

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 5:30 PM, by Videoconference

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

**Guest:** Lorraine Zeller.

Meeting convened at 5:35 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved with the addition that we approve the minutes for the Jly 5<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting and the Jly 31<sup>st</sup> Board Retreat.
- b. Jly 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 BoD minutes approved subject to a change of the date recorded as the next board meeting.
- c. Jly 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 minutes from the board retreat approved subject to a correction to the name of the El Camino Aspire program.

2. **Reports and Updates**

- a. **Treasurer Update:** Please refer to the Treasurer's Report. In the absence of the Treasurer a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted was passed.
- b. **VP Updates:**
  - i. **Juan:** Everything is going well. Juan spoke in support of increased representation for the Indian community. We continue our work with outreach tables in community gatherings.
  - ii. **Bev:** (1) Bev thanked the board for their contributions on behalf of the board to the NAMI Walk. (2) Bev received an email invitation from the Stanford Center for Precision Mental Health & Wellness regarding their one-day Precision Mental Health & Wellness Symposium. Discussion followed regarding the nature of precision mental health. Bev will distribute the email.
  - iii. **Frank:** has written a paper expressing some ideas on what we might do with the income from the Schiro Legacy. Lots of nonprofits have endowments that have worked very well. Frank will distribute the document.
- c. **President's Update—Uday:**
  - i. Uday spoke about the Legislature passing SB 1338, the CARE Court framework, with overwhelming support. Most of the amendments addressed the concerns of family members. Uday discussed it with Judge Manley and Jim Beall. Most people's concern is where the funds will come from. Jim Beall doesn't want money to be taken away from existing programs.
  - ii. We will have a presentation at a NAMI-SCC General Meeting on the Santa Clara BHSD Navigator Program.
  - iii. Uday discussed the bed registry tool. It does not cover unlicensed board-and-care facilities. It only tracks a few contracted facilities. The Board of Supervisors is not happy. It does not have the same functionality as the LA County Merlin tool. There followed some discussion of the project.
- d. **Executive Director Report—Rovina:** Please refer to the Executive Director's Report, the Community Peer Program report and the list of ongoing classes, support groups and presentations for details. We have applied for a number of grants. The big one is Cigna. We received \$100k from Cigna in 2020. Rovina will focus on the NAMIWalk for the next few weeks. We have raised \$149k so far. Last year at this time our total raised from sponsorships was \$115k; this year it is already \$132k. We have a lot of sponsors this year. The team captain

meetings are ongoing. We are working on logistics and are in need of volunteers. After the Walk comes the year-end letter and then the Holiday Drive.

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

i. **NAMIWalk:** We are trying to wrap up the sponsorships. We have done better with sponsorships than in previous years. Andre Florez is doing a wonderful job. We should invite the Advisory Council to the Walk and recognize them at the event. Changing the Walk venue has proven to be more work than Harold thought it would be. The committee meets weekly. We will be ready.

f. **Consultant Report: FaithNet—Kathy:** We are working on a final report which should be out in the next couple of weeks. Kathy spoke about some of the staff moving on. Kathy gave a brief summary of the MHSA meetings she attends. There was discussion of the 988 crisis support service. Our county is way ahead of other counties. The multicultural event was well done. Kathy has been attending Prop 47 meetings. Uday spoke about CalAIM. Harold spoke about EtS inquiries this year. He will start a subcommittee to develop EtS after the Walk.

g. **Newsletter—Bev:** Articles for the Oct issue should be submitted by mid Sep.

h. **General Meeting—Bev:** At the next meeting we have a presentation from the Jail and Court Family Support Group. Bev gave a summary of the speakers planned for Oct and Nov.

3. **Updates**

a. **Board Retreat Follow Up—Uday:** The action items we have from the Board Retreat are tactical. Uday would like us to consider longer term strategic goals. There was discussion about hiring an assistant for the Helpline. Rovina spoke about increasing the hourly rates for employees, security for the office and Family and Friends training for providers. We would like to work closely with the ILA and encourage relationships with other mental health organizations. We will send an annual report on the Helpline to the Board of Supervisors. Vic asked how many people use our services; we don't have a good idea. It would be nice to have it broken down by service.

b. **Community Advisory Council—Harold:** would like to communicate with the council after the Walk. Uday wants strategic goals to discuss with them. Rovina is having phone conversations with some of the members. Kathy spoke about NAMI CA piloting a template of how affiliates can work with community partners. We should talk to them given that we are already doing it.

c. **NAMI CA Conference—Uday:** Kathy, Rovina, Uday and Barbara with several members of the Spanish team attended the conference. There were about 500 attendees, more than expected. **Uday:** spoke about the power of the keynote presentation by Dr. Devika Bhushan, Acting California Surgeon General, in which she disclosed her suffering from bipolar disorder. The highlight for Uday was the panel session, Power of One, and in particular the presentation from Be Well Orange County. **Rovina:** had a good meeting with NAMI Orange County. **Kathy:** felt that everyone that spoke was sharing lived experience. She spoke about an organization set up by LeBron James for sports figures with mental health needs to get help and share their stories. There followed a discussion of the Orange County approach and their Be Well nonprofit.

4. **Other Actions**

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

i. Frank has been seeking an appointment with Congressman Ro Khanna to talk about the role of the federal government in mental health care. They met for half an hour and Frank summarized the discussion. The congressman asked Frank to meet with his liaison three or four times a year to offer NAMI input. We will follow up, this is a great opportunity for us.

ii. Rovina, Bev and Frank met with Supervisor Joe Simitian and talked about collaboration. In a return call from Matt Savage we were asked to put together a committee of two or three people to offer direct input three or four times a year. Bev really felt there was a lot of interest in meeting with us.

- iii. Karen spoke about project management and moving things forward and how it differs between the public and private sectors.
- iv. There is not a lot going on yet concerning legislation.
- v. Harold thanked Frank for his initiative and achieving such inroads.
- vi. Kathy suggested we put together a survey for the people we work with regarding what would they like to see.

b. **New Business:**

- i. **Lorraine Zeller:** was invited to speak to us regarding the MHSa Independent Living Empowerment Project (ILA/ILEP). The county has awarded the contract to Community Health Improvement Partners (CHIP). Their track record with other counties is disappointing. In Alameda county only 21 member homes have been undertaken since 2018. **Kathy:** felt that they are derailing the peer support which was supposed to be built in. **Lorraine:** has given up on the peer support. **Uday:** feels we have put in so much hard work we want to see it succeed. **Lorraine:** asked for volunteers. Kathy and Uday offered to volunteer. There was discussion about whether we want to publicize this. **Uday:** suggested our first step would be to bring this up with David Mineta. **Kathy:** suggested we send a letter from the board stating that we have an interest and would like to collaborate. There followed a discussion regarding how we expedite getting providers to sign up.

5. **Dates to Remember**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

*Sep 11, 2022*