

Center for Forensic Psychiatry
Family Education Program



News Letter

Families Helping Families

This is a group for everyone who is interested in learning about mental illness, supporting your loved one, and taking care of your own emotional health. *We meet on the second Saturday of each month*

Everyone is welcome!

July 14th, 2012

The topic of discussion was “Medical Care and Process at the CFP.” Dr. Eric Neal, M.D., Unit Psychiatrist, presented on the system of medical care provided to our patients at the CFP. Dr. Neal offered an overview of the medical care process from the day to day medical attention accessible to patients in the center’s residential units, to our consultation services and agreement with emergency care as well as inpatient care with St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. Dr. Neal also answered many questions group members had about psychiatric illness, medication issues and their possible side effect.



Knowledge unlocks many doors!

September 8th, 2012

The Annual Picnic this year was well attended. We had 16 patients and 32 family members present. Even though it was a cold day and we had to be indoors we had a wonderful meal and shared quality time together. Group members continue to praise staff efforts for making this activity a memorable one for them.

October 13th, 2012

Dr. Jean Kanitz, PhD presented on “How to Understand, Identify Warning Signs, Communicate With, and Interact with a Family Member with Psychosis.” This topic was requested by group members. Dr. Kanitz researched the literature in this area and delivered a compassionate and informative discussion, which was also based on her experience with working in the woman’s unit here at the CFP. She allowed time for each group member to verbalize their concerns and responded in a well-informed and caring manner. She will return to present in March of 2013.

August 11th, 2012

Mr. Larry Ackerman, Office and Consumer Program Coordinator and Linda Burghardt, Executive Director of NAMI Michigan presented on “NAMI & Hope & Serious Mental Illness”. **This was a great presentation!** Larry and Linda shared their personal experience with struggling with mental illness and the systems in place to address the many concerns. Linda shared information about the current positive political trends in Michigan which hold much promise for improved services for the mentally ill. She encouraged family members to communicate with their political representatives about the much necessary treatment mentally ill individuals require. Larry’s experience and contributions to educating the various sectors of society that interact with mentally ill individuals was inspiring and filled group members with feelings of hope. Group members were encouraged to learn more about the “National Alliance for the Mentally Ill” in their community and become involved.

Just a reminder...February 9th, 2013 is our Annual Valentines Luncheon. Please remember that in order to participate in this event you must be a group member and have attended a minimum of two meetings from October to January. If you cannot attend the January’s meeting, please sign up for the luncheon by calling (734) 295-4355. Limit-3 family members per patient.

News about Future Meetings in the Planning:
November 10: “I’m still Here” a film about individuals and their family members living with mental illness.
December 8: Speaker Jacqueline Castine, Author of 2 books: “Recovery From Rescuing” and “I Wish I Could Fix it, But...” Mother of Two Adult Children with Dual Diagnosis and in recovery herself from bipolar disorder, chemical dependence, and the loss of her son by suicide. She is currently retired from Oakland County CMH where she worked as a Community Educator.
January 12, 2013: Tentative speaker from the NGRI Committee.
February 9: Annual Valentines Luncheon

Co-facilitators: Kelly Burse, Donald Riffenburg & Eugenia Ramon (734) 295-4355

Please join us... We look forward to meeting you.

November, 2012