



May 15, 2021

Dear Contra Costa County Faith, Spiritual Leaders and other Supporters,

We need your help! You are receiving this invitation because in the past you have demonstrated your support of improving outcomes for individuals and families impacted by mental illness. You are likely aware of local incidents of injustices that have harmed our efforts to promote compassion and understanding for those who live with mental illness. In the past two years since the tragic killing of Miles Hall, who was killed by Walnut Creek police while experiencing a mental health crisis, there has been an additional three individuals who live with mental illness who lost their lives at the hands of law enforcement. Our NAMI CC FaithNet group is seeking your support along with Rabbi Raphael Asher, Rev. William Mc Garvey, Rev. Dr. Fred Weidmann, Pastor Chris Williams, and Bishop Dr. Dave Hollister to advance efforts to address and find justice for these victims of police violence.

It is widely understood that when individuals, groups and organizations need emotional support, they first turn to their faith leaders as their preferred first responders. We are hoping you will join us on May 25th from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm at our face to face Clergy Round Table, now that it's safer to come together. We will meet in our NAMI CC office at 2151 Salvio Street, Suite V. Concord, CA 94520. We will practice all CDC and county safety protocols while serving a late lunch and creating a plan to support the Justice for Miles Hall campaign, and lift up efforts to create a county wide non-police response for those experiencing a mental health crisis. We hope this group along with other Contra Costa County Faith and Spiritual Leaders will use this gathering to plan for an effort on June 2nd which will be the second anniversary of the date Miles was killed in Walnut Creek.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and we are partnering with Mental Health Friendly Communities to provide Mental Health 101 to train diverse faith and spiritual communities to better understand mental illness, provide needed resources that include safe and compassionate faith-based support groups. Our programs are inclusive community defined, and work to remove ethnic and cultural disparities as we move toward healing, better understanding and birth hope!

Please contact Gigi Crowder at (510) 990-2670 or e-mail gigi@namicontracosta.org if you have any questions.

NAMI CC FaithNet Coordinators

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Greg Beckner-Peer Liaison

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Rabbi Raphael Asher