

May 24, 2017
Annual Report (2016-2017) for
Mental Health Justice Ministry (formerly Social Justice Steering Committee)

Accomplishments for FY 2016-17

September: Name Change from SJSC to MHJM

September: Begin online creation of "Where Do I Turn?" with RAFT

September 14: AARP Health and Wellness Fair - Christiansburg Rec. Ctr. (Janet, Margo, Cynthia)

September 18: Membership table for NAMI and MHJM

October 5: Defined Mission (Inspire) - Seek justice in the Mental Health System; Vision (Create) - Affect systemic change through increased access to medical care, reduced stigma, parity for mental health care, and better funding for research

October 2-8: Mental Illness Awareness Week: Ask any member of our Mental Health Justice Ministry how to join NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). We wore buttons at the Sunday Service.

October: Set up display table of Mental Health books at Blacksburg library

October 11: PATH meeting

November 6: Sunday Service w/LPCM & MHJM: SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) and Anti-Stigma Pledge with congregation

November 12,13: NAMI Training, Family Support Group - Richmond for friend, caretaker, family member of someone with mental illness, Kristine Reid and Chris Walter

November 18,19, 20: NAMI Training, Family 2 Family - Richmond, Margo Walter
January 10: PATH meeting

January 25: Advocacy Day- Richmond, Va., Alan, Cynthia, and Margo

March 20: Facilitated the NAMI Family-2-Family workshop which is 12 classes and it went extremely well.

April 11: PATH meeting

April 21: MHFAW for Youth-Margo attended at MCPS Board office

April 23: Update at Sunday Service about MHJM and a request to the congregation to donate ½ the plate to the Lyric. (\$300.00 collected)

May 20, Saturday, from 9 until 5pm, we hosted a Mental Health First Aid Workshop in Elarth

May 22: Ethics workshop at the Inn-set up table for 40+ counselors

June 5: Completed 12 week Family-to-Family classes and graduated 7 (Margo and Chris)

Continued to coordinate the 2 Support Groups which are thriving.

Continued MH Advocacy. Our group with Delegate Joseph Yost proposed to the state legislature that the Resident Advisors, RAs, of all state funded universities and colleges, be required to take the Mental Health First Aid Workshop prior to becoming an RA. (Janet was the lead on this) It was signed by the governor and should start in the fall.

On May 27th, by showing a powerful film called Touched With Fire at the Lyric, the community got an inside look into mental illness and how it affects not only individuals, but also friends, families and work life. After viewing the film, there was a panel discussion to reflect on the themes of the movie, the relevant issues, and the personal experiences of the audience

June 3-4: Attended a NAMI Conference in Richmond on whether to begin a NAMI Affiliate in this area or look at other options (Janet and Margo)

Members: Alan Bodenhorn, Cynthia Luke, Janet Sawyers, Barbara Taylor, Margo Walter (Chair), Catherine Breese, Sharon Day

Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month, except for July break

Budget allocation: \$600; Spending: \$510 to date