



National Alliance on Mental Illness Los Angeles County Council
Los Angeles County's Voice on Mental Illness

March 31, 2014

Mr. William Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles County
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Fujioka

On behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Los Angeles County Council (NAMI LACC), the largest family and consumer grassroots organization in Los Angeles dedicated to mental health, I write to express support for the budget allocation request from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) for more than 60 items in the 2014-15 fiscal year to support education programming and other psychosocial activities for inmates in Twin Towers. NAMI LACC is comprised of the 12 NAMI affiliates in LA county and represents more than 3,300 families and individuals affected by mental illness.

Education and knowledge give individuals hope that they can find employment when released from jail. Our perspective is that education increases the chances of employment, and that, in turn, decreases recidivism. An inmate without a job upon release is more likely to turn to criminal behavior to access funds. The education-based incarceration programming at Twin Towers will assist in the rehabilitation of inmates, including those with serious mental illness, and reinforce the support systems needed for them to become productive and engaged members of society.

As advocates for individuals with serious mental illness and their families, we believe education is important in the recovery process, and that education-based incarceration is an especially important tool for the recovery of individuals with serious mental illness incarcerated in our county jail system. Therefore, NAMI LACC supports the funding request from the LACDMH to expand education-based incarceration programming at Twin Towers and asks for your support.

Sincerely yours,

Brittney Weissman
Executive Director
NAMI Los Angeles County Council