

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 5th October 2021, 5:30 PM, by Videoconference

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

Meeting convened at 5:32 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved.
- b. Sep 7th, 2021 BoD minutes approved.

2. **Action/New Information**

- a. **Community Merit Award—Bev:** Bev reviewed recipients of the award in recent years. She began by proposing Stanford Mood Disorders Center who run the Annual Mood Disorders Education Day. They were considered but not selected for last year's award. Navah proposed the people behind the Independent Living Empowerment Project. It will open up a lot of units and encourages unlicensed board and cares. It was originally called the Community Living Coalition; a lot of the members have now moved on. Uday and Lorraine Zeller made it happen. Bev suggested MHAP, the Mental Health Advocacy Project. They have lawyers who help people with mental health or developmental disabilities on a pro bono basis. Moryt expressed her support for MHAP. Navah had reservations arising from one specific incident. Uday has noticed a lot of turnover of the staff in working with them. Vic observed that for a long time they had a very stable staff. Vic spoke on behalf of Stanford Mood Disorders Center. Uday proposed Michael J Fox Jr. Karen asked about Michael Fitzgerald. He accepted the award in 2015 on behalf of El Camino Behavioral Health. Bev will email a list to the board and we will vote at the next meeting.
- b. **Community Advisory Council—Harold:** Harold apologized for not having sent the list to the board earlier. There was some discussion regarding prioritizing the list. Harold will distribute the list and would like feedback by the 15th. The Fundraising Committee will discuss it at their meeting on the 20th. Bev suggested we all narrow down the list. Harold suggested that we could each prioritize the list. It is still mostly the same list that Navah drafted. She has picked some excellent people that represent our community well.
- c. **Litigation Update—Bev:** The plaintiffs attorneys would like to do a mediation. We will do this in Dec.
- d. **NAMIWalk—Harold:** We are at 85 percent of our goal. We have 354 people participating and 61 teams. We have raised \$15k more in sponsorships compared to last year. Harold praised John Forward's enthusiasm and hard work and the excellent trailer he has produced. Harold reminded us to thank our donors and explained the donations list and how to send thank-you emails directly from the page. Bev observed that we have gone from 46 percent to 85 percent of our goal in one month. Harold believes we will exceed our goal.

3. **Reports and Updates**

- a. **Treasurer Update—Steve:** We have a healthy cash balance helped by significant grants this month from El Camino Hospital and Cal Hope. We are over budget in revenue. Harold asked about commitments. Reserved grants have restrictions, funds we raise ourselves do not. Frank asked about the lawyers, their fees and receipts in the litigation. This was discussed together with an airing of views. Our lawyer's fees are covered by our insurance. There are no damages here. A motion to approve the Treasurer's oral report as presented was passed.
- b. **VP Updates:**

