

Message from Tricia Ellis, *In Our Own Voice* Coordinator

The *In Our Own Voice (IOOV)* presentation for your week 10 class is an important message of hope. It offers the lived experience beyond the dark days of being diagnosed and offers your class insight to the experience beyond their loved ones. It is our goal and commitment to you, to provide each Family-to-Family class with this experience.

In an effort to make scheduling as easy as possible for you, here is how you can schedule an IOOV presentation for your class:

Around your week 7 class, please contact me at tellis@naminh.org with the date and time the presentation is to take place. I would be delighted to coordinate this for you. You may outline a description of attributes you would like the presenter to have. I will do my best to match the presenter the best way I can for your group. While the IOOV presenters have vast experience, it may be difficult to meet your specific need based on speaker availability. Please know all of the IOOV presenters offer a story of resilience and recovery.

Once your request is received, I will respond with the presenter's name and their email address and will ask that you connect with them to convey the details. This way you are able to feel confident the presentation is booked. All coordination is done through email so we all have a record. Please know you will find out who will be your presenter as soon as I have a commitment for the presentation which may take a couple of weeks to coordinate. Feel free to touch base with me at any time on the progress of your request.

Why is it important to schedule your IOOV presentation through the state office?

- We want to provide a speaker that is in a good place to present a message of hope and recovery to your class.
- We work hard to manage speaking engagements for a full panel of IOOV presenters to provide everyone with an opportunity to speak.
- Funding for the IOOV presentations is provided through NAMI NH's state grant which requires us to manage and report statistics for all presentations.
- As we train new speakers every year we often have speakers that would be perfect for your class, but individuals you may not be familiar with.
- If a scheduled speaker has concerns at the last minute, we are able to be there for them.
- We are a little protective of our speakers as for some it takes an emotional toll to present, so coordinating their presentations with us provides the speaker the chance to say no if they should feel this doesn't work for them.

We hope this process will make it simple and easy for you. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or Liz (lhodgkins@naminh.org).

Thank you for your support in this process and for all you do.
Tricia Ellis