

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

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

Meeting convened at 5:35 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved.
- b. Oct 4th, 2022 BoD minutes approved subject to a minor correction.

2. **Reports and Updates**

- a. **Treasurer Update—Uday:** Please refer to the Treasurer's Report. Uday summarized the Treasurer's Report. A motion to approve the report as presented was passed.

b. **VP Updates:**

- i. **Juan:** Things are going pretty well. There was a change in one of the class teachers. We have been active doing a NAMI presentation table. We have an ongoing campaign to sign up our community members who attend our classes and support groups as NAMI members.
- ii. **Bev:** gave details of a town hall meeting about CARE Court where Dave Cortese, Uday and Judge Manley will be speaking. NAMI's Dr. Ken Duckworth has just published his new book. He will be at Kepler's bookstore on Nov 30 to talk about the book. Bev will email details. Discussion of the book followed.
- iii. **Harold:** There was a poor attendance at the Advisory Council Meeting. We need to brainstorm about how we are going to involve these people. Harold commented on the number of recent inquiries for our EtS program. Adela is working hard reaching out to school organizations. We presented to about 300 students last month. EtS is slowly picking up. We need to talk about a top down approach for EtS. Stanford has created a full-time peer support position now that the grant supporting their current peer support person has expired.

c. **President's Update—Uday:**

- i. Uday spoke about the CARE Court panel on Nov 3 at which he will be speaking. He summarized what he plans to talk about. The next step for CARE Court will be to form a working team to implement it. It should be finalized by Jan. Frank asked about opposition to the bill. No-one knew of anything filed in court yet. Navah discussed the use of LPS to inhibit CARE Court.
- ii. Uday is a member of Supervisor Ellenberg's 'Kitchen Cabinet.' He spoke about housing programs and the Be Well initiative in Orange County. Supervisor Ellenberg will attend the California State Association of Counties meeting and Uday will try to connect her to Be Well.
- iii. Uday will attend the opening of the new campus at Palo Alto University.
- iv. Uday has been invited to attend Service Beyond Self, an intellectual disabilities regional event. He spoke about the need for a similar mental health event.
- v. Uday spoke of a meeting with Jim Beall and Dave Mineta where they discussed the possibility of inviting a national figure to speak about public health concerns. **Navah:** felt it is good to talk about mental health at various levels but it is also good to get county mental health involved. **Karen:** provoked a general free-for-all discussion when she asked who leads mental health in this county. The discussion ranged far and wide across county officials, county offices and a general exploration of the county staff org chart.

vi. CalAIM (a long-term commitment to transform and strengthen Medi-Cal) has changed many things and everyone is struggling to understand it. Uday contacted Ky Le as it falls under him. He will get back to Uday on what CalAIM resources can be applied to.

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 submitted a lot of applications and there are more coming up for FaithNet next month. We are about \$3,500 short of our goal for the Walk. We are finalizing the End-of-Year letter. We have started working on the Holiday Drive. We will hold a staff open house to celebrate the Holidays. We had a site visit from the 100 Women Foundation. The El Camino grant is a little different this year. They will hold a presentation for all of the grantees to meet each other. Rovina met Dean Audrey Shillington of SJSU regarding our plan to work together. Kathy and Rovina will start on the 2023 annual budget soon.

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

i. **NAMIWalk:** The Walk Committee met to debrief. The biggest issue was parking. We will meet with leaders from the Parks and Recreation Dept. to talk about how we can improve it. It was a lot more work this year than Harold expected. We had a very successful execution of the Walk. Andre Florez did a wonderful job but we need to invest in a full-time event manager. Perhaps we need to find a media sponsor to help with a full page ad in the Mercury News. The Walk is a lot more than raising money—it is a community event. Uday suggested we might outsource this function. Everyone liked the location. We will reroute the Walk next year to take advantage of some positive feedback regarding the shorter route for the Walk. We will also move the vendor booths further away from the speakers' stage.

f. **Consultant Report: FaithNet—Kathy:** The FaithNet final report is out. Kathy will distribute it. The funding agency has expressed interest in us doing some provider training. Part of the reason for their not continuing support for FaithNet is because we now have outside funding sources for it. The team is now smaller, many have moved on, but we are getting inquiries. **Vic:** Don't forget we have money!

g. **Newsletter—Bev:** Articles for the Dec/Jan issue should be submitted by Nov 18.

h. **General Meeting—Bev:** At the next meeting we have Alicia Anderson speaking about the Santa Clara County Navigator Program. There will be no meeting in Dec. Bev is working on speakers for the new year.

3. Updates

a. **Community Merit Award:**

- i. Vic spoke on behalf of Sarita Kohli, President and CEO of Asian Americans for Community Involvement and proposed by Uday at the previous board meeting. Vic gave some background on her and her work and recommended her as a good choice.
- ii. Harold recommended Price Middle School. They have a robust program for mental health and have raised money for us. Rovina spoke of their team. The students have a good awareness of mental health. It will be good to recognize the school and will set an example for other schools. Many NAMIs have struggled with their EtS programs recently. Recognizing the school will increase visibility and engagement. Harold considered that we might like to do a special award for Price Middle School instead.
- iii. Vic proposed Mary Ann Dewan, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools. She worked with former Senator Jim Beall to get a grant for school mental health.
- iv. Vic proposed Miguel Valencia, Director of Specialty Behavioral Health for Gardner Health Services. He is active with private behavioral health providers in the county. Also, he has mentored many young Hispanic behavioral health clinicians. Navah agreed he would be a very good candidate.

- v. Gini Mitchem was proposed. She was dedicated to the Bay Area NAMIWalk for many years. What she did made a huge impact. While we would be honoring our own this is not unprecedented. We honored Luisa Perez in 2020.
- vi. Uday proposed Sunshine Borelli, Chief of Staff for Dave Cortese and before him for Jim Beall.
- vii. It was agreed to continue discussion and select a candidate by email

4. Other Actions

a. Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates—Frank:

- i. Frank voiced his disapproval of the lack of process used by the Board of Supervisors to select a replacement for Jeff Smith, the retiring county CEO. We should not expect that from our county. It was completely non-collaborative.
- ii. Nothing much has been happening with legislation since everyone is out campaigning for the midterms. Once the elections are over things will pick up.
- iii. The governor has signed the bill funding the 988 crisis lifeline number. The lifeline was launched in July but the bill ensuring permanent funding has only recently been signed.
- iv. Frank gave a brief summary of three bills sponsored by Dave Cortese and signed by the governor in Oct.
- v. Moryt brought to our attention problems with the 988 crisis line. The intent is terrific but the support is lacking. Many 988 calls are being handed over to the police and the caller is not informed. The 988 crisis line is understaffed. We don't have a big enough team out there to cope with the incoming calls. There was discussion of the issue. It will take a long time for the process to catch up with the need.

b. New Business:

- i. **Moryt:** asked if we can propose new candidates for the Community Advisory Council. It was agreed there is no problem with additions to the council. Moryt proposed Maureen O'Connor the President of Palo Alto University.
- ii. **Navah:** spoke about SB855 and SB221. She mentioned CalMHSA's special outreach to the Hispanic community. They are talking about ways to reach the two populations: farm workers and migrants and the urban community.
- iii. **Rovina:** spoke briefly about her meeting with Amy Carta, their discussion of outreach in Santa Clara County and the possibility of contracting with us.

5. Dates to Remember

- a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 3rd Jan 2023 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

Nov 6, 2022