

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

Meeting convened at 5:33 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved.
- b. Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 BoD minutes approved.

2. **Action/New Information**

- a. **2022 Budget Discussion—Steve:** Steve referenced two meetings, one on expenses and one on income. We have been at 96 percent of our expense budget all year. We are below budget on expenses related to the office. There is no reason to change the expense budget for next year. Revenue is at 126 percent of budget. We should be ready to present a budget for approval at the Jan board meeting. **Navah:** spoke about her wish list for next year for consideration in the budget. She would like to increase our outreach to the Vietnamese community possibly including the hire of an outreach staff member. **Steve:** thought we can afford it. **Vic:** agreed. We are strong in the Chinese and Hispanic communities. We have a significant Vietnamese population in the county but have not addressed ourselves to them. **Kathy:** mentioned an Innovation Project approved for this in the Vietnamese community. We should coordinate with them. **Harold:** supports hiring an outreach person to establish relationships with ethnic communities that don't know us. We may also see some demand from a new state law requiring education for schools. **Steve:** will endorse this. **Karen:** sees a need for increased spending in the area of public relations. **Vic:** invited us to consider other things we might want to do. **Harold:** On the revenue side we looked at five categories for the revenue budget and set a higher goal for net proceeds from the NAMIWalk next year. There is a big unknown in funding for our FaithNet program. We need to raise funds if we are to continue this program.
- b. **Community Advisory Council—Harold:** We have added three more candidates, replaced one and started to assign people to contact them. We have a meeting next week with a contact at NAMI National to discuss it. Jim Bower helped to distill the description document. We are up to about 20 people on the list. We will begin contacting people after the holidays. Uday met with Jim Beall and Dave Mineta, both were concerned about the required time commitment. Harold felt that Jim Bower will help take some of the load off Rovina.
- c. **Holiday Gift Drive—Rovina:** Stephanie is working on calling the board and cares. We have ordered all of the gifts. We received a donation of \$1,500 from El Camino after they read the article about the Holiday Gift Drive in our newsletter. Bev checked with Rovina that we have the necessary volunteers to put together the boxes.
- d. **End-of-Year Letter—Rovina:** Letters have been mailed out. We also launched our Giving Tuesday campaign using the Classy software platform for online fundraising. Giving Tuesday raised \$5,700.

3. **Reports and Updates**

- a. **Treasurer Update—Steve:** The treasurer summarized our financial position. He concluded that we are in good shape and he responded to questions.
- b. **VP Updates:**
  - i. **Uday:** (1) In the MHSA Independent Living Empowerment Project we are waiting for the announcement of an award from the RFP. Lorraine attended to an inaccuracy discovered in

documents sent to the Board of Supervisors. Uday discussed some frustration in working with the Dept. of Behavioral Health. (2) Uday spoke about a follow-up meeting of the leadership team of the “Bridging the Gap, Services for I/DD and Mental Health” symposium. We are planning to hold another panel discussion. (3) Uday spoke about the overlap between mental health and homelessness in the dispersal of funds, meetings we should attend and who should be involved from the county. (4) Navah asked if we can develop a housing vacancy board on our website for all of the housing spectrum. Uday responded that we have been pushing for a system to track beds. He is talking to Margaret Obilor. People from LA county gave a presentation on Merlin their bed tracking system. It tracks thousands of beds and is updated twice a day by the providers. They can license it to us. It cost them \$200k to develop. No one else is using it right now. Uday will talk to Sherri Terao about it. **Navah:** We can ask the county for the money to manage it. **Karen:** felt we should hesitate on volunteering to manage it ourselves. **Navah:** We are already managing a part of it. **Uday:** The county should manage it but we should monitor it. **Kathy:** expressed concern about the county running it. **Uday:** suggested we invite LA county to present to us and we can decide if we want to take it on. **Vic:** felt there is more work to be done to see where we go with this. We are a small organization. We may not be able to sustain it over the long haul.

