



nami

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Sharing Your Story with Law Enforcement

NAMI Sharing Your Story with Law Enforcement (SYSLE) is a presentation program that trains peers and families to share their stories of mental illness and recovery during law enforcement training, such as Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training.

Officers that hear these stories report greater empathy and understanding, and an increased desire to adapt their response to people experiencing a mental health crisis. NAMI's goal is to ensure that every law enforcement officer has this opportunity.

NAMI Sharing Your Story with Law Enforcement is a presentation program that provides participants with:

- An opportunity to understand the ways they can share their experience as a peer or family member affected by mental illness.
- Tips on the best ways to share interactions they or their family member had with law enforcement.
- Tools to learn how to effectively speak to – and answer questions from – a law enforcement audience.

“This was an amazing experience and has contributed to me feeling like I am a skilled presenter and am able to make a contribution to better my community.” – NAMI Presenter, New Mexico

Preparing NAMI Members for Peer and Family Perspective Presentations

Training includes a self-paced online course, followed by a coaching session. After completing this training, peers and family members will be prepared to confidently present their lived experience during CIT training, or any event with a law enforcement audience.

“Since the academy, I was always apprehensive with dealing with people with mental illness. But now with NAMI’s presentation I have knowledge and more confidence.” – Officer, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, California

Learn more at

www.nami.org/sharingyourstory