NAMI PEER-TO-PEER EDUCATION PROGRAM OPERATING POLICIES

These policies outline the current standard for Peer-to-Peer in the United States. It is understood that NAMI State and Affiliate organizations, and their Education Committees, may not set policies at variance with the Peer-to-Peer policies stated below. These guidelines are also to be followed by Peer-to-Peer Trainers and Mentors

In the Peer-to-Peer program we must insist on staying true to form. Do not confuse this with conformity: We are preserving validated standards so that individuals taking the course can experience the same expected outcome everywhere the course is taught. These standards are:

1: You must be a trained Mentor to teach the Peer-to-Peer course.
2: You must teach the course exactly as it is presented in the curriculum.
3: You must follow the 10-week format. Holding the class for 5 weeks, then having a break, then holding it for another 5 weeks is not acceptable. Nor is it acceptable to hold the class once a month.

Copyright:

1) All NAMI material is copyrighted. Permission to use any material from the Peer-to-Peer program material must be obtained from the NAMI National Office.

2) No group or individual may rewrite any of the NAMI Peer-to-Peer materials.

Program Leadership:

3) Two trained Peer-to-Peer Mentors are required to teach each 10 week course. An additional Volunteer Support Person is also required.

4) Both the Mentors and the Volunteer Support Person must be individuals with a mental illness.

5) Due to the investment of time and money to train volunteers, prospective Mentors must agree to teach a minimum of two course cycles. It is understood, of course, that unexpected life situations may occur that will necessitate compassion and flexibility in this policy.

6) Untrained Mentors are not permitted to serve as Peer-to-Peer Educators. In cases where a Mentor must drop out during the course, the Volunteer Support Person may help with the lecturing, but may not continue as a mentor without the requisite training.
7) No Mentor may become romantically involved with a student during the course.

**Course participant requirements:**

8) All course participants must be persons with a mental illness.

**Peer-to-Peer format and presentation:**

9) The format and presentation of Peer-to-Peer cannot be changed or revised in any way when offering it in the community.

10) Peer-to-Peer is conducted over a period of 10 consecutive weeks. This time frame must not be altered, or shortened, in any way.
11) Participants will not be charged a fee of any kind for enrolling in and participating in the 10-week Peer-to-Peer course.

12) No more than one week of hiatus should be taken for holidays which may occur during the course term (Thanksgiving, Easter, etc). When the course begins in the fall, it should always end by the 1st week in December, as the Christmas- New Year’s holiday weeks create too long a break in continuity.

**Stipend requirements for mentors and trainers:**

13) Every Peer-to-Peer Mentor should be paid a minimum stipend of $250 (up to $500 when possible), per 10 week course taught. Mentors should be reimbursed for all travel and any purchased course materials in addition to their regular stipend.

14) Each Peer-to-Peer Mentor Trainer should be paid a minimum of $250 per training given (up to $500 when possible). Trainers should be reimbursed for all travel expenses, including any travel meals in addition to their regular stipend.

**Mentor training policies:**

15) The 3 day Peer-to-Peer Mentor Training Workshop may not be altered, or condensed, in any way.

16) Prospective Mentors may include individuals who have not taken the course, as well as course graduates who elect to do so.

17) If the Peer-to-Peer Coordinator is not able to be present for the entire training, a designated staff member or volunteer must be present in case of an emergency and to provide for the needs of participants and the trainer. If the Coordinator is the trainer, a separate designated staff member or volunteer must be present for the entire training.