



Mental health  
advocacy, education  
and support.

September 12, 2018

Director Diana Knaebe  
Division of Mental Health  
Illinois Department of Human Services  
600 E Ash St., Building 500  
Springfield, IL 62703

Dear Director Knaebe,

On behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Chicago, I am writing to express our interest in joining the Illinois Mental Health Planning Advisory Council (IMHPAC).

As a grassroots advocacy organization representing individuals living with mental health conditions and their loved ones, NAMI Chicago is committed to improving the statewide mental health system. Our stakeholders – individuals, families, and professional partners – are impacted by policy decisions made at the state level. We hear each day directly from stakeholders about their needs and opportunities for system improvements. NAMI Chicago works with DHS-DMH to provide outreach and peer support services to individuals who live in and have recently moved out of psychiatric nursing homes across the state under the Williams Consent Decree, which further informs our advocacy on behalf of individuals with lived experience.

NAMI Chicago is interested in joining the IMHPAC to provide input from the perspective of individuals and families on statewide mental health policy. The mission of NAMI Chicago is to provide hope and improve the quality of life for those who are affected by mental illness. NAMI Chicago is a non-profit, community organization that provides education, support, and advocacy for individuals living with mental illness, their families, and the community at large. We are committed to empowering and engaging the community in all our efforts to improve the quality of life for those impacted by mental illness.

Please see my attached résumé and a brief biography for consideration of membership on NAMI Chicago's behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JMT".

Jennifer McGowan-Tomke  
Associate Director  
NAMI Chicago  
1801 W. Warner Ave., 202  
Chicago, IL 60613