- i. **Uday:** (1) Uday asked for reactions to the “Bridging the Gap, Services for I/DD and Mental Health” symposium. **Harold:** participated and thought it very well organized and well prepared. Harold recommended one address in particular by a speaker from Michigan. This is one area where California is not a leader. We have a lot of catching up to do. **Uday:** We had over 300 participants. There was a lot of content but insufficient time. Many counties participated. The panel at the end only had time for their statements. We really need a proper panel discussion to answer the questions raised. Uday would like to invite Dave Cortese to address what the state is doing about these issues. We have two parallel systems for developmental disabilities and mental health with no collaboration between them whereas a lot of the issues are similar. (2) The MHSA Independent Living Empowerment Project is still waiting for responses to the RFP. Uday is talking to the BoS about that. We want to get going and not much is happening. Uday would like to consolidate this with a request from the NAMI board.
- ii. **Juan:** The classes are ongoing and we have a large support group. Juan is looking forward to the NAMI Walk. Bev asked if we are still getting attendees from outside the area. In our online classes and support group we have at least twelve from out of state and three from out of the country.
- c. **Presidents' Updates**
 - i. **Bev:** (1) Bev reminded us about completing the Conflict of Interest form. She will resend the document to those who have not yet completed it. (2) Bev thanked us for the Board's sponsorship of the Walk which raised \$900.
- d. **Executive Director Report—Rovina:** Please refer to the Executive Director's Report for details. We applied to the Korean American Community Foundation for a grant of \$50k and have been invited to the next stage. The FaithNet team will meet them next week. Kaiser has invited us to apply for a \$25k grant for FaithNet. Several other grant applications are in progress and more are coming up. The larger part of Rovina's time has been spent on the Walk. Giving Tuesday is in the first week of Dec. We have begun to explore the Classy software platform for online fundraising. Rovina spoke about the Year End letter and the Holiday Drive coming up. The possibility of holding the NAMI Picnic around Thanksgiving was discussed.
- e. **Fundraising Committee Update—Harold:**
 - i. **Funding Plans and Grants Status:** Steve and Harold have been talking about planned giving and Qualified Charitable Distribution donations to NAMI. Harold asked about upcoming grant applications for the Saratoga Rotary Club. There are probably a lot of rotary clubs we could apply to. Half of our EtS budget is funded by rotaries. There was discussion of rotary club members known to members of the board. We will need to consider other sources of funding for our FaithNet program when the current grant expires in Mar. Harold observed joyfully that we finally have a process for grant applications. Karen asked about the tools we use to keep track of things. We mostly use spreadsheets and a calendar. We have Salesforce but it is a matter of learning it. The Classy online fundraising platform also tracks donors.
- f. **Community Peer Program and FaithNet—Kathy:** Please refer to the Community Peer Program and FaithNet reports. FaithNet participated in the National Day of Prayer event held at the Recovery Center. It was well received; 30 people attended. We held an online EtS presentation today for parents. Classes and IOOV presentations are ongoing. We have a CIT presentation almost monthly. Kathy described an event she was invited to attend at the Staglin Family Vineyard. We are hiring more peers and looking for more matches. FaithNet is going strong. Kathy spoke about connecting providers and faith leaders. The county is looking into giving us continued funding for FaithNet. We need to prepare for the ending of the grant. The program costs \$150k per year at the current level. We need to decide at what level to continue it.

- g. **Newsletter—Bev:** Articles for the Nov issue should be submitted by Oct 20.
- h. **General Meeting—Bev:** Bev gave a summary of the speakers and topics for the Oct and Nov General Meetings. Harold asked if we can invite other NAMI affiliates to our online general meeting. We can certainly make the YouTube link available and share it with the regional NAMI affiliates.

4. **Other Actions**

- a. **Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates—Frank:** There's not a lot to report. It has been a very slow legislative month. In Sep the governor has signed 100 bills from the previous legislative session. One of the most important is the \$22B homelessness and housing package with 64k new beds, 28k of them with services for mental health. We held two meetings with legislators in Sep. Rovina and Frank met Assemblymember Alex Lee. He is only 26 years old but he is knowledgeable and passionate and said all the right things about support for mental health. Perhaps we can cultivate and educate him in the mental health legislative area. We also met with Supervisor Joe Simitian and Matt Savage, a SCC Health Policy Analyst. Navah, Uday and others gave an official NAMI position. Matt Savage called after the meeting very pleased with the input from NAMI. He asked for quasi-official input as an organization.

Frank asked us how we integrate this. How do we tie it together for maximum impact? How do we coordinate this? We have a good opportunity to provide input. How do we provide an official NAMI statement? **Navah:** Make sure we have presence in various forms. She gave the example of AOT. The county has never changed their criterion about help for someone suffering an episode if they are not able to survive in the community. This is coming to the full board. We need to track some of these decisions. We need to talk to the people who have to implement legislative changes. We need to make sure that new legislation is implemented. **Karen:** asked how we gather this information. **Navah:** suggested a priority document that lists legislation and advocacy priorities for NAMI SCC. **Harold:** observed that we have local, city, county, state and federal legislation. There is a different process for each one. Are we talking about a subcommittee here to discuss how we manage this at each level? **Uday:** Legislation already exists but it is not being implemented. We are looking to use existing legislation to solve the problem, not creating more. **Harold:** suggested we could model this thinking off other nonprofits that have done this. The example of NAMI's letter for AOT was discussed. It was vital to passing the law. **Navah:** It is not just the letter. There is a whole lot of activity that goes around it: meetings, the website, Constant Contact communications and mobilizing people. There was agreement that we need to pick what to focus on. **Frank:** A crack in the door has opened. We have an opportunity to work at a higher level. Frank wants to grow this opportunity. All were in agreement. **Bev:** This is an ongoing discussion to be continued. **Kathy:** extended an invitation to come to the advocacy and legislation meetings.

- b. **New Business:**

- i. **Karen:** introduced a discussion on membership of the AOT oversight committee.

5. **Dates to Remember**

- a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 2nd Nov 2021 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

Oct 10, 2021