



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For More Information
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Syracuse Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Behavioral Health Department
Partnering with the National Alliance on Mental Illness

Hosting a free 6-week course, open to families & friends of Veterans
With severe mental health problems beginning May 27th

Syracuse, NY- Syracuse VA continues its “NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program” designed specifically for family caregivers of Veterans with severe mental illness. More than 100,000 family members from across the country graduated from the program first developed and implemented by NAMI (National Association on Mental Illness).

VA classes are held each week for 6 weeks, beginning May 27th from 6-8:30 pm at the Behavioral Health Outpatient Center located at 620 Erie Blvd. West in Syracuse. Classes are taught by trained family members and guided by VA professional behavioral health Staff. The course is taught each year with additional programs available to meet the needs of Veteran families. The program was developed by NAMI and in working with VA, specifically targets the Veteran population and highlights issues specific to Veterans and their families.

This course offers current information about mental health issues including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, and many additional disorders.

Openings for the 6-week course are available right now; instruction is free of charge. A light meal will be served at each meeting. To enroll, please contact Ann Canastra, Syracuse VA Local Recovery Coordinator at 425-4400, extension 52717 or by e-mail:

Ann.Canastra@va.gov.