



# FAMILY EDUCATION PANEL: EXPLORING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS

Throughout this event, you will be hearing from professionals in the field about how to help a loved one struggling with either mental health disorders, substance abuse, or both at the same time. This can be a difficult process that involves many steps, therefore we are gathering to provide as much clarity, resources and guidance, to comfort and support families in this process. From Crisis Intervention Teams, to Clinical therapists, to NAMI representatives, to those involved in recovery themselves, you will hear from a panel of expert members who dedicate their lives to improving the conditions and quality of community mental health.

**Let's break the stigma, let's educate ourselves, let's build our empathy!**

**MODERATOR: LARA MORTIZ**

## **SPEAKERS:**

- **Suzanne Taylor, LCSW**  
Midwest Recovery Centers
- **Toni Whitworth**  
Cottonwood Springs
- **Heidi Custin, NAMI**  
National Alliance on Mental Illness
- **Joe Custin, NAMI**  
National Alliance on Mental Illness
- **Jason Hinkle, CIT**  
Crisis Intervention Team

**Thursday September 12th at 5:30 PM**

### Church of the Resurrection

The Foundry  
5001 W 137th St  
Leawood, KS 66224

Childcare available upon pre registration  
[Resurrection.church/recovery](https://resurrection.church/recovery)

### Livestream:

<https://online.brushfire.com/cor/recovery/>

### Nick & Jake's Dinner:

5:30pm

Event: 6-7pm



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## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:

**Joe Custin** has been a volunteer for NAMI for 14 years, as president of the board. He teaches Family to Family class for families of loved ones with a mental health diagnosis and has certifications as support group facilitator for both families and people living with a diagnosis. He has received many awards for his work including NAMI volunteer of the year, and inductee in the National NAMI Hall of Fame and three time recipient of the family presenter award for Crisis Intervention Training for police officers and other first responders. Joe has life experience raising two children with mental health diagnoses along with addiction.

**Heidi Custin** volunteered for 13 years before becoming Outreach Coordinator for NAMI GKC. Heidi teaches Family to Family with Joe and facilitates a support group for families. She is director of the family/consumer panel for CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) and is a member of NAMI National Hall of Fame, recipient of the family award and three time recipient of the CIT family presenter award. Heidi has written two books about their son, "Adam's Contract With God" and "Living the Legacy of Adam" following the suicide of their son Adam in 2015. Heidi has lived experience raising two children with mental health diagnoses and addiction.

**Suzanne Taylor** is the Clinical Director at Midwest Recovery Centers. She has been working as a therapist since 2012. She has her Bachelor's degree in Social Welfare from KU and her Masters degree in Social Work from UMKC. Suzanne is in long term recovery and has personal experience both with her father and herself battling the disease of addiction. Suzanne started the women's program at Midwest Recovery Centers, and also helped to develop MRC's mental health and substance use inpatient programs. She oversees all clinicians and their work at Midwest Recovery Centers. Her extensive knowledge on SUD, mental health, and boundaries also derive experience from running the How to Cope program at First Call for several years.

**Sergeant Jason Hinkle** joined the Kansas Crisis Intervention Team Council in 2017. He began his law enforcement career in 2000 and has been with the Lenexa Police Department since 2007. Sergeant Hinkle has worked as a police officer, field training officer, tactical team operator, directed patrol officer, narcotics investigator, as a general assignment detective and patrol field supervisor. He currently supervises the Community Policing Unit and is the CIT Coordinator for the agency.

**Lara Moritz** is married with two adult children. She's been at KMBC since January of 1995. A four-time Emmy award winner and three time Edward R Murrow award winner she considers it a privilege giving people a voice in Kansas City. Her deep faith in Jesus Christ has guided her through many personal challenges including a life of sobriety since February 23rd, 2011.

**Toni Whitworth** has been in recovery since 1991, and participant of the 12 step fellowship. Her former husband and one of her two children are also in recovery. She began working in the industry in 2010, first with physicians, across the country, in need of professional placement during an extensive five-year monitoring program. This allowed exposure to the vocation of intervention and treatment placement in 2012. Toni is dedicated to discovering the appropriate treatment options for mental health and substance use disorders for those in need.

**CHILDCARE AVAILABLE UPON PRE-REGISTRATION**

[HTTPS://MY.RESURRECTION.CHURCH/REGISTRATION?REGISTRATIONINSTANCEID=1827](https://my.resurrection.church/registration?registrationinstanceid=1827)