

**NAMI CHATTANOOGA**  
*National Alliance on Mental Illness*  
namichattanooga.org

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2017

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS FOR CAREGIVERS

Tuesday, December 5, 2017	<b>Wally's Restaurant (East Ridge)</b>	11:30am – 1:00pm
There will be no evening support group meeting in December.		
Holiday Party and Business Meeting		
<b>Wally's Restaurant (East Ridge)</b>		
Tuesday, December 19, 2017 – 6P – 8P		

**MENTAL HELP IS WITHIN REACH**

**REMINDER**

The new contact information for NAMI Chattanooga is:

[namichattanooga@gmail.com](mailto:namichattanooga@gmail.com)

Contact Number: 423 521-2590

**NAMI Chattanooga Membership and Membership Renewal Reminder**

Please remember to support mental health and to renew your membership to NAMI Chattanooga FOR 2018!

A membership form is on the last page of this newsletter. If you have questions please call the NAMI Chattanooga contact number, 423-521-2590.



## A Recent Chattanooga Times Free Press Article

*This is a shortened version*

### **Sheriff unveils plan for housing, services to get mentally ill out of Hamilton County Jail**



Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond has often said the county jail is as much mental health hospital and homeless shelter as it is a place of correction.

As many as 40 percent of inmates are on psychotropic drugs, and a large share are mentally ill or addicted, ending up in jail because they can't access treatment or social services.

After forming a team and seriously studying the problem for about a year, Hammond on Wednesday asked Hamilton County commissioners to help.

Supported by a phalanx of medical and social service experts, Hammond asked commissioners to kick in \$25,000 for an ambitious plan to get mentally ill and addicted people out of the jail and into an environment offering supportive housing and a full range of treatment and services.

He said the county's contribution would be added to similar donations from BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee and CHI Memorial. The money will go toward finding a mental health provider that will offer housing and services for the mentally ill to keep them out of the jail.

"This is a holistic and just and compassionate way to approach these individuals, to try to intervene in their lives, to make a difference, and to change the trajectory, both of their lives as well as the expenditures that revolve around their conditions," Scheri said.

Hammond has been working with BlueCross BlueShield and CHI Memorial to create a program he hopes will stop the use of the jail as a warehouse for people with mental illness, addictions and homelessness. Some 30 U.S. cities now have such programs, which provide supportive housing and wraparound services. Charlotte, N.C., saved \$2.4 million in the first two years of its program, Hammond told county commissioners Wednesday.

Housing the mentally ill in jail cells rather than treatment beds is a national problem. The online magazine Stateline reported in August 2016 that states cut \$4.35 billion in public mental health spending between 2009 and 2012, though some states have added money back since 2012.

Jahn said there are many steps to take before a program could be up and running.

"Before we do anything, before we even generate a list of eligible participants, we're going to make sure we can actually serve them," she said.

"It could take a while, but we're in it for the long haul."

***You can read the complete article on the Chattanooga Times News Free Press website***

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

*Support Mental Health*

**NAMI Chattanooga**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May we share your information with other NAMI members: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any information or questions you would like to share or have someone call you about?

yes \_\_\_\_\_  
no \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP COSTS**

Household: \$60.00 per household  
Individual: \$40.00 per individual  
Open door: \$5.00

Please make checks payable to:  
NAMI Chattanooga  
P.O. Box 1015  
Harrison, TN 37341

*Thank you for your support of mental health!*

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*Support Mental Health*

**NAMI Chattanooga**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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