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Empowerment Professionals PC, Royal Oak & Grand Blanc

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*A
Safe Place
To Talk!*

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Halloween Horror..... Has No Boundaries

People ask me why I participate in NAMI Walks and volunteer as much time as I do - the following is a prime example why.

On the eve of our NAMI Walk I received this information: NAMI is aware that two major amusement park chains have been sponsoring “haunted asylum” attractions for Halloween which are extremely stigmatizing toward people with mental illness.

One is Cedar Point Entertainment Company which owns the Knott’s Berry Farm and Great America parks in California and others elsewhere. Thanks to NAMI’s efforts, the name was changed this week to eliminate the connection to mental illness: [Knott’s Halloween attraction gets a name change after backlash from mental health community](#) NAMI intends, however, to monitor the actual story-line features.

The other source of controversy is Six Flags Entertainment Corporation which also has parks throughout the country. Six Flags New England is sponsoring a “Psycho-Path Haunted

Asylum” while similar attractions appear in California, Chicago and Texas.

NAMI is taking swift action on these national attractions. We are working to engage senior executives and commercial sponsors to communicate the seriousness of stigma concerns, the offensiveness of Halloween stereotypes and the need to eliminate or modify stigmatizing themes.

As you know, NAMI state organizations and NAMI affiliates often face “Halloween horrors” in their own backyards involving attractions or costumes in stores. **Your can help!!!**

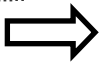
1. Don’t underestimate the power of one person or a group to make a difference!
2. Contact sponsors, companies and store managers personally. Start a polite dialogue. Educate them. Ask them to remove the offensive parts of any attraction, advertisements or merchandise that mock mental illness.
3. Organize local leaders in the mental health community. Request a private meeting with

the sponsors of an attraction or store owner to start a dialogue about how to resolve the controversy and to work together in the future.

4. Local civic organizations, high schools or similar community groups may be the sponsor of an offensive attraction. Keep in mind that they often have no awareness of stigma and did not intend to offend. They often have a strong desire to resolve controversy. Be neighborly and in finding solutions.

5. If attempts at dialogue are unsuccessful, alert other NAMI members, family and friends to phone, send letters or e-mail to sponsors or stores. Check the websites of the sponsoring company or attraction. Many have Facebook pages or are connected to other social media platforms. Post comments on your Facebook news feed to friends and ask them to share with their friends.

6. Contact local newspaper editors and television news directors. Educate them about stigma . Continued page 2



Special Events/Seminars/Workshops/Distance Learning

GRAND OPENING

October 11, 2016

8445 S. Saginaw Ste. 103

Grand Blanc, MI 48439

(810) 771-7732

Ribbon Cutting 11:30 AM
Open House 6:00—8:00 PM

HELP WANTED

2 Part Time Positions

Billing
With Experience

&

Independent Associate
Adolescent Addiction

Please forward Resume

October 24, 2016

Adventures in Recovery

9:00 AM—3:30 PM

\$100 Cash Price

New Seminar Location

Walli’s Restaurant

Burton Michigan 48509



**Mental Health
1 in 4 adults
live with a diagnosable
mental health
condition. Mental
health and substance
abuse conditions are
common and, they are
extremely treatable!**

Testimonial
I just love unsolicited reviews on my seminars like this one regarding our seminars. Great symposium! Very timely and helpful in dealing with a constantly changing drug use environment. Mr. Ken Krygel, Drug Expert was particularly helpful as he informed us all of the newest and latest drugs being used on the street and how to detect the use of drugs in our clients. Outstanding presentation by Ken!
Ed Kainz, M.A., L.P.C., CAADC

**We Accept
Private Pay
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Meridian
MHN
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Beacon Health
Various EAP's**

Changing Minds Community Outreach.....

and your concerns. If they have run promotional stories about a haunted asylum, ask them to run a story about the protest and individuals living with mental illness. (Fair is fair).

7. Make the protest a "news event" and a "teaching moment." Offer local individual or family members who have been affected by mental illness for personal interviews.

8. Be flexible. In some cases, a company or sponsor can't make changes immediately but will agree to do so in the future. In some cases, they become ongoing partners and supporters.

9. Be prepared for some backlash. Many people in a commu-

nity may say, "It's only Halloween" or even something nasty. Take the high road. Stay polite and respectful in the public dialogue—and remind them that no one would ever make a Halloween attraction about a cancer ward or dialysis center. Even if it seems that too many people disagree with your position, remember that you will simply win by raising awareness

I hope this will encourage you to join me moving forward with continued advocacy and support of our most vulnerable population.

Update: as we went to press Knott's closes attraction.

