

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 3rd August 2021, 5:30 PM, by Videoconference

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

Guests: June Klein, Lorraine Zeller, Jessie Ferguson.

Meeting convened at 5:31 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved.
- b. Jly 6th, 2021 BoD minutes approved.

2. **Action/New Information**

- a. **June Klein—Santa Clara Behavioral Health Board:** June was invited to speak to the board about issues regarding the Santa Clara Behavioral Health Board. She spoke about the role of family health members on the BHB and said that resources were diverted to the COVID-19 emergency and meetings have been postponed. June does not know when they will resume. The lack of a mechanism to give feedback to the system was discussed. Confidentiality issues were discussed. Navah spoke of her own experience concluding that the voices of the community are important. Questions were asked regarding the ad hoc committee which was created because the BHB is not meeting. The question of why we lost 31 board and care facilities was raised and what we hope to do about it. Uday felt this has been going on for years. He can't understand why it is not treated as a crisis. There is not even a process in place to track where the beds are. June believes that the root cause is money—there is one rate covering all of California. The difference in the amount of support for the developmentally disabled and those with mental health disabilities was discussed. June spoke about diverting resources away from the emergency room. For a much lower cost we can put people into housing with wrap-around services. We should be able to make a compelling case to get people into a board and care; they are off the street and not consuming emergency services. Costs are even higher if they end up in jail. Uday asked how we get more people in the community to provide the support part of supportive services and how we get government departments to work together. Vic explained how to make arguments to people in government.

3. **Reports and Updates**

- a. **Treasurer Update—Steve:** Please refer to the Treasurer's Report and the Balance Sheet, the Profit & Loss and the Budget vs. Actual statements as of end Jly 2021. We had a good month ending with \$759k in cash. We are expecting \$100k from El Camino and \$60k from the county. They will come in next month. We also expect \$77k in accounts receivable next month which should leave us with at least \$800k in cash at end Aug. Expenses are 96% of budget. The office has been closed longer than expected putting us below budget on office related expenses. Revenue is 112% of budget. Our expenses are about \$100k per month. We are positive in revenue vs expenses mostly due to the PPP loan. We budgeted a \$226k loss but have actually lost \$113k. We may end up reducing this loss by year end. Expect expenses to go up when we open up the office. We were planning to open in Sep but are now unsure. **Harold:** didn't expect as many personal donations. It is really a credit to Rovina making such a difference with the grant applications. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented was passed.
- b. **VP Updates:**
 - i. **Uday:** (1) The MHSA Independent Living Empowerment Project was approved and RFPs have been issued by the county. Meetings with providers are beginning regarding bids. (2)

The “Bridging the Gap, Services for I/DD and Mental Health” symposium is confirmed. It will be a half-day event on Sep 23rd. Uday held a meeting with Jim Beall to talk about the keynote. There was discussion about the gap between funding for developmental disability and for mental health. **Navah:** About twenty years ago a report came out titled: “A Tale of Two Systems.” It stated that mental health received about half as much funding as developmental disability. There was discussion about how the symposium came together. Kathy asked about kids with autism being included in the symposium.

