



Southwestern  
Pennsylvania

Contact: Darcey Garda  
[dgarda@namiswpa.org](mailto:dgarda@namiswpa.org)  
(412) 366-3788

*For Immediate Release*

**FOUR PHENOMENAL WOMEN OFFER HOPE FOR RECOVERY AT NAMI CONFERENCE  
NAMI Conference This Saturday To Highlight Stories of Hope and Recovery from Mental Illness**

*Coraopolis, Pa.*— During a time when everything is changing--the economy, politics, healthcare, technology--NAMI Southwestern Pennsylvania presents an annual conference designed to empower participants to shape their future by following an individual journey based on hope, courage and recovery. Taking place this Saturday, April 6 at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott, the conference will highlight inspirational stories of ordinary people who have achieved extraordinary accomplishments during challenging times. Four strong, successful women will each offer something different: a government update, a story of recovery, a personal perspective and an educational lecture--four different pathways to hope.

- WHAT:** NAMI Southwestern Pennsylvania 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Conference  
*Pathways to Hope: Shaping a Positive Future During Uncertain Times*
- WHEN:** Saturday, April 6, 2013  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- WHERE:** Pittsburgh Airport Marriott, 777 Aten Drive, Coraopolis, Pa., 15108
- WHO:** **Dr. Jean Bennett**, Regional Administrator of SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)  
**Tracy Carney**, Director, Recovery Central Clubhouse, Bloomsburg, Pa.  
**Laura Miller**, Founder, The Secret Agent L Project  
**Marie-Paule de Valdivia**, Facilitator, National Education Alliance for Borderline Personality Disorder

Also available for interview:

**Christine Michaels**, MSHSA, Executive Director, NAMI Southwestern PA

“A consistent and ever present theme at NAMI is a focus on hope, being hopeful about the future,” said Christine Michaels, executive director of NAMI Southwestern Pennsylvania. “Our keynote, plenary and lunchtime speakers will all, in very individualized presentations, bring a message of hope and recovery.”

NAMI Southwestern Pennsylvania (an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness through recovery focused support, education and advocacy. More information is available at [www.namiswpa.org](http://www.namiswpa.org) or by calling (412) 366-3788.

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