

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 4th April 2023, 5:30 PM, by Videoconference

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

Meeting convened at 5:33 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved.
- b. Mar 7th, 2023 BoD minutes approved.

2. **Reports and Updates**

a. **Treasurer Update—Steve:**

- i. Please refer to the Treasurer's Report. We ended the month with \$1.09M in the bank, \$82k less that we began the year. We have \$72k in accounts receivable to be collected next month. Revenue is \$37k, about 18% over budget. Grants are \$19k over budget and expenses below budget by \$40k because we have only just hired the new staff. Steve tried to contact the Schiro Trust lawyer but did not succeed. We continue to expect receipt of the funds by mid-April. Harold asked whether we budgeted to reduce our operating capital. We typically do budget for expenses to exceed revenue but this has not occurred. We have less than a year's worth of operating expenses in the bank because expenses have increased. A motion to approve the report as presented was passed.

b. **VP Updates:**

- i. **Juan:** We have finalized participants for the new F2F class and have a long waiting list. We have 40 people attending the support group each week. Everything is going well. Karen asked Juan to consider how we might expand our services to the Hispanic community.

c. **President's Update—Uday:**

- i. We did not hear back from NAMI CA on the approval of our bylaws. Rovina believes we will receive a response after their meeting in Jun.
- ii. Uday attended the Community Living Coalition meeting in San Jose. Uday summarized the meeting and made particular mention of a proposal by Richard Loftus on behalf of the Behavioral Health Board. Uday has reviewed the proposal and agrees with it. He will forward it to the board. **Navah:** spoke about the ability of the Behavioral Health Dept. to track supplemental beds. She exhorted us to keep an eye on what they are putting in the budget.
- iii. Uday spoke about 'Bridging the Gap' tackling the co-occurring issues of mental health and intellectual disability. He mentioned a proposal he is working on. **Navah:** advised caution—this is funded differently than mental health. They are trying to redirect a lot of MHSA funds to service a much larger population including substance use. Uday spoke about how to leverage CalAIM and not MHSA.

- 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. We submitted a lot of grant applications this month. NAMI National has announced the MacKenzie Scott Foundation gift. We will apply for a grant for our Community Peer Program. We have some deadlines for grant applications coming up. We are working to find a venue for our NAMIWalk kickoff. Two new members of staff have started.

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

- i. **NAMIWalk:** This is the time to work on sponsorships for the Walk. If anyone has ideas please talk to Harold. We have a new event manager just started. We will start by focusing on sponsorships. We have a work-around for the parking issue. We will also look to a longer term solution. **Frank:** asked about eBay, Amazon and Apple sponsorships. Last year eBay sponsored us for \$5k. **Jillian:** asked how we go about seeking sponsorships. We prefer to use personal contacts; eBay and Cisco were just cold calling. **Navah:** asked about a shuttle solution for parking. Our work-around is about 0.4 miles away. It is a good fallback. There was discussion of Paraag Marathe of the 49ers as the keynote speaker for the Walk. **Uday:** proposed the mayor of San Jose as a possible keynote speaker. **Moryt:** advised that when looking for a keynote speaker keep it as non-partisan as possible. Don't choose a politician.
- ii. **Funding Plans and Grants:** Harold talked about non-profit scoring agencies such as Charity Navigator. One of our concerns is the amount of cash we have in the bank. We should review Charity Navigator and similar agencies. **Navah:** We should have a list of dream projects we want to fund. **Harold:** One of the things with our PR Committee is how to get NAMI National involved in employee assistance programs. Harold has a meeting with NAMI National later this week.
- f. **Consultant Report: FaithNet—Kathy:** Please refer to the FaithNet report. Kathy is busy working behind the scenes. She has been working on the Community Peer Program and she serves on the AOT advisory committee. Lillian Liu is taking over as lead coordinator for FaithNet. We are looking for a faith leader. There was discussion of Hugh Seid-Valencia, a member of our Community Advisory Council, as a possible candidate for faith leader.
- g. **Newsletter—Bev:** Please reach out if you have any ideas for an article. Articles for the May issue should be submitted by mid Apr.
- h. **General Meeting—Bev:** We will hold the election of board officers at next week's meeting. Bev summarized the topic for the meeting and reviewed her plans for speakers in upcoming meetings. We have speakers booked through Sep. The Sep meeting will feature Dr. Ken Duckworth NAMI's Chief Medical Officer.

3. Updates

- a. **Community Advisory Council Luncheon:**
 - i. Everyone gave their feedback on the recent luncheon. There was general agreement that it was a good event, that the venue was good, that attendance was good and that the messages from the speakers were excellent. It offered an excellent opportunity to talk with CAC members. People gave their recollections of the messages from the speakers: Jim Beall talked advocacy, advocacy, advocacy. NAMI has credibility—we need to use our voice more. Michael Fitzgerald's message on reimbursement and parity was discouraging because we have so much further to go on parity. Medicare Advantage is an advantage for healthy people not for those who need services.
 - ii. **Steve:** asked what were the action items. To some extent we were preaching to the choir. He didn't hear any advice that we didn't already have. **Bev:** observed that no one spoke of our expectation of the people in the CAC. **Navah:** suggested we set up an agenda for discussion at the next meeting. **Kathy:** thought perhaps we could do a follow-up letter. **Rovina:** will be scheduling a time to meet with each of the members individually and talk about specific issues and the Walk. **Moryt:** thought we should talk with them about how they can further our mission. Next time we need a structured part not just a lunch. **Karen:** observed it's a two way thing, we can help them too. **Frank:** was not sure of the purpose of the meeting. There needs to be more of a formal agenda. **Steve:** felt that we don't need fundraising we need advice on furthering our mission. **Rovina:** stated that building relationships is a necessary precursor to fundraising. **Vic:** felt that advisory committees are involved with fundraising

and developing relationships with them is important. The next meeting of the Community Advisory Council will be in six months.

4. Other Actions

a. Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates—Frank:

- i. The big issue is the governor's plan for financing mental health with a bond issue. This is not a slam dunk; there is a lot of opposition to it. It is a bond issue for \$3B to \$5B and will include residential psychiatric beds. It has to get through the legislature to get on the ballot in Nov. It will be voted on by the public. It has a long way to go. Part of the opposition is that the administration of the funds will take control away from the counties. **Navah:** It diverts funds from mental health to other things. We really need to talk to NAMI CA first and get them to put something together. They are our lobbying arm. We need an agreement on how we approach it. Navah expressed concern that the proposal is talking about lumping homelessness, and substance abuse together with mental health. **Vic:** suggested we read the proposal and think about our own situation. What will be the impact on NAMI-SCC in terms of MHSA funds? There is a rule of thumb: don't open up legislation you already got passed. Vic is concerned about opening up MHSA.

b. New Business:

- i. **Harold:** brought up the issue of Good Samaritan Hospital's 50 percent expansion of beds in Los Gatos. He would like to know if that includes psychiatric beds. **Moryt:** responded that this is a San Jose hospital not Santa Clara County. They are a private entity so the dynamics are different.
- ii. **Uday:** mentioned the new SCC Office of Disability Affairs. He proposed to invite Mollie McLeod to talk to us at the next board meeting.

5. Dates to Remember

- a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 2nd May 2023 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

Apr 9, 2023