—identified for development across the region. These ten supportive housing developments outline just one of the many elements of MHSA's supportive housing program. If all the existing projects are successfully developed, they will provide 829 housing units with 172 of those units designated for MHSA supportive housing residents.

*A new direction in the workforce*

In addition to the discussion on housing, Nancy Fuller, a member of the NAMI San Diego Education Department, will discuss a newly formed San Diego County Workforce and Education Training (WET) Collaborative.

The Mental Health Services Act provided a foundation for the beginnings of an exciting transformation within the public mental health system. Along with this vision and direction provided by San Diego County Behavioral Health, a three-year action plan was created. To initiate components of this transformation, a multi-agency WET Collaborative was formed. The primary task of this Collaborative is to build the capacity of our current and prospective public mental health workforce. Please join Nancy as she discusses how family members and those who experience mental illnesses can become more intimately involved in this process.

NAMI is a non-profit organization that provides education, support services and advocacy to improve the lives of everyone affected by mental illnesses. They hold monthly Education and Advocacy meetings at no charge to the public that feature expert speakers on timely topics.

The meeting on April 7 starts at 6:30 pm and will be held at the University Christian Church Friendship Hall at 3900 Cleveland Ave in San Diego (across from the Post Office). Prior to the main program, there will be a discussion group with psychiatrists Steve Koh, MD, MPH, MBA Chief Resident SD VA Hospital, University of California San Diego, Dept. of Psychiatry and Kristine Munoz, MD, with the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. Here you can ask the questions you've wanted to ask a psychiatrist and learn from other members of the group as well. There will also be a information given about the upcoming NAMI Walk on April 16. Walk volunteers are encourage to attend.

Mark your calendar and if you need more information, contact NAMI San Diego at (800) 523-5933. Or visit [www.namisandiego.org](http://www.namisandiego.org)

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