

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 2nd March 2021, 5:30 PM, 1150 S. Bascom, Suite 24

Attendance by videoconference: Vic Ojakian, Bev Lozoff, Navah Statman, Rovina Nimbalkar, Harold Brown, Uday Kapoor, Steve Wade, Karen Deloumi, Frank Alioto, Kathy Forward, Barbara Thompson, Moryt Milo, Lisa & Ed Baumann, Peter Newman.

Meeting convened at 5:31 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved.
- b. Feb 2nd, 2021 BoD minutes approved.

2. **Action**

- a. **Discuss Governor Newsom's 2021 Budget—Frank, Uday:** Vic had asked Uday and Frank to look into the mental health funds in governor Newsom's state budget and what these funds can be used for. Frank and Uday gave their reports.

Frank: began by quoting the wisdom of the Honorable Jim Beall: “There is not an endless river of money.” By this he implied that once the budget is set, any additional money has to be taken from somewhere else within the budget. California state revenues are down due to COVID-19. Money is tight. There is no mention of changing the mental health budget. There is talk about increasing taxes on traditional sources such as tobacco and alcohol. Frank spoke about the state's Project Homekey, a program to help buy buildings for use in housing the homeless. Some mental health money may be allocated to this project or may be directed at the availability of additional beds in mental health facilities.

Uday: also began by quoting Jim Beall. He read from correspondence he had had with Jim. He reported Jim as saying that the housing allocation looks the same as last year and spoke of his trying to convince the governor that housing should be supported. He summarized the current situation thus: “Mental health is more lip service than anything else.”

Vic: spoke about the budget process. **Karen:** asked whether there is any action we can take. We should reach out to NAMI CA for their feedback. **Navah:** spoke about the Mental Health Services Act money. **Vic:** hoped there would be new money rather than taking it from the MHSA money. We will keep an eye on it.

- b. **California AB 1976 and Santa Clara County—Navah:** AB 1976 was approved which updates Laura's Law. It allows counties until about May to opt out if they wish. At a meeting on the 17th the Behavioral Health Department submitted a report on Laura's Law. Navah observed that Supervisor Joe Simitian was pretty upset with the report. There will be a hearing on the 24th. Navah related an example of poor service delivery. She also spoke about calls she has handled on the Warmline. Why should we wait until people get to the criminal process before making care available? **Vic:** summarized by asking the board to approve a letter in support of AB 1976 and asking the county not to opt out. **Karen:** spoke in support. **Navah:** suggested we are arguing against beliefs. They currently drop conservatorship as soon as the person is out of IMD. **Uday:** mentioned the recent audit report that shows there is a lack of processes to track progress. **Ed:** suggested we contact the families we have served and ask them to phone their supervisors in support of Laura's Law. **Harold:** spoke in agreement and suggested we might use scripts for these calls. **Lisa:** felt that the Behavioral Health report is full of myths and fear and that an education campaign is needed. **Vic:** spoke about supervisors Otto Lee and Joe Simitian; they are the decision makers. Otto has a lot of interest in this topic. Vic spoke about his personal views and experience regarding Laura's Law. For Vic this law is a dilemma because he has seen both sides of the issue. **Navah:** proposed the motion that the board send a letter to the Board of

Supervisors stating that we are in support of AB 1976 and not in support of the county opting out. The motion was carried unanimously. Vic asked Navah to work on the letter.

- c. **Panel Discussion on Housing—Uday:** Vic has asked Uday to put together a panel session to make sure our membership has an understanding about housing issues. Moryt will be the moderator. We intend to invite Jim Beall to open the meeting with several others on the panel. Ky Le, David Mineta and Lorraine Zeller have been suggested as panel members. We would also like to include a consumer on the panel. We plan to hold the session in our April General Meeting. Barbara reminded us that we need to include consumers and not just families.

