

NAMI Colorado is the Colorado state organization of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI Co and its affiliate groups around the state offer support, education, and advocacy in Colorado for people living with or affected by mental illness. There is no charge for any of the programs or services that NAMI offers.

## **"Real People, Real Facts"**

Mental illness is not anyone's fault.

### **The Human Cost of Mental Illness**

- According to a 2009 Population in Need Study 120,156 adults with a mental illness or substance use disorder, or both, and 18,525 children with serious emotional Disorders **RECEIVE NO SERVICES.**
- Individuals with a mental illness have a 25% reduced life rate. This has been compared to an adult living in Cambodia.
- At least 25 % of inmates in the criminal justice system have a mental illness or substance use disorder. People with a mental health disorder are incarcerated up to 5 times longer than those without mental illnesses.

*The majority of people with mental illnesses who are arrested and incarcerated are low-level nonviolent offenders who are exhibiting in public the symptoms of untreated mental illness.*

### **The Healing Potential of Treatment**

- Persons with mental illness do recover when they receive adequate services and treatment, with an average recovery rate of 60-80%, compared with 41-52% for people with cardiac diseases.
- With treatment and social vocational programs, many succeed in beginning or returning to work and becoming self-sufficient, tax paying members of our State.
- Successful integrated treatment in the community costs about \$6000 - \$8000 per year per person, while incarceration costs in the Department of Corrections are nearly \$30,000 per year per person.
- Integrated community-based treatment helps juveniles from re-offending according to the results of a Colorado Department of Human Services and Colorado Department of Public Safety pilot program.

Contact information: NAMI Colorado Public Policy: Lacey Berumen 303-884-3918

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7. Retzlaff, P. (2005) Community Based Management Programs for Youth with Mental illness