

NJAMHAA Finds a Strong Partner in Efforts to Make the World Free of Stigma

NJAMHAA recently established a partnership with Attitudes in Reverse (AIR; www.attitudesinreverse.org) based on their common mission to eliminate stigma against mental illnesses and individuals who have them, and to ensure that services are sought and received when needed.

"The most important thing about AIR's mission is the fact that it's striving to eliminate stigma against people who have mental illnesses and their families. AIR starts the conversation and takes it even further, which is so important for overcoming barriers to treatment," said Debra Wentz, CEO of NJAMHAA. "I always like to be part of any organization that has the same goal as NJAMHAA, which is to increase access to treatment for anyone and everyone who needs it and to fight stigma and discrimination."

"From our few conversations with Debbie, we have no doubt of her commitment to NJAMHAA's mission and that she is, indeed, a Mover and Shaker," said Tricia and Kurt, Co-Founders of AIR. "We feel fortunate to have connected with this effective organization that shares our mission to save lives by enabling everyone who experiences mental health challenges to receive treatment that can save their lives."

NJAMHAA and AIR are delighted to announce that they are planning an event for National Suicide Prevention Day (September 10, 2013) to educate school superintendents and principals; individuals from the state Departments of Education, Children & Families and Human Resources; state legislators and their staff; NJAMHAA members; and AIR supporters about the critical importance of eliminating stigma to prevent suicide through education and assurance of access to behavioral healthcare services -- and, of course, NJAMHAA's and AIR's efforts to achieve these goals. We will also illustrate the amazing impact that NJAMHAA members' services and AIR's educational program have had on children and teenagers. Stay tuned for details.