

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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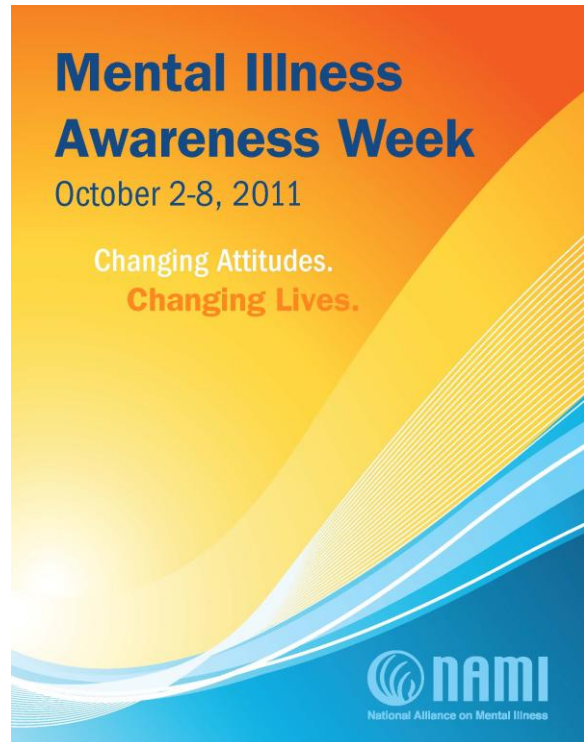
Asian Health Coalition Observes Mental Illness Awareness Week Oct 2-8

CHICAGO, IL - Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW) takes place October 2-8 and is an opportunity to learn more about mental health issues such as depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and schizophrenia. Mental health issues are medical illnesses. One in four adults experiences a mental health problem in any given year. On average, people living with serious mental health problems live 25 years less than the rest of the population. One reason is that less than one-third of adults and less than one-half of children with a diagnosed illness receive treatment.

“There is a lack of systematic research among the Asian population, and mental health issues and depression among Asian Americans are poorly understood, said Edwin Chandrasekar, Executive Director of the Asian Health Coalition (AHC). There is a significant stigma associated with mental health in Asian cultures despite the fact that early identification and intervention of mental health issues result in better outcomes.”

AHC is a partner with the National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI) Multicultural Action Center. In 2007, AHC was funded by the Office of Minority Health to develop the Asian Mental Health Partnership Initiative (AMPHI) and provided mental health workshops to Asian American community-based organizations in the Chicago metropolitan area to increase staff’s awareness of mental health issues and strengthen their organizational ability to reduce stigma.

Please visit <http://www.nami.org> and http://www.asianhealth.org/site/epage/71270_794.htm for more information.



About Asian Health Coalition: Established in 1996, the Asian Health Coalition is a 501(c)3 non-profit with a mission to improve the health and wellness of the Asian American community through advocacy, technical assistance, community-based education and research. To learn more, visit www.asianhealth.org