

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 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, Peter Newman.

Meeting convened at 5:31 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved.
- b. Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 BoD minutes approved.

2. **Action/New Information**

- a. **Community Merit Award—Vic:** We will commence discussion of candidates for our Community Merit Award at the next board meeting. The secretary will send out a list of prior proposed candidates.
- b. **Community Advisory Council—Harold:** The Fundraising Committee has discussed the list of candidates. Harold will distribute links to the candidate's online bios. At the next meeting we will discuss how to approach the candidates. Harold suggested a personal contact first followed up with an email stating the objectives of the council. **Uday:** asked about the target number of council members. **Harold:** suggested 10–12. We currently have 16 names and some will probably decline. **Bev:** asked what if they all accept? Perhaps we should prioritize the list.
- c. **Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates—Frank:** Frank pointed out that no-one except Vic has asked for a bill to be tracked.

Frank spoke about the success of the meetings with elected representatives. Since the last board meeting, Rovina, Bev and Frank have had meetings with Mike Wasserman, Zoe Lofgren and Otto Lee. Mike Wasserman came over as a very strong proponent of mental health issues. Zoe Lofgren is another strong proponent. Frank feels that after six months we have created collaborative relationships and established an open channel for input on legislative matters. We are tracking about 45 pieces of legislation in many different stages of the process. Frank and Karen have selected a number of bills for us to focus on. There was discussion about how to decide whether a bill has a chance of passing. Karen introduced us to Legiscan, a tool to track legislation. It costs about \$100 per year. One can track a list of bills, create discussion groups and send discussions to legislators. We can add a link to our website to show current information and easily network with other groups. It meets our needs very well and does not distract us. As the new legislative session begins Frank would like to provide legislators with a list of 10 to 15 bills that are most important to us. He would like to pass this list by the board members for discussion. **Harold:** asked about what NAMI CA provides on their website. NAMI CA and the Steinberg Institute are Frank's main sources. **Navah:** spoke about SB9 and SB10, zoning legislation on housing. She also directed our attention to a document about budget allocation for housing and mental health available on the website of the Legislative Analyst's Office. **Uday:** Spoke about supportive housing, discussions he has had with his contacts and a meeting with Matt Savage. **Karen:** mentioned that county legislation is harder to pick up. Navah pointed to CSAC, the California State Association of Counties, to find county bills and also to a document on legislative priorities for the year in SCC. There was discussion of county legislation and our history of advocacy with the county. **Vic:** observed that sometimes tracking tools do not reveal the nuances of what's really going on. In the past we have sent letters of support. We should not lose sight of that. Vic listed some bills he considers important including: AB 988, SB 224 and SB 21 (which got suspended). Vic would like to see us being active about some bills because we have an impact in the community.

3. **Reports and Updates**

- a. **Treasurer Update—Steve:** We are about to be sued by a lawyer for not putting the social security number or employee number on our employee's pay stubs. The Executive Committee has decided not to settle as this is a frivolous lawsuit. We are working on fixing the pay stub problem. No damages have been alleged.  
We are on budget. There is nothing particularly interesting to report this month. The Walk donations are higher than last year at this time. Cash and revenue are both above budget. Steve spoke about grants and donations that we have received. We are in good shape and will end the year well above budget. Each of the last four months have been at 96 percent of budget on expenses. Harold and Rovina spoke about building a relationship with El Camino and Stanford Hospitals. Rovina reported meeting with the PR manager at Kaiser who has expressed interest in FaithNet. We may be invited to submit a grant application to Kaiser.
- b. **VP Updates:**
  - i. **Uday:** (1) The MHSA Independent Living Empowerment Project was approved and RFPs have been issued by the county. Uday has attended meetings with providers regarding bids but does not know if any responses have yet been received. (2) There was considerable discussion about working on a database of board and care homes. Uday spoke at a MHSA supportive housing meeting and asked questions about where we are with tracking the number of licensed board and care homes we have. Uday reported on a meeting to discuss the issue where Ky Le proposed the creation of a management information system. Vic asked what we should we do. We want the support of the supervisors. Navah warned that we shouldn't do the work for them. Ky will focus on setting up the management tool. We should advocate for it. We should work with Frank and use our connections with supervisors. This is something we care about. (3) Formal invitations have been sent out for the "Bridging the Gap, Services for I/DD and Mental Health" symposium. It is in the newsletter. Uday will send a reminder to the board members. (4) On Sat Uday will be honored in a ceremony at the Computer History Museum for his role as team manager of the Sun SPARC RISC processor in the late 1980s.
- c. **Presidents' Updates**
  - i. **Bev:** (1) Bev reminded us about completing the Conflict of Interest form. (2) 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. To be listed among the sponsors we need to make our donation by Sep 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - ii. **Vic:** (1) Vic asked whether the time that we start the board meeting, 5:30 PM, works for everyone. There was general agreement that it does. (2) Vic spoke about raising sponsorships for the Walk from elected representatives. (3) September is suicide prevention month.
- d. **Executive Director Report—Rovina:** Please refer to the Executive Director's Report for details. We have raised \$106k for the Walk. This is slightly more than last year at this time. The 49ers PR team will soon record the keynote speech for the Walk by Laken Tomlinson. Rovina reported on a meeting with NAMI New York City Metro. Two companies doing their own walk have told us they will donate some of the funds raised to us. Rovina spoke about a meeting with Dr Adelsheim. We have received a sponsorship from Stanford. There was agreement that it is time to be considered again by the SJ Mercury News Wish Book campaign. **Harold:** Congratulated John Forward on doing such a splendid job on the flier for the NAMI Walk. There followed discussion about distributing the fliers.
- e. **Fundraising Committee Update—Harold:**
  - i. **NAMIWalk:** We are currently at 46 percent of our goal. We have \$7k more in sponsorships than at this time last year. This is significant because hospitals have cut back on their sponsorships this year.

- f. **Community Peer Program and FaithNet—Rovina:** Please refer to the Community Peer Program and FaithNet reports. Kathy is traveling.
  - g. **Newsletter—Bev:** Articles for the Oct issue should be submitted by mid Sep.
  - h. **General Meeting—Bev:** Bev gave a summary of the speakers and topics for the Sep and Oct General Meetings.
4. **Other Actions**
- a. **New Business:**
    - i. **Navah:** wished us all a Happy 5,782<sup>nd</sup> New Year.
    - ii. **Vic:** reminded us that Sunday is National Grandparents' Day.
5. **Dates to Remember**
- a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Newman  
*Sep 12, 2021*