c. **Presidents' Updates**

- i. **Bev:** (1) Last year the board sponsored the NAMIWalk and Bev hopes we will do so again this year. It will be a powerful statement that the board is supporting the Walk. (2) The 17th Annual Mood Disorders Education Day will be held on Aug 28th as a virtual event. (3) Bev assured everyone eagerly awaiting the arrival of the new conflict of interest form that it is going out soon.
 - ii. **Vic:** (1) Invited everyone that can to attend the meeting on Aug 17 where the City of Campbell will consider adopting a suicide prevention policy. (2) Vic contacted his assembly member regarding AB1766 that requires social services to report on what housing is available. They are looking into what happened.
- d. **Executive Director Report—Rovina:** Please refer to the Executive Director's Report for details. We continue to submit grant applications. We hired Sarah Merrick as a Social Media and Assistant Events Coordinator and Tom Lane as a Walk Consultant. Moryt, Kristin and Rovina are working on an outreach panel discussion in Oct. We have raised \$81k for the Walk. Our keynote speaker is 49ers player Laken Tomlinson. Rovina had a second meeting with the executive director of Blue Shield of California. There is the possibility of a pilot study of our Community Peer Program for Blue Shield members. **Harold:** This is huge. Private industry has not yet taken up peer mentoring. Blue Shield will track the financial benefit it brings. **Moryt:** There is a new CEO at the top of Blue Shield—a woman. Her entire model is why we are getting the buy-in. She is all about integrating mental health and physical health and completely agrees on the financial benefit.
- e. **Consultant Report—Kathy:** There is no Consultant's Report this month. It will be combined with next month's report. Stanford Addiction Clinic is rethinking their peer program strategy but they are definitely in favor of the peers.
- f. **Fundraising Committee Update—Harold:**
- i. **NAMIWalk:** It is sponsorship time. We are working on a sponsorship with the Lions Club of Los Gatos. They have a mental wellness committee that has existed for twelve years. They may also want to make an EtS grant.
 - ii. **Funding Plans and Grants Status:** Harold expressed concern about the Stanford Addiction Clinic reevaluating their peer mentoring program. The Fundraising Committee meeting is coming up. We will discuss Navah's list of 15 candidates for the Advisory Board. It represents a diverse community. **Navah:** discussed areas in which we still need candidates.
- g. **Community Peer Program and FaithNet—Kathy:** Please refer to the Community Peer Program report. Kathy mentioned Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. **Bev:** asked about LifeMoves and Recovery Cafe. We are doing a pilot with LifeMoves, including a peer on their team. We will also do a pilot program with Recovery Cafe if they get a grant for it. We will contract to train them using our model. **Harold:** We exceeded the El Camino goal even in a pandemic. Harold asked about hiring peer connectors and the training program. Kathy answered yes, both for connectors and mentors. **Moryt:** asked if we are in need of participants.
- h. **Newsletter—Bev:** Articles for the Sep issue should be submitted by mid Aug.

- i. **General Meeting—Bev:** The next General Meeting will be held on Sep 14th. The new medical director at El Camino will give a presentation on substance use disorder. Bev asked the board members to submit any ideas they have for future speakers.

4. **Other Actions**

- a. **Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates—Karen:** Frank mentioned a pitch he made to KNTV. Karen spoke about the California budget and how budget items are linked to bills. California will create systems to track public healthcare data. This data is important for visibility. California will extend medical benefits to any resident over 50 including those who are undocumented. Providing healthcare services regardless of language works toward health care disparity issues and minorities. How do we become more involved? We see where there are pieces missing. Karen also spoke about app based screening for children and youth. **Navah:** spoke about SB 17 on racial equity and access to mental health services. It is one of the bills supported by NAMI CA. They have a report on legislative analysis on their website.

New Business:

- i. **Partnering with other nonprofits—Moryt:** asked if we have done so in the past? We have previously done so with Momentum on small things. Food insecurity leads to mental health issues. Can we develop a flier to go inside grocery bags and boxes given out at food banks? South County has a tremendous need. **Vic:** suggested Moryt and Rovina discuss this and come back to the board with some options. We could maybe ask a couple of nonprofits what they think.
- ii. **Escalation process—Navah:** Recently we have observed issues of patient dumping within the mental health system. We need to look at the issues before escalating cases. We should discuss how we escalate issues at the Executive Committee and come up with a process. First we need to work with the family to help them advocate for themselves. **Kathy:** We have to be careful going to the BoS and the BHB. It is likely to be more effective if it comes from the family with us behind them but they have to be willing to go public. Sometimes it works better if individual members contact their supervisor. We need to keep the big guns for the big things. **Vic:** This is a big topic. Vic asked Rovina to talk with Navah, Kathy and Uday to ensure we are acting and not reacting. We need a process that is thoughtful and consistent. **Bev:** asked if patient dumping is the technical term. **Navah:** this is what the newspapers use. We want to use our network and resources in the right way.

5. **Dates to Remember**

- a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 7th Sep 2021 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

Aug 10, 2021