

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!

March 8th, 2014

Mr. Dave Barry, LMSW, Social Work Supervisor.

Topic: Overview of the Clinical Groups provided to patients at the CFP. Dave provided an overview of the Clinical groups offered the patients at the Forensic Center. He also answered related questions and addressed concerns family members brought up. One family member in attendance informed, in the anonymous evaluation, that after this presentation he/she had a better "understanding of my son's illness and methods used to help in his recovery." Another group member shared how he/she "could feel the personal warmth from the speaker."



Knowledge unlocks many doors!

April 12th, 2014

Tracy Vandenberg, Patricia Doyle and Angela Kircos, board members of NAMI Washtenaw County.

Topic: "How to better communicate with your loved one who lives with a diagnosis of mental illness." And "A story of hope by an individual living in recovery."

This three part presentation was rated as the best presentation scheduled in recent times for our family education/support group. The presentation consisted of information about the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the educational and supportive opportunities offered information on mental health issues in the legal system as well as the story of hope shared by Angela who is living in recovery.

Co-facilitators: Donald Riffenburg, Norman Butler & Eugenia Ramon (734) 295-4355

July, 2014

May 10th, 2014

Tour of Main Street and an overview of the Rehabilitation Services Program presented by Renee Kouba OT, Rehabilitation Services Acting Manager. Group members enjoyed touring the Main Street area where their loved ones attend daily activities and groups programed with the focus on patient recovery. Renee allowed time to answer family members' questions and provided a description of the activities offered in each room, along with their therapeutic benefits for patients. A large number of group members evaluated this meeting as excellent and shared how they learned more about the treatment offered to their loved ones.

June 14th, 2014

Elizabeth Knisley, Director of the Bureau of Community Based Services was not able to attend and sent her apologies with plans to reschedule, but has not identified a new date at this time. We saw and discussed a Charlie Rose documentary on "The Brain and Mental Illness". The latest research on Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder were presented. Two testimonies were shared of successful individuals living in recovery.

Just a reminder...September 13th, 2014 is our Annual PIC NIC. Please remember that in order to participate in this event you must be a group member and have attended a minimum of three meetings from March to August. If you can not attend the August's meeting, please sign up for the luncheon by calling (734) 295-4355. [Limit-3 family members or friends per patient]

News about Future Meetings in the Planning:

July 12th: Ms. Karen Currington B.S., Rights Adviser

August 9th: Topic: "I Wish I Could Fix it, But..."

Speaker: Jacqueline Castine. Speaks from her experience as a Mother of two Children with Bipolar Disorder, her own recovery and her former role as a CMH Community Educator in Oakland County.

September 13th: Annual Family Picnic

October 11th: Amy Paten from Caro Center will provide an overview of the treatment program at Caro Center.

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