

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 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, Karen Deloumi, Moryt Milo, Barbara Thompson, Peter Newman.

Meeting convened at 5:34 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved with the addition of the legislative update.
- b. Sep 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 BoD minutes approved with a minor correction.

2. **Reports and Updates**

a. **Treasurer Update—Uday:**

- i. Uday indicated that he had communicated with Steve and there is nothing to report; everything is on track. **Vic:** would like to see a summary of the Treasuries and CDs we invested the Schiro Funds in. We will ask Steve to distribute a summary to the board.

b. **VP Updates:**

- i. **Juan:** Please refer to the Spanish Team Report for a summary of current classes, support groups and outreach activities. Juan spoke of his recent experience in the county courts. NAMI's presence in the courts is very welcome. Judges like the job we are doing. Juan spoke briefly of the Hispanic community support for the NAMI Walk. Kathy observed that Juan's team is one of the top teams.
- ii. **Bev:** has received an email from NAMI CA indicating they have approved our revised bylaws. Bev reminded us of the Stanford Mood Disorders Education Day on Oct 14 via Zoom. There is a link for registration in the Newsletter.

c. **President's Update—Uday:**

- i. The Board of Supervisors honored NAMI Santa Clara with a proclamation during National Suicide Prevention Week. Uday gave the invocation at the start of the BoS meeting. It went well. NAMI-SCC is gaining more prominence.
- ii. Uday met with Lorraine Zeller and Cindy Chávez to talk about the Independent Living Empowerment Project. The existing contract will expire soon.

d. **Executive Director Report—Rovina:** Please refer to: the Executive Director's Report, the Community Peer Program Report, the FaithNet Report, the Outreach Activity Report and the list of ongoing classes, support groups and presentations.

- i. Rovina reviewed the grant applications submitted last month and the successful applications that resulted in incoming funds. It is the NAMI Walk on Saturday. Rovina reviewed the Walk arrangements. We have raised \$212k for the NAMI Walk so far, 76 percent of our goal. Rovina feels we are likely to reach our goal. Rovina met with Mary Ann Dewan, the SCC Superintendent of Schools. The meeting went well—very promising for our EtS program. She will support us. **Harold:** complimented Rovina and the staff on the quality of the reports to the board. He is very pleased with the number of EtS presentations we gave last month.

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

- i. We have 77 teams and 633 people registered for the Walk. We were successful in getting access to the county parking lot on Senter Rd. The History Park is getting more organized for these events. They are providing overnight security and are coordinating with the police. Harold discussed the Walk routes and explained the long and short of it. There followed a discussion of volunteers and of vendors scheduled to be in attendance.

f. **Newsletter—Bev:** Articles for the Nov issue should be submitted by mid-Oct.

g. **General Meeting—Bev:** Bev reviewed the speaker for next meeting.

### 3. Other Actions

#### a. Community Merit Award:

- i. **Harold:** spoke in favor of Price Middle School. They have a robust program for mental health and have raised money for us. **Kathy:** added that Stacey Bibo is our primary contact and is the mover and shaker for all of the Price Middle School Walk donations and ETS presentations. She is also one of our FTF teachers and an ETS presenter.
- ii. **Vic:** proposed Mego Lien, Prevention Services Division Manager for SCC Behavioral Health Services. She has done a stellar job as coordinator of the Suicide Prevention Program managing the county substance abuse and suicide prevention programs.
- iii. **Vic:** proposed Supervisor Ellenberg whose actions are too long to list but include having mental health declared a county emergency. Her work in the county has been pivotal at the governmental level.
- iv. **Vic:** proposed Mary Ann Dewan, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools. She was on the list of prospective candidates last year where the minutes record, “She worked with former Senator Jim Beall to get a grant for school mental health.”
- v. The secretary agreed to organize a vote by email to select the winning candidate.

#### b. Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates—Frank:

- i. Karen gave a brief review of ongoing legislation including SB43, which is on the governor's desk, and SB363 on bed tracking.
- ii. Frank has been appointed to the SCC Behavioral Health Board for Joe Simitian's district.
- iii. Frank spoke about the bed closures at Mission Oaks Hospital. He has had a number of conversations with elected representatives about the matter. The licenses and beds could never have been transferred to another operator. Nor could they be transferred to another location. This law needs to be changed. HCA has killed a service because they are losing money. In the end we end up subsidizing HCA. This has prompted several assembly members to put a committee together to consider changes to the law in this area. Frank will serve on that committee in a private capacity. We have an opportunity to provide direct input for legislation. Kathy warned that we should take care not to contradict NAMI CA. We are required to follow their lead in matters of policy.
- iv. Frank has been invited to speak at a get-together for Gail Pellerin's legislative staff. He will speak about how legislative staff should interface with a group like NAMI. Frank spoke about input to legislation at the state level. Uday spoke about discussions at the NAMI President's Council regarding hospital closures.
- v. Frank is in touch with Dr Duckworth, NAMI's Chief Medical Officer. Frank asked what is the difference between a state that ranks highly in terms of behavioral healthcare such as Massachusetts and a low ranking state like California. Dr Duckworth feels it is a fundamental flaw to allow counties to opt out. There is no option to opt out in Massachusetts. This needs to be changed in California.
- vi. At this point the legislative update turned into a general discussion of pressing issues. Among the issues discussed were the proposed carve-out of MHSA funds, the proposed bond to fund mental health, funding for housing, CalAIM and further discussion of bed closures at Mission Oaks Hospital. For further detail please consult Moryt's excellent article in the current newsletter: “Is the Governor’s Plan to Amend MHSA the Right Move?”
- vii. Frank brought the discussion back to the legislative update with the observation that we have two new pipelines to our elected representatives, the Board of Supervisors and our legislators. Let's use them.

#### c. New Business:

- i. Kathy encouraged the board to take a look at the presentation she gave at the recent NAMI CA affiliate call, “NPO Board and Executive Director Evolution.” We should update our board documents in the coming year. We can take a look at what NAMI CA has and see what fits our purpose.

**4. Dates to Remember**

- a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

*Oct 8, 2023*