

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 2nd November 2021, 5:30 PM, by Videoconference

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

Meeting convened at 5:31 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved.
- b. Oct 5th, 2021 BoD minutes approved.

2. **Action/New Information**

- a. **Community Merit Award—Bev:** Bev reviewed the list of candidates: Stanford Mood Disorders Center who run the Annual Mood Disorders Education Day; The Independent Living Empowerment Project originally called the Community Living Coalition; MHAP, the Mental Health Advocacy Project and Michael E. Fox, President & CEO Goodwill of Silicon Valley. Vic suggested adding John Forward for his work on the NAMIWalk but Rovina pointed out that John is also an employee. Vic polled the board members asking each of us to state our preference. The Stanford Mood Disorders Center was unanimously selected. Bev volunteered to contact Manpreet Singh regarding the award. We usually present the award in Jan or Feb. Frank asked how we publicize this.
- b. **Community Advisory Council—Vic:** Harold could not attend tonight although by email he suggested we add to the list a member of local law enforcement who has supported our involvement in CIT training. **Karen:** suggested John Costa, a retired law enforcement and Law Enforcement Liaison Team member, though he works for the county which may be an issue. **Navah:** suggested Pat Dwyer, former Palo Alto Police Chief. **Vic:** asked the board if the list is acceptable. **Moryt:** suggested we add Marico Sayoc the mayor of Los Gatos. Her focus is on youth and teens. **Bev:** felt she didn't know why some of the people were on the list. **Navah:** gave her reasons for choosing some of the names on the list. **Steve:** suggested we move forward with calling the people on the list to see if they are interested and recommended that Navah make the calls because no one ever says no to her. There was discussion about whether to move forward or wait for the next committee meeting. **Vic:** proposed that we can tentatively approve the list. It is a cross-section of the community. By acclamation the list was accepted and Vic thanked Harold and the committee for doing a great job. He observed that Harold will be delighted.
- c. **NAMIWalk—Rovina:** We have raised \$271k at present. John Forward did a great job with the video. One new family team raised \$14k. Rovina thanked everyone for their support. Next year we are planning either an in-person or a hybrid Walk. Oct 8th is the date selected by NAMI National for the Fall Walk but the Guadalupe Park location is only available the week before. Fundraising for this year's Walk remains open until Dec 8th. Vic asked how many people attended. We recorded over 260 views. Vic felt the event went very well. The board complemented Rovina. Bev felt that our keynote speaker hit just the right note and it was generally agreed that on Sunday he played some very good football.

3. **Reports and Updates**

- a. **Treasurer Update—Steve:** The treasurer summarized our financial position. He concluded that we enter Nov in quite good shape and he took and answered questions.
- b. **VP Updates:**
 - i. **Juan:** In the support group we have five people from other states and 22 local people. We have attended three outreach events, one with about 1000 attendees and two with about 500 attendees. Juan spoke about fundraising for the NAMIWalk.

ii. **Uday:** (1) In the MHSA Independent Living Empowerment Project, Evelyn Tirumalai will be moving on to a public health position. Uday asked for, and subsequently attended, a meeting to find out the next step and who is now in charge. A follow up meeting is planned. We are still waiting for responses to the RFP and we don't know how many bids have so far been received. A meeting is scheduled soon. (2) We held a follow-up meeting to discuss the next steps following the “Bridging the Gap, Services for I/DD and Mental Health” symposium. We would like to hold another panel discussion and Uday would like to bring in Senator Dave Cortese. (3) We met with Matt Savage to talk about issues, one of them being a robust database of board and care homes. He talked about bringing in a liaison.

c. **Presidents' Updates**

i. **Bev:** nothing to report.

ii. **Vic:** gave an update on his work to get cities to adopt a suicide prevention policy.

d. **Executive Director Report—Rovina:** Please refer to the Executive Director's Report for details. It has been a busy month with the Walk. Rovina spoke about the Kaiser Permanente grant for FaithNet, an interview last week with the Saratoga Rotary Club concerning a grant for EtS and other possible grant applications. Rovina reported a good meeting with NAMI San Francisco regarding their NAMI at Work presentation. We plan to do this together. We both want more corporate engagement. We have almost agreed on the final version of the year-end letter. We will send it out around Thanksgiving so people have it by Giving Tuesday. We are building a campaign on the Classy software platform for online fundraising. We were not selected for this year's San Jose Mercury News Wishbook campaign. The Holiday Drive will be similar to last year's. We met with the Korean American Community Foundation regarding a grant application. We discussed peer matches with Kaiser. This prompted a general discussion of various issues related to Kaiser. It was observed that Kaiser tends to view all NAMI affiliates as a single entity and not as separate affiliates.

e. **Consultant Report—Kathy:** Please refer to the Community Peer Program report and the Classes, Groups and Presentations report. Kathy gave a summary of the current classes. The Provider Course is getting more attendees. The FaithNet Part Two training went well. Part Three is scheduled for Jan. Kathy has been invited to join an oversight committee for Laura's Law and an advisory committee for CA Proposition 47. This prompted a general discussion including: assertive community treatment, reducing the population in jail, family reunification, jail diversion and the targeting of people frequently going in and out of jail. There was discussion of a wellness center rather than a jail and of the handling of those incompetent to stand trial. Karen spoke in praise of the book Mental Health Matrix.

f. **Newsletter—Bev:** Articles for the Dec/Jan issue should be submitted by mid Nov.

g. **General Meeting—Bev:** Bev gave a summary of the speaker and topic for the Nov meeting. There will be no meeting in Dec. The next meeting will be in Jan and as yet we have no speaker. Should anyone have any suggestions for speakers please get in touch with Bev.

4. **Other Actions**

a. **Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates—Frank:**

(1) Frank spoke briefly about the UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences. He recommended we take a look at what they are doing.

(2) Frank spoke about the Legiscan tool, a free service he and Karen have been using to track legislation of interest. He had distributed a link to it by email and asked everyone to take a look and give input. It contains legislation we are following and legislation signed recently by the governor. Uday responded that he found it hard to use. It contains too much detail. Frank promised this will be cleaned up. Frank is interested in five or six suggestions from the board for legislation we wish to follow. Karen discussed the tool, suggested people adopt a bill and asked what we want to do with the list of bills.

(3) We met with Matt Savage, a SCC Health Policy Analyst in Joe Simitian's office. He wanted input on a planned mental health guide. We discussed the establishment of an ombudsman to help people navigate the mental health system. We gave him an idea of how difficult that will prove be. He was maybe not prepared for all of the input he received. It is very good that we were considered by them as a resource.

(4) We met with the office of Congressman Jimmy Panetta. His district is mostly Santa Cruz and Monterey but includes Morgan Hill and Gilroy. The congressman did not attend the meeting.

(5) We met with Jim Bower, the Executive Director of the Law Foundation, now retired. Jim has worked with members of the BoS. He has an interest in being part of our legislative committee. It is time for us to begin to lobby formally. He would be a good person to do that with.

Uday: We need a response from Matt Savage on the next step. **Vic:** gave some background on Jim Bower and the Matt Savage meeting. **Navah:** discussed the idea of an ombudsman and the difficulty of providing feedback into the system. **Frank:** Now it is time for the rubber to hit the road. We need to go in and advocate causes and bills to our elected representatives. We need to move strongly on face-to-face advocacy. **Navah:** suggested we invite Jim to the advocacy meeting. **Steve:** expressed some concerns about Jim.

b. **New Business:**

- i. No new business.

5. **Dates to Remember**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM followed by a brief closed session of the board with no reportable action.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

Nov 7, 2021