3. Reports and Updates

- a. **Treasurer Update—Steve:** Please refer to the Treasurer's Report. The cash balance is down by \$43k but will be made up when we collect the accounts receivable from the county. We are in the same place as at end Jan. We are above budget in individual contributions and grants. Steve explained an anomaly in our accounting of rent. Otherwise we are on budget and doing well with \$820k. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented was passed.
- b. **VP Updates:**
 - i. **Uday:** (1) Uday is actively working on the Independent Living Empowerment Project which has been approved as part of the MHSA. There have been some objections that need to be resolved before it can go forward. During discussion by the stakeholders correct process was not followed—the project was changed from a prevention and early intervention project to an innovation project. Uday spoke about the history of the project. A meeting was held today to bring the project back to active status. (2) Uday mentioned a letter from Tom Jurgensen to which he will reply.
- c. **Presidents' Updates**
 - i. **Bev:** (1) Bev spoke about a talk on fundraising she heard at the recent NAMI Affiliates Symposium. Corporations in general account for about five percent in revenue for non-profits. She also spoke warmly of a presentation, “Housing that Heals,” and wondered whether the presenters would consider speaking at our General Meeting. There was a general discussion about the speakers. (2) Bev also mentioned a town hall meeting with Senator Dave Cortese with the Behavioral Health Contractors' Association as an invited guest.
 - ii. **Vic:** (1) Vic is thinking of holding a meeting with Senator Dave Cortese about mental health issues. (2) Vic mentioned a recent issue in which a member of the District Attorney's Office wrote an op-ed piece expressing controversial opinions using his job title. Once the issue blows over Vic will invite the district attorneys to our board meeting to discuss mental health. Navah spoke about reforms the district attorney is planning.
- d. **Executive Director Report—Rovina:** Please refer to the Executive Director's Report for details. We applied for the \$100k grant from El Camino Healthcare for our Community Peer Program. Today we submitted a grant for a pilot study regarding an app to facilitate communication for our Community Peer Program. Rovina has been working with Kyle and Dawn on a diversity campaign and spoke about some of the activities they are planning. The Walk committee has not yet decided on the exact form of the Walk. The Warriors event will likely take the form of a week long mind/body/spirit series ending with fundraising at the game.
- e. **Consultant Report—Kathy:** Please refer to the Consultant's Report for a detailed list of programs, events and meetings. All the programs are ongoing via Zoom. We will be starting the new F2F eight week course. We are doing a training for it next weekend. Kathy attended a lot of MHSA meetings. We gave a CIT presentation. Kathy met with the Public Defenders Office regarding the op-ed piece in order to come up with a response on jail diversion. There is a lot going on with FaithNet.
- f. **Fundraising Committee Update**

- i. **Funding Plans and Grants Status—Harold:** We talked about employee assistance programs at the committee meeting and whether they are aware of NAMI. Harold contacted El Camino Hospital regarding their employee assistance program. They know about NAMI and our Warmline and do refer people to us. Harold also spoke to NAMI National about employee assistance. The next meeting of the committee is on the 17th. We hope to have a discussion about initiating an advisory board. Harold spoke in response to Bev's comments on fundraising from the NAMI Affiliates Symposium. He believes there is still potential with corporate sponsorships.
 - ii. **NAMIWalk—Harold:** We are thinking of a hybrid event—a walk and a virtual follow up.
 - g. **Community Peer Program and FaithNet—Kathy:** Please refer to the Community Peer Program report. We are back working on the In-Patient Unit at El Camino Hospital. A large presentation on Mental Health 101 went very well. Cindy's report on the FaithNet program for Jan is available. A lot of the faith communities are starting mental health ministries. Kathy spoke about future funding for the FaithNet program.
 - h. **Newsletter—Bev:** Articles for the Apr issue should be submitted by Mar 16.
 - i. **General Meeting—Bev:** Bev spoke briefly about the speaker for the next General Meeting. It is an 'ask the doctor' meeting. The Apr meeting will be a live panel on housing as described by Uday.
- 4. **Other Actions**
 - a. **Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates—Frank:**
 - i. Frank had nothing to add to his earlier report on Governor Newsom's budget. Vic observed that we are just in the process of seeing what bills are out there.
 - ii. There was discussion concerning a meeting Frank will have with Jewish Family Services. Navah suggested an IOOV presentation.
 - b. **New Business:**
 - i. Harold spoke about the new nationwide 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Vic gave the background behind this change. It has cleared all of the approval processes. There is a time period before the three digit phone number will be implemented. There was discussion of whether we can do anything to assist in the interim.
- 5. **Dates to Remember**
 - a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 6th Apr 2021 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

Mar 7, 2021