c. **Presidents' Updates**

- i. **Bev:** (1) Bev contacted Manpreet Singh who runs the Stanford Annual Mood Disorders Education Day regarding the award of our Community Merit Award. She was delighted with the news. Jan is a better month for them to receive the award than Feb. Rovina will coordinate. (2) Bev will contact everyone about continuing to serve on the board for next year but there will be changes so we will need a nominating committee. Bev asked for volunteers to join the nominating committee. Frank and Steve volunteered to join Bev.
- ii. **Vic:** discussed a meeting with Matt Savage regarding a proposal to create a navigator for the Dept. of Behavioral Health—a person, to help people navigate the system. Vic explained the idea of a navigator. Uday mentioned a referral written by Joe Simitian and discussed the interoperability of tools. Frank pointed out how our prior conversation was referenced in the proposal submitted. We are viewed as a good collaborative partner.

- d. **Executive Director Report—Rovina:** Please refer to the Executive Director's Report and the list of classes and presentations for details. We received a grant of \$25k from Kaiser for FaithNet. It has been a busy month with grant applications. We are planning our grant strategy for next year. This year has been good for new funding. We are at \$277k for the NAMIWalk and we should reach \$280k by the time it closes. Next year's Walk is Oct 8<sup>th</sup>. We are considering an in-person walk. One option is the History Park. Rovina spoke about an app under development for other NAMI affiliates. She mentioned the developer, the possibility of the app being developed for us and a demo of the app to staff members last week. Moryt asked about the features and Rovina summarized the functionality. Rovina spoke about the renaming of the Warmline to a Helpline. She shared a slide on the differences between a warmline and a helpline. We are doing everything that a helpline does but calling it a warmline. It would require a lot of changes to our website and marketing materials. Karen asked where we would refer people who need a warmline. Kathy suggested: 7 Cups, CalHope and NAMI Orange County's warmline. Vic inquired if this would affect our funding for the Warmline from the county.

- e. **Consultant Report—Kathy:** There is no Consultant Report for this month. We will hold a Mental Health 101 session on Thurs. We will have a Nov/Dec FaithNet report next month.

f. **Fundraising Committee Update—Harold:**

- i. **Funding Plans and Grants Status:** Harold felt the return to a physical walk may be a little tenuous. It will not be in downtown San Jose which will reduce the number of volunteers

required. We are looking at Kelly Park and the History Center. We will be using the Internet to build interest and will have a video on our YouTube channel to follow up with donors. Vic felt we did a great job with the NAMIWalk to raise \$280k in the middle of a pandemic and expressed his thanks. We are one of the top walks in the country.

- g. **Community Peer Program and FaithNet—Kathy:** Please refer to the Community Peer Program report. It includes an update on our conversation with Kaiser Santa Clara. We are working on restarting IOOV at Kaiser and are in discussion regarding our peer services at Kaiser. A discussion of mental health parity laws and recent developments followed.
- h. **Newsletter—Bev:** The next issue of the newsletter is the Feb issue. Articles should be submitted in Jan.
- i. **General Meeting—Bev:** There is no meeting in Dec. We have no definite speakers for next year yet. Bev is working on it.

#### 4. **Other Actions**

- a. **Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates—Frank:**
  - (1) Frank recommended we take a look at the UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences. He spoke briefly about what they are doing.
  - (2) We are planning for next year. Our objectives have not changed. We want to do a good job of tracking legislation. Frank asked the board members to inform him of what we are interested in.
  - (3) Frank spoke about the Legiscan tool we use for tracking legislation. We are discussing how to put Legislative Committee advocacy information up on the website.
  - (4) We achieved good success this year in reaching all our elected representatives in SCC. We will do this again in the coming year. We want to know what they are interested in so we can support them.
  - (5) The Legislative Committee is interested in staging an event in the coming year—maybe a round-table in May. Frank listed the people he would like to invite. **Vic:** thought this is a good idea but it needs to be fleshed out. It will need to be done by May because it's an election year. **Navah:** warned us to be careful that we don't endorse candidates.
  - (6) **Karen:** We have discussed the main goals for our public relations effort. We need to get more specific about our needs. Karen spoke briefly about the book Mental Health Matrix.
- b. **New Business:**
  - i. No new business.

#### 5. **Dates to Remember**

- a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

*Dec 12, 2021*