

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 4th January 2022, 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, Barbara Thompson, Peter Newman.

Meeting convened at 5:30 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved.
- b. Dec 7th, 2021 BoD minutes approved subject to a minor correction.
- c. Vic spoke briefly about the passing of Luisa Perez and suggested we send flowers.

2. **Action/New Information**

- a. **2022 Budget Discussion—Steve:** We haven't changed the budget much compared to last year. Expenses were at 96 percent of budget all through last year so we will just use the same with changes to reflect increases in salaries/wages. Revenue for next year is budgeted at \$1.26M whereas revenue for last year came in at \$1.62M. We did the budget before the Dec results came in and we received quite a lot in Dec. We are budgeting a loss of \$41k. **Harold:** The two-year grant for FaithNet will end in Mar which is why we lowered our expectations. We don't want to accumulate cash. **Kathy:** mentioned CalHope which is also not budgeted. **Vic:** suggested we could vote on the expense budget tonight but revisit revenue in Feb. **Steve:** is happy with the revenue budget. **Karen:** asked about FaithNet. **Rovina:** We only accounted for the months covered by the FaithNet and CalHope programs. There was discussion of general revenue for the programs. We will continue FaithNet and seek grants to support it. So far we have \$50k in grants for FaithNet. The board voted to accept the budget as presented. Steve proposed the motion, Frank seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- b. **Officer Nominations—Bev:** Almost everyone will return to serve on the board for next year. However, we need a president. Steve, Frank and Bev are working on a nomination for president. Please get in touch with the nominating committee if you have any suggestions. If no one else will do it, Steve is tentatively prepared to step into the role. Navah offered to help out with the duties of president. Vic felt that co-presidents are also an option; it worked really well. Bev would like to return to her role as first vice president. Vic will serve as past president. We will need to present the nominations at the Feb General Meeting.
- c. **Community Advisory Council—Harold:** The Fundraising Committee met and finalized a list of prospective candidates. We are now up to 19 people. There followed a discussion of some of the people on the list. Harold will send the list to the board to solicit volunteers to contact people. Harold mentioned a document regarding advisory board guidelines he received via NAMI National. He will ask Jim Bower to help review it. It will be helpful to establish expectations, roles and responsibilities. Vic suggested we coordinate our message so we are saying the same thing to each person. Harold will send out the list and job description. We will work on the messaging. Navah suggested the burden is upon us to educate the members of the advisory council about ourselves and our programs.

3. **Reports and Updates**

- a. **Treasurer Update—Steve:** had nothing more to add to the budget discussion.
- b. **VP Updates:**
 - i. **Juan:** FaF and PaP classes are starting soon. In the support group we have about 35 people. Juan spoke about funeral arrangements in progress for Luisa. There was discussion of a picture of Luisa for an article in the newsletter.

- ii. **Uday:** spoke about a follow-up to the “Bridging the Gap, Services for I/DD and Mental Health” symposium. We are planning to hold another panel discussion.

c. **Presidents' Updates**

- i. **Bev:** The Community Merit Award will be presented at the beginning of the Jan General Meeting. We are honoring the Stanford Annual Mood Disorders Education Day.
- ii. **Vic:** spoke about his work to get local cities to adopt a suicide prevention policy. We now have 13 out of 15 cities that have adopted a suicide prevention policy.

- d. **Executive Director Report—Rovina:** Please refer to the Executive Director's Report for details. We received a grant for FaithNet of \$50k over two years. We plan to look for more funding opportunities for FaithNet. Rovina summarized recent grant applications. We have the NAMIWalk meeting with NAMI National next week. NAMIWalk 2021 raised almost \$280k. Next year's Walk is on Oct 8. We have applied to the History Park in San Jose as a venue. The end-of-year letter raised \$120k. Giving Tuesday raised \$8k using the Classy platform. All the gifts have been delivered for the Holiday Drive. We received \$1.5k in donations for the Holiday Drive. We will screen the movie House of Healing at the Feb General Meeting.

Uday: suggested it would be good to have some questions prepared for the Jan 14 meeting on the bed tracking system in LA county. Uday will send details to everyone.

Vic: Supervisor Ellenberg plans to propose that mental health is in a state of emergency in Santa Clara County. She has asked Vic and Rovina for information. She is trying to initiate a process. She is looking for support from us. We need to get letters of support out by Fri. Please send comments to Rovina; she will coordinate. **Navah:** suggested we consider how best to present the information we have at the meeting. There followed discussion about the Mobile Crisis Unit and hospital admission and the need for a jail versus a hospital. Navah suggested we need a policy statement and we need both jail and hospital.

- e. **Consultant Report—Kathy:** Please refer to the Community Peer Program report and the list of classes, groups and presentations. There is nothing to add to the report for Dec.

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

- i. **Funding Plans and Grants Status:** See Rovina's report for the grants in progress. Harold is continuing his series of newsletter articles on estate planning.

- g. **Newsletter—Bev:** Articles for the Feb issue should be submitted by Jan 17.

- h. **General Meeting—Bev:** Bev presented her plans for speakers and topics for the Jan, Feb and Mar General Meetings. Kathy mentioned that the Prop 47 Committee wanted to do a presentation for the jail support group but that it might be better suited for a General Meeting. There followed a discussion of possible future speakers.

4. **Other Actions**

- a. **Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates—Frank:** (1) It has been a quiet time; there's not a lot to report. Neither NAMI CA nor the Steinberg Institute have introduced their advocacy package for 2022. (2) We will restart our political outreach for the new year. (3) Frank spoke about an event the Legislative Committee is interested in staging later in the year and how plans have evolved. Earlier thinking was to bring in political people but it began to sound like a civics lesson in legislation. We would prefer to focus on important things that people can relate to and use in their own lives. Moryt suggested we might look at current laws passed for 2022 and what their effect is on members of our community. She asked who we might invite to join a panel to discuss these issues. Vic suggested Frank and Moryt put together a proposal. We could hold it at a General Meeting like we did the housing panel, perhaps in May. (4) Uday introduced a discussion about CalAIM a plan to enable California's Medi-Cal program to work more seamlessly with other social services. Navah suggested we look at the Legislative Analyst's Office website. Frank agreed to summarize key items for our community.

- b. **New Business:**

i. No new business.

5. Dates to Remember

a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 1st Feb 2022 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM followed by a brief closed session of the board with no reportable action.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

Jan 9, 2022