

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 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, Jane Christol, Peter Newman.

Meeting convened at 5:32 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved.
- b. Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 BoD minutes approved.

2. **Action/New Information**

- a. **Officer Nominations—Bev:** Bev announced the slate of nominations for the election of board officers: President Uday, Vice Presidents Bev, Harold and Juan, Past President Vic, Treasurer Steve and Secretary Peter. We have one open position for a vice president. The slate will be presented for a vote at the Mar General Meeting. We may be able to nominate a candidate for the fourth vice president by the time of the meeting. There was some discussion regarding the average age of the board members and how to reduce it and also of communities in SCC not currently represented on the board. Members-at-large are not part of the slate, they are appointed. Jane asked about the requirements for officers and Navah summarized them.
- b. **Community Advisory Council—Harold:** Please refer to the Community Advisory Council description, list of candidates and invitation script distributed before the meeting. The Fundraising Committee reviewed these documents at their last meeting. Jim Bower has been a big help in getting this together. We are ready to proceed. The core of the list of people was proposed by Navah. We plan on holding an orientation session in late Mar. Navah has offered a luncheon on her patio in Apr. Our first request of the council will probably be for help to identify sponsors for the Walk. The list of candidates assigns a contact person for each candidate. We should begin contacting people now. Please respond to both Harold and Rovina with the candidates' response.
- c. **Legislative Requests—Vic:** We have received requests from the SCC Board of Supervisors. Last week we received a request from Supervisor Ellenberg on the jail vs hospital issue. Vic would like each board member to have the opportunity to offer their input. This will require sufficient advance notice. Discussion of the jail vs hospital issue and the vote by the Board of Supervisors followed with many of the board members offering their input. We need to make sure we let the supervisors know that we need advance warning of such requests. We don't want to become known for simply rubber stamping anything that comes before us. Frank has been in contact with the offices of four of the five supervisors.

3. **Reports and Updates**

- a. **Treasurer Update—Steve:** Our cash is at \$980k. At year-end we had \$1,027k. We don't yet have a budget by month. We have \$22k in accounts receivable. Steve spoke about progress in the liquidation of an estate of which we are a benefactor.
- b. **VP Updates:**
  - i. **Uday:** (1) The presentation on the bed tracking tool by LA County went very well with excellent attendance. Vic asked what happens next. The county will look at the tool and evaluate it but will continue to work on their current tools. There followed discussion of: functionality, integration of the separate tools and cost. Navah would like to see a public-facing option. There was discussion of expansion of the tool. The decision is with the county. Uday summarized the history behind the development of the tool. Moryt saw a lot of

potential but also a lot of work that needs to be done. She asked how the information it contains will be maintained. (2) There was a stakeholder meeting this morning for the “Bridging the Gap, Services for I/DD and Mental Health” symposium. A panel discussion is planned for Mar.

- ii. **Juan:** FaF and PaP classes are up and running. About 20 to 40 people attend the support group. Juan spoke about the memorial service for Luisa Perez.

c. **Presidents' Updates**

- i. **Bev:** NAMI National has announced that the Annual Convention to be held in Jun will be virtual.
- ii. **Vic:** spoke about his work to get local cities to adopt a suicide prevention policy. We are now down to two cities in SCC that don't have policies.

- d. **Executive Director Report—Rovina:** Please refer to the Executive Director's Report for details. We have applied for several grants. The Palo Alto Community Fund has short-listed us. We are meeting with them next week. The El Camino Healthcare grant is due this month. The Cigna grant is also coming up. Walk meetings have started. We have two parks in mind as possible venues. We will check them out next week. We have been asked by Senator Cortese to give an ETS presentation at a forthcoming meeting. Kristin has resigned. We will promote Sarah to co-coordinator and are in process of hiring another. Rovina mentioned other positions we are also hiring for. Rovina referenced the long list of meetings she has attended and spoke briefly about a few of them.

- e. **Consultant Report—Kathy:** Please refer to the list of ongoing classes, support groups and presentations. Kathy is involved with Assisted Outpatient Treatment and is on the advisory committee. She spoke about the awarding of contracts. Kathy has asked for presentations on how this will be implemented. Kathy spoke about the Stakeholders' Leadership Committee and preparations for the next three year plan. Criminal Justice have asked Kathy to attend their meetings. Kathy has been working with Yvonne on accounting. We are waiting to hear from the county regarding further funding for FaithNet. Navah spoke about the audit for the county. There is no in-patient capacity at all. Navah and Kathy discussed this briefly.

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

- i. **Funding Plans and Grants Status:** Harold did not have much to add to Rovina's report on grants. It is clear that we have a targeting process from the lists in her report. Rovina is working with Stanford looking for a Community Peer grant opportunity. The Kaiser LPS committee mentioned a NAMI peer on staff. We'd be happy to work with them on that.
- ii. **NAMIWalk:** COVID-19 continues to make things uncertain. We can't be sure we will have a physical walk. We will consider alternatives. We haven't discounted Arena Green as the venue but we may find other venues that are easier to administer. City streets are hard to administer in a Walk.

- g. **Community Peer Program and FaithNet:** Please refer to the Community Peer Program report.

- h. **Newsletter—Bev:** Articles for the Mar issue should be submitted by Feb 14.

- i. **General Meeting—Bev:** Bev presented her plans for speakers and topics for the Feb and Mar General Meetings. She is working on a speaker for the Apr meeting. Moryt and Frank are working on the May meeting.

4. **Other Actions**

- a. **Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates—Frank:** (1) Frank spoke about the recent press conference with supervisors Ellenberg and Lee concerning the unacceptable state of behavioral health care in the county. Frank gave a statement of support at the event. Discussion of the event followed. Frank spoke about the high regard we are held in by the leaders of our community and their need for input from us. He spoke about some of the problems with the state of mental health

care in the county. Moryt and Frank have put together a letter that they would like us to send as input to Supervisor Ellenberg. Frank requested our response by Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. (2) California has a budget surplus of \$31b. Governor Newsom wants to rebuild the state's behavioral health systems. Frank summarized some of Governor Newsom's proposals regarding behavioral health services in the state. (3) **Karen:** Legislation is beginning to arrive. We can check it out on Legiscan. **Navah:** spoke about the capacity issue of the county behavioral health system and changes to the criteria by which we provide help. It is time they reviewed their criteria. **Vic:** summarized the schedule of upcoming legislation. **Navah:** responded to a question about the NAMI CA legislative meetings that used to be held regularly. NAMI CA is no longer staffed to support it.

b. **New Business:**

- i. No new business.

5. **Dates to Remember**

- a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2022 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

*Feb 5, 2022*