A. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF AGENCY SETTING
NAMI Missoula is the local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness and of NAMI Montana. It is registered and operates as a not-for-profit organization (501 (c) (3)). NAMI Missoula is governed by an elected Board, and its policies are implemented by an Executive Committee of four members and by NAMI volunteers. The mission of NAMI Missoula is to educate, support, and advocate for individuals with mental illness and for their families and loved ones; it works with like-minded organizations and individuals in the community to help reduce stigma and to educate the public about mental illness. Its various support groups and education programs are offered at no charge.

B. DESCRIPTION OF CLIENT GROUP
NAMI Missoula works directly with adults living with mental illness and with family members and loved ones of such individuals. Its outreach efforts extend to local mental health centers, to the University of Montana, to local hospitals, clinics, and mental health providers, to faith groups, and to other sites in the community.

C. LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
NAMI Missoula offers practicum students the chance to interact directly with individuals and families affected by mental illness, with providers of mental-health services, and with other community organizations (e.g. Missoula Interfaith Collaborative, Missoula County Suicide Prevention Network, and Partners for Reintegration). Our ongoing support groups and education programs (NAMI Connection, NAMI Family Support, Family to Family, Peer to Peer, and In Our Own Voice) will enable students to understand mental illness from different perspectives and to engage with those affected by it. NAMI Missoula is also looking to establish new initiatives (e.g. “NAMI on Campus” and an anti-stigma campaign) which a student could assist in developing.

D. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS
NAMI Missoula would expect a practicum student to become familiar with the organization, its history, and its purposes. It would expect the student to understand and to adhere to NAMI policies and procedures. The site supervisor should be kept informed regarding performance of assigned practicum duties, and questions or concerns about such duties should be brought promptly to the attention of the supervisor.