

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 1st March 2022, 5:30 PM, by Videoconference

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

Meeting convened at 5:34 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved.
- b. Feb 1st, 2022 BoD minutes approved.

2. **Action/New Information**

- a. **Community Advisory Council—Vic:** Vic has contacted the candidates assigned to him and he reported on the responses of Steven Adelsheim, Liz Kniss and Michel Lew. Michel is too busy but she suggested Dr Jorge Wong, Director of Housing Services at the Health Trust. Navah suggested he might be a good candidate for board member at large. Vic recounted a brief story involving Jorge. Karen and Rovina also reported on the people they have contacted. Vic asked everyone to contact their assigned candidates and inform Harold of their responses so that we may discuss them at the next board meeting.
- b. **Officer Nominations—Bev:** Last month we did not have a full slate but now we do. Bev listed the slate: President Uday, Vice Presidents Bev, Harold, Juan and Frank, Past President Vic, Treasurer Steve and Secretary Peter. It will be voted on next week at the General Meeting.

3. **Reports and Updates**

- a. **Treasurer Update—Vic:** Steve could not attend the meeting. Rovina will distribute the financial statements by email. Nothing dramatic has happened in Feb. Rovina summarized the dates of forthcoming payments due to the settlement of the recent lawsuit.
- b. **VP Updates:**
 - i. **Uday:** (1) The MHSA Independent Living Empowerment Project contract has been awarded. Lorraine and Uday met with the contractor. They are trying to hire someone to staff the project and get going. (2) Uday gave a report of the Board of Supervisors Special Meeting on Behavioral Health which occurred as a result of the declaration of a mental health crisis in the county. Uday expressed his concern about the co-occurring conditions of mental health and intellectual disability. **Rovina:** spoke about the staffing problem at the county. **Navah:** spoke about the need for us to find language to describe supported housing to convey the required level of care. She suggested we use something like, “Residential highest level of care.” (3) Uday spoke about the stakeholder meeting this morning for the “Bridging the Gap, Services for I/DD and Mental Health” symposium and the panel discussion being planned. (4) Uday has distributed a comparison of the bed tracking tool.
 - ii. **Juan:** The FaF and PaP classes are ongoing. We currently have 40 people attending the weekly support group. People are asking when we can return to in-person classes. Juan will discuss this with Kathy. Juan informed us of a sad incident concerning one of the consumers in the Hispanic community. Juan is helping the family.
- c. **Presidents' Updates**
 - i. **Bev:** Nothing to report.
 - ii. **Vic:** Vic initiated a discussion of whether we should return to holding our board meetings in person again. Various options and opinions were discussed. Bev suggested the Bylaws Committee could discuss it and bring back proposals. We will discuss it at the next meeting.

- d. **Executive Director Report—Rovina:** Please refer to the Executive Director's Report for details. Several grant applications have been submitted including the big one for El Camino Healthcare. The Cigna Foundation grant application is coming up. The NAMIWalk will be an in-person event on Oct 1. We couldn't find a venue available for Oct 8. We have reserved the History Park and Kelly Park in San Jose. Kathy and Harold have visited the venue and Harold and John Hausler have mapped out a route. We are waiting for NAMI National to bring up the Walk website. We are discussing campaigns for May is Mental Health Month. Rovina is working with Ta on a social media campaign. We are planning a workshop in mindfulness and self care for the May General Meeting. Rovina referenced the long list of meetings she has attended. Uday mentioned the NAMI affiliates meeting and felt that Kathy gave a great presentation.
- e. **Consultant Report—Kathy:** Please refer to the list of ongoing classes, support groups and presentations. Kathy has been doing a lot of work behind the scenes. She continues to work with Yvonne on accounting.
- f. **Fundraising Committee Update:**
 - i. No report as Harold was not able to attend the meeting.
- g. **Community Peer Program and FaithNet:** Please refer to the Community Peer Program report.
- h. **Newsletter—Bev:** Articles for the Apr issue should be submitted by Mar 16.
- i. **General Meeting—Bev:** The Mar general meeting presentation will be about how different types of stressful experiences affect brain development and mental health in teens. Bev mentioned that she has a speaker for April but no firm topic yet. Bev and Rovina are discussing a presentation for May because it's mental health month. Uday mentioned that he knows someone who would be good for the May meeting. Kathy reminded Bev about another possibility for April. There followed some discussion about how to set up Zoom to offer a more inclusive experience for the online General Meeting and how to have a combined in-person meeting with online participation via Zoom. Vic suggested we send ideas to Bev.

4. **Other Actions**

- a. **Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates—Frank:**
 - i. Karen and Frank have not discovered much information about legislation on the Internet yet. Neither NAMI CA nor the Steinberg Institute have posted anything yet.
 - ii. After the recent press conference concerning the unacceptable state of behavioral healthcare in the county we were invited to make comments for the SCC Board of Supervisors regarding mental health care in the county. Frank researched the mental health system in the county and distributed a draft letter for discussion at the board meeting. Frank summarized his findings which show that in comparison to highly rated healthcare systems our county falls disappointingly short of the mark, particularly so since we are the fourth wealthiest county in America. A lengthy and spirited discussion of the points made in the draft letter followed. It was agreed that many of the problems with the system raised in the draft letter have already been covered in other reports. We need to focus on the four or five issues most important to us. Even though everything needs to be fixed we must pick out a few top priorities. It was agreed that going after the leadership is not going to be a collaborative way to proceed. We need to transform the system and the model of care. We need to be very careful about the language we use. Frank agreed to revise the letter and call board members for their input.
 - iii. Navah spoke about Welfare & Institution Code 5272 which provides for a 30-day hold for gravely disabled persons. Some counties have implemented it and SCC is considering it. Navah also mentioned SB 507 which enhances Laura's Law and is also under consideration by the county. Assisted Outpatient Treatment went into effect in SCC on Feb 16. There is an article about it in the newsletter.
- b. **New Business:**

i. No new business.

5. Dates to Remember

a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 5th Apr 2022 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

Mar 6, 2022