

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 7th February 2023, 5:30 PM, by Videoconference

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

Meeting convened at 5:33 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved with the addition of a discussion of the slate of candidates for the upcoming election of board officers.
- b. Jan 3rd, 2022 BoD minutes approved.

2. **Reports and Updates**

a. **Treasurer Update—Steve:**

- i. Please refer to the Treasurer's Report. We broke even this month. We have not yet hired the people we budgeted for so we expect expenses to stay below budget until we do. We have received no news on the Schiro Trust. We will receive \$2.75M. It should have been in by now. A motion to approve the report as presented was passed.

b. **VP Updates:**

- i. **Juan:** Juan gave an update on the status of the FaF and PaP classes and on the support group for the Hispanic community. All are going well. We have three new teachers for the FaF class.
- ii. **Bev:** Bev spoke about the presentation of the Community Merit Award.

c. **President's Update—Uday:**

- i. We had a board and care meeting at Grace Community. Kathy acted as the master of ceremonies. Lorraine Zeller did a very good job and featured the Independent Living Association. There were 55 attendees with a lot of good questions. People from the county behavioral health services attended.
- ii. Uday has been invited to join the NAMI National Affiliate Presidents Council. It is a body to advise the NAMI National board of directors.
- iii. Uday and Senator Jim Beall have a meeting scheduled with the new county executive James Williams. Navah spoke about the delicacy of this meeting. We don't want to go into the meeting with a long list of requirements.
- iv. Lorraine Zeller of the Community Living Coalition has raised a number of issues to the NAMI-SCC board that need to be addressed. Currently there is a two-year funding for the Independent Living Empowerment Project. They need to secure continued support. She wants the support of NAMI-SCC. We will add an item to the agenda for next month's board meeting if the board agrees. Rovina will forward Lorraine's appeal to the board members.

- d. **Executive Director Report—Rovina:** Please refer to the Executive Director's Report, the Community Peer Program report, the Outreach Activity Report and the list of ongoing classes, support groups and presentations for details. It has been a busy month with a lot of grant applications. El Camino Healthcare and Kaiser Permanente are the big ones due this month. Our NAMI Walk will take place on Oct 7 and the History Park has been reserved. Next we need to hire an events manager. We are also holding interviews for the community outreach position. Moryt and Rovina met with Maureen O'Connor, the President of Palo Alto University. We have received an award from NAMI National—we rank number eight among all of the NAMI Walks. Harold asked about targeting family foundations for grants. Rovina was invited to attend

Congressman Ro Khanna's town hall meeting due to the recent shootings. She gave the NAMI response to gun violence. There was some Q&A and inquiries.

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

i. There was some discussion around community outreach. We have made changes to the route and the field layout for the Walk and we are working on improving the parking. There was discussion of the Fundraising Committee, Jim Bower's role and the Community Advisory Council. Rovina is already working with some of the individual members of the council.

f. **Consultant Report: FaithNet—Kathy:** Kathy has been attending county meetings. FaithNet is coming along. We are looking at hiring a couple of more people and are looking for a new faith leader. There is a larger faith group associated with NAMI Contra Costa. We will attend their meeting. **Navah:** spoke briefly about rights with respect to mental health parity.

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

h. **General Meeting—Bev:** Bev summarized the topic for next week's meeting and reviewed her plans for speakers in upcoming meetings. We have speakers booked through Jun.

3. **Updates**

a. **Community Merit Award:** Navah will present our Community Merit Award to Dr Miguel Valencia, Director of Specialty Behavioral Health for Gardner Health Services at next week's General Meeting.

b. **Board Retreat:** The board retreat is tentatively scheduled for Sun Mar 5th to be held at our office. Jim Bower asked Rovina to start the meeting with a discussion of what she needs from the board. There was some discussion regarding time and date for the retreat. Steve asked why we need someone to run it. After some discussion it was suggested that an independent third party can make things move more efficiently. Uday counseled us not to waste time in the retreat on discussion of things we have already covered.

c. **Community Advisory Council Luncheon:** Rovina suggested we hold the luncheon sometime in April. There was some discussion around avoiding holidays. The 2nd and 23rd were proposed. Maggiano's was mentioned as an affordable venue. We should avoid holding it on a Saturday as we have a rabbi on the council. Harold and Rovina agreed to fix a date.

d. **Officer Nominations—Steve:** Steve announced the slate of nominations for the election of board officers. There are no changes—all current officers have agreed to serve for another year. Harold asked about the open member-at-large position. Considerable discussion followed regarding how we select and vet a member-at-large. Steve has a candidate for member-at-large he would like to introduce to us. There has been some recent discussion of diversity on the board. Bev read from the bylaws. Uday will approach NAMI CA to see why our new bylaws have not yet been approved. In our current bylaws the process of appointing a member-at-large is not defined. The nominating committee should discuss the process. Bev suggested she and Steve discuss this.

4. **Other Actions**

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

i. Two bills have just been introduced. SB232 more clearly defines the meaning of 'gravely ill.' SB24 is about money for comprehensive services. Karen discussed a recent federal court case in New York regarding legislation similar to the idea of CARE Court. Not much has changed in the county emergency declared last April. Frank is not getting much response on meetings with county, state and federal legislators. Behavioral health funding in the 2023 state budget looks secure. Vic summarized several behavioral health bills that are coming up.

b. **New Business:**

- i. **Moryt:** expressed her frustration regarding the lack of outreach for mental health services in the county. Rovina stated that we don't have the capacity to do outreach on behalf of the county. There was discussion of outreach for the county. It was observed they are not doing outreach themselves and the only thing they have is their website. It is a simple problem they could solve. People just don't know that their programs exist.

5. **Dates to Remember**

- a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 7th Mar 2023 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

Feb 12, 2023