



# OUT OF THE FOG

The monthly newsletter of NAMI San Francisco  
[www.namif.org](http://www.namif.org)

## Social Security Administration Hearing in San Francisco

*Note by Barbara Redfield*

In San Francisco on November 18, 2009, the Social Security Administration held a hearing on the subject of compassionate allowances for people with schizophrenia in an effort to figure out a way to get people who do not know about or acknowledge their illness, but are showing all the symptoms that indicate they have the disease, to get started on SSI or SSDI as quickly as possible. This hearing was absolutely stunning for me. They are my heroes and Social Security seems to me to be the only institution (besides NAMI) that gets what we and our loved ones are going through!

You can either watch videos of this hearing on their website, or download and read the testimony that was given that day. Take special notice of Dr. Kenneth Duckworth, Medical Director for NAMI National, and our own members: Eileen Lemus, Noah King and Dale Milfay. You can get there by entering the following site in the http: box on your computer, or go to [www.SSA.gov](http://www.SSA.gov) and use their search box for compassionate allowances hearings.

[www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances/hearings111809.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances/hearings111809.htm)