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Judy Hull

Ellie Lizotte

P.O. Box 2415

Sandpoint, ID 83864

www.namifarnorth.com

208-597-2047

namifarnorth2003@gmail.com

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

“Let’s celebrate hope and progress in the treatment of serious brain disorders; be respectful, and reject stigma”

NAMI Far North was founded in Sandpoint in February 2007 with only 5 members, and it gratefully closed out the year 2015 with 32 active individual members. During 2015, NAMI Far North conducted Family-to-Family classes in Bonners Ferry providing information, encouragement and hope to families with loved ones living with mental illness. The support group for individuals with mental illness, NAMI Connection, continued to meet twice monthly each month except December, and the Family Support Group met monthly, following the Regular Monthly meetings. Monthly support meetings also were held in Bonners Ferry, facilitated by Gini Woodward and Candi Kelly, maintaining a NAMI presence in the very far north and providing encouragement to those unable to travel regularly to Sandpoint.

Advocacy Projects in 2015:

New Projects:

Our newest project, **North Idaho Crisis Line**, was brought into fruition January 1st of 2016 through the herculean efforts of board members Catherine Perusse and Ann Wimberley. It is an after-hours phone line, that is manned by licensed MSW’s, to give free assistance to anyone in Bonner and Boundary counties who may be in crisis.

It has and a stakeholder list that includes community supporters ;Bonner General Health, Public Defender Dan Taylor, Prosecutor for Involuntary Commitments Nick LePire, Sandpoint Community Resource Center, Sandpoint Police Department, Anna Lawrence, Region 1 Behavioral Health Ponderay Office, Joyce Broadsword, Region 1 DHW, Bonner County Commissioners, Representative Heather Scott, Sandpoint High School Human Rights Task Force, Bonner County Veterans Services Officer Bryan Hult State Senator Shawn Keough, Sandpoint VFW Po9st 2453, Bill Litzinger, BPICC, Gary Robertson, BPICC, Judy Hull, Cedar Hills Benevolence Committee, Howard Bigelow VFW Post 2453, Gloria Ray, Human Rights Task Force, Sharon McCahon, Human Rights Task Force, Kevin Rothenberger, Bonner County Assistance, Judges Buchanan, Heise, and Muelenberg .

NAMI Far North began supporting transportation to and from the new Crisis Center in Coeur d’Alene for people that lack the support to access the crisis center otherwise.

We launched our new website at NAMIFarNorth.org as well as our new email address of namifornorth2003@gmail.com



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NAMI Far North continues to cooperate with Sandpoint Community Resource Center to create a directory of services and to disseminate information about mental health recovery to a wider audience.

Continued Projects:

- NAMI Far North continues to challenge the Idaho legislature as well as the Orofino community to discontinue using the mascot “Maniacs” in their school, their billboards, and on license plates.
- We funded a Sandpoint Police officer to attend CIT International to bring back to our community the progress made CIT nationally.
- We attended (would suggest “participated in the” as a better word) Convoy of Hope in Bonner County and Health Fair in both Boundary County, successfully opening the dialog with many people about mental illness and the advocacy and education available through NAMI Far North.
- We continue to monitor the progress of Region 1 Behavioral Health board and inform our members of trends that may be of interest to them.
- NAMI Far North continues support for people hospitalized in State Hospital North, through our *Conduit of Care* program, which provides gifts of hope and comfort to people in crisis. In 2015 we purchased a Yamaha p115 digital piano for the facility, knowing music is an avenue to healing for several of the patients there.
- NAMI Far North Facebook page provides a daily link to mental health resources in the social media.
- We successfully hosted our bi-annual fundraiser “**Take A Seat at the Table**” in June of 2015.

Programs at the general meetings in 2015

Idaho Legislative update with Sage Dixon and Shawn Keough, Holly Bonwell, Region 1 Behavioral Health update, Dr. Scott Burgstahler, Behavioral health issues addressed in skilled nursing facilities, Carl Haugen, Spiritual, Emotional, Social, Mental, and physical resiliences, Sharon McMahan spoke on Mindfulness, Alive Inside – how music helps people in institutions, Community Relations Update and Annual Meeting for NAMI Far North Members, Jan Burt presented “New and Good “(relationship building game)

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Snoddy

Amber Snoddy, Past President NAMI Far