

Contact: Michelle Gregory  
Development Director  
NAMI Oklahoma  
Phone: (405) 607-6018  
E-mail: [michelle@namioklahoma.org](mailto:michelle@namioklahoma.org)

Sept. 2, 2015

**SEPT. 12 'RIDE TO END STIGMA' TO RAISE MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS, BENEFIT NAMI**

Motorcycle enthusiasts, car lovers and anyone wanting to raise mental health awareness are invited to gear up Saturday, Sept. 12, for Oklahoma's first-ever "Ride to End Stigma" against mental illness, with proceeds benefiting NAMI Oklahoma.

Registration is from 9-11 a.m. at Ft. Thunder Harley, 500 S.W. 11 St. in Moore. The 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. event will include a police escort to the first stop at the IOOF Cemetery in Norman, with additional stops at Blazer Motors in Moore, Automobile Alley in downtown Oklahoma City and Pops Restaurant in Arcadia.

The ride will conclude at 3 p.m. at Ft. Thunder Harley with door prizes, food trucks and a free concert by the band "Hidden Agenda." The public is invited to attend.

Terri White, commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, will speak at the IOOF Cemetery stop to recognize the lives of 40 boys and young men who lost their lives nearly 100 years ago in a ward fire at then-Central State Hospital.

Funds raised during the ride will support NAMI Oklahoma, which provides education, support and training to individuals and families affected by mental illness and suicide. Cost is \$20 per rider; \$10 per passenger.

Booth space is also available for rent at Ft. Thunder Harley, and volunteers are still needed to work at each of the stops along the route.

For more information, to register or to volunteer, e-mail [michelle@namioklahoma.org](mailto:michelle@namioklahoma.org), or call 405-607-6018.

###