Psychotherapy and Other Supports

Psychotherapy

Appointments Are Confidential Individual therapy helps you gain insight into the cause of your problems and seek positive alternatives. Couples counseling provides an area where two people can learn to communicate individual needs and negotiate a healthy partnership. Family counseling helps family members gain an understanding of disruptive problems. Improved communication skills

provide new ways to reach solutions that lead to greater family harmony. Therapeutic supports are available for adolescents and adults.

Oakland County Private Practice Network and Support (OCPPNS)

We are a vibrant group interested in supporting each other with group or one-on-one discussion directed to the various aspects of private practice.

Private Practice Start Up / New Networking Format / Seminars

Private Practice Start Up

Watch our website for details or call BJ at (810) 771-7732. Our "How To Start Your Own Private Practice" workshop is offered twice a year and includes a free copy of our book "Solo Private Practice." *We currently offer an incubator program for those in early start up.* One-on-one consultant services are also available on request.

New Networking Format

We will no longer offer a regular networking in our Royal Oak

office. As new programs are developed we will notify you.

"Meet Me AT Walli's" Restaurant that is. BJ is announcing a new networking opportunity in Genesee County called Genesee County Network & Support (GCNS). Our first meet-up will be Friday, October 21, 2016 from 6 to 8 pm. Please confirm with BJ (810) 771-7732.

Seminar Announcements

Reach For The Stars!, provider #1190, a division of Empower-

[Knott's Closes Attraction That Was Insensitive to People Who Care About Mental Health](#)

**NAMI Walk 2016 Update
While the walk is over the need continues. Donations will be accepted for the next 60 days.**

<http://www.namiwalks.org/participant/Reachforthestars>



**Reach For The Stars!
Mental Illness Should Not Limit You!!**

As of July 1, 2015 our format changed. We will no longer hold the 1 or 2 hour networking events on a regular basis. This outreach will change from time to time to meet the needs of our members and the community.

Watch empowerment-pro.net for new dates on events.



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**Helping You Build A Solid
Foundation For Positive Change!**



Proud Member of The Dynamic
Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce!

Tips To Avoid Road Rage

1) Make every attempt to get out of the way of an aggressive driver; 2) Do not challenge drivers by speeding up or trying to prevent them from getting in your lane; 3) Wear your seat belt; 4) Avoid eye contact it can trigger aggression; 5) Ignore obscene gestures and never respond in kind; 6) Use your horn sparingly this often triggers anger; 7) Lock your car doors - when in town keep the windows and sunroof only partially open; 8) Report aggressive drivers to the police; 9) If an aggressive driver gets in an accident, stop at a safe distance from the scene, wait for police, and report the driving behavior; 10) If you're pursued by an angry motorist, never go home - drive to a police station or another place where you can get help.

Substance Abuse Support Heroin Addiction

Places to turn to if you or someone you know needs help with a heroin addiction and treatment.

■ Southeast Michigan Community Alliance: (800) 686-6543 or SEM-CA.org.

■ In Oakland County, Prior Authorization and Central Evaluation: (248) 858-5200.

■ Drug Abuse Hotline Flint
(810) 515-7218

■ Narcotics Anonymous in Michigan:
call (877) 338-1188, www.michigan-na.org

Emergency Services

Common Ground Crisis Line
Oakland (248) 547-2260 / Genesee (800) 231-1127

Support

NAMI Metro
(248) 348-7197

FOCUS ON THE INDIVIDUAL, MIND, BODY, EMOTION, AND SPIRIT.

Each Client is Unique

Each client is unique, therefore a thorough evaluation is done to determine the type of therapy and supports that will best meet their needs. If Life Coaching is requested by the client, placement will be made after the appropriate assessment has been completed and it is deemed appropriate.

Our Mission

To assist clients in utilizing their skill to the height of their potential; by helping them determine what they want, what they are willing to do to achieve it, and help them to remain focused until goal is obtained.

Therapy and Support

Individual • Family • Couples
Clinical Counseling reflects classic systems approach, use of DSM-5, supportive short term therapy, motivational interviewing, integrative health and wellness approaches with appropriate intake and referral as needed.

Career Counseling And Consultation

For tenure and promotion - college/university tenure track, junior faculty and mid-career faculty (assistant/associate professor level) is available with Dr. Larry M. Gant Ph.D., LMSW.



Detroit Metro and beyond.....

We Accept Insurance
and Private Pay!

Our Staff!

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Clinical and Macro Practice
Therapy • Coaching • Seminars

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Social Work Consultant
Clinical and Macro Practice
Clinical Supervision

Christiane Gant, LLMSW
Clinical Associate

Office Hours

**Monday to Thursday 9:00 AM—7:00 PM
Tuesday to 8:00 PM / Friday to 5:00 PM**

By Appointment Only—Grand Blanc

(810) 771-7732