



April 24, 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Parents and Teachers as Allies presentation  
at next NAMI San Diego meeting in Escondido on May 12**

SAN DIEGO—The next Education and Advocacy meeting held by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) San Diego, North Inland Region, will feature a presentation of their mental illness awareness program for teachers, counselors and other school personnel.

The program is called Parents and Teachers as Allies and the speakers in it represent an educator that has become knowledgeable about mental illness, a Family-to-Family teacher, an individual with mental illness who experienced its onset in the school-age years, and a parent whose child's experience of mental illness began during school years and required the assistance of the school system as well as that of a mental health professional.

Parents and Teachers as Allies focuses on helping school professionals and families within the school community better understand the early warning signs of mental illnesses in children and adolescents and how best to intervene so that youth with mental health treatment needs are linked with services. It also covers the lived experience of mental illnesses and how schools can effectively communicate with families about mental health related concerns.

This dynamic educational team presentation is designed to advance mutual understanding and communication between families and school professionals. The idea is that the more education there is available, the less stigma, fear and disruption there will be in regards to students with mental illness.

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 two Education and Advocacy meetings every month at no charge to the public. These feature

expert speakers on timely topics. The meeting in San Diego is on the first Thursday and the meeting in Escondido is on the second Tuesday.

The meeting on May 12 starts at 7 pm and will be held at Kinesis North, 474 W. Vermont Avenue, 92025.

Mark your calendar and if you need more information, contact NAMI San Diego at (800) 523-5933.

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