NAMI Greater Cleveland’s Speakers Bureau offers feature speeches and keynote speeches about living with or caring for someone living with a mental health condition. We promote recovery through messages of hope and lived experience, and we will inspire those facing challenges by recounting not just our crisis points, but what aided us in our journey. Audiences will gain insight by hearing a first-hand account of what it’s really like to live with a mental health condition and receive services in Cuyahoga County.

Develop your public speaking skills and share your personal experience of recovery from mental illness to decrease stigma and increase public awareness about mental illness. NAMI Speakers Bureau is a structured outreach presentation with which you can become a role model for hope and recovery for other mental health peers in the community. The presentation puts a human face to mental illness and is used to provide insight into the peer experience of recovery for mental health professionals, students, and family members.

Minimum Requirements for Volunteer Speakers Bureau Presenters

- Individuals must be comfortable talking in front of various audiences and willing to share aspects of their personal experience of living with mental illness.
- Willingness to maintain fidelity of the NAMI Speakers Bureau model.
- Provide the audience personal perspectives of individuals of diverse backgrounds sharing their journey of recovery with mental health challenges
- Allow audience members to connect on a personal level via question and answer sessions
- Provide an opportunity for audience members to gain insight into the lived experience of life with mental illness
- Willingness and capability to undergo Speakers Bureau training
- Make a commitment to being available for at least one year
- Willingness to serve as a representative of NAMI Greater Cleveland

Presenter Criteria

Aged 18+ and who is a family member/caregiver of one who is living in recovery with a mental health condition