

NAMI Sharing Your Story with Law Enforcement (SYSLE), a new presentation program, will be available for NAMI State Organizations and NAMI Affiliates to adopt summer of 2020. This program trains peers and families to share their stories with a law enforcement audience, such as Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training, panels and other related events specific to law enforcement, where mental illness, crisis response, or related topics are presented.

SYSLE presenters provide an opportunity for law enforcement to hear about the experience of someone who was in crisis and may have interacted with law enforcement as a result, but is now living well with mental illness. This program helps officers understand individual and family perspectives, how it affects them, and what recovery can be like for them, with or without justice system involvement.

### **Who can be a SYSLE Presenter?**

Presenters can be an adult with a mental health condition or a family member. Ideally presenters will have had involvement with the justice system, such as interacting with police as a result of a mental health crisis, and will share this experience to help reinforce the benefits of CIT training.

### **How will they be trained?**

After applying to their local NAMI Affiliate, potential presenters will be invited for an interview. If recommended for the program, they will participate in a two-part training.

Part one consists of an online course that is self-paced and guides participants through the writing and preparation process of creating a presentation. Once complete, they will attend a coaching session, where they will practice, get feedback and tips and polish their presentation. The coaching session can be in-person or virtual, and must be conducted within 30 days of participants completing the online part of training.

### **Who can be a SYSLE Trainer?**

Trainers may be existing trainers, individuals who have experience presenting to CIT groups, or have given at least five presentations previously. There is no state training requirement for this program. Trainers will review the online course, followed by video presentations that will prepare them to lead a coaching session in-person, or virtually.

### **How do we bring SYSLE to our NAMI State Office/NAMI Affiliate?**

NSOs can add this free program through the NAMI education portal on NAMI 360. NAs can reach out to NAMI National to get the link to complete the form, after which their NSO can add the program for them.

### **What is the NAMI Education Portal?**

The NAMI Education portal allows program coordinators and directors that are designated in NAMI 360 to recommend people to begin the program leader training. Those with access to this ([https:// programadmin.nami.org](https://programadmin.nami.org)) can see when a leader has completed the online training so they can be scheduled for the coaching session. Trainers will also be recommended using the portal.

### **Who should I contact with questions?**

Email [namieducation@nami.org](mailto:namieducation@nami.org).