

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 7th November 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, Peter Newman.

Meeting convened at 5:33 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved with the addition of a discussion of California Proposition 1.
- b. Oct 3rd, 2023 BoD minutes approved.

2. **Reports and Updates**

a. **Treasurer Update—Steve:**

- i. Please refer to the Treasurer's Report. We have over \$3M in cash and investments. Expenses are \$150k below budget due to hiring people later than called for in the budget. We are now catching up to budget. Interest income is below budget because the money from the Schiro Trust arrived later than expected. We are looking into the \$500k still to come. Vic and Steve discussed brokered CDs and treasury investments. Steve suggested we may go further out in maturity when we roll over the treasury bills. Rovina and Kathy began a real estate tour looking for a new office building but didn't like any of those they saw. They will continue looking; we are not in a rush. Bev asked about the \$50k grant from NAMI National. Rovina responded that last year NAMI National received a large donation from MacKenzie Scott. We have applied for and been granted \$100k from it for our Community Peer Program. The \$50k was the first installment. A motion to approve the report as presented was passed.

b. **VP Updates:**

- i. **Juan:** Please refer to the Spanish Team Report for a summary of current classes, support groups and outreach activities. The FaF class ended with 15 graduates. The PaP class is in progress with 8 participants. We have around 25 participants regularly attending the support group. Juan reported that the Spanish section of NAMI-SCC is going through some changes. Juan is working together with Rovina.
- ii. **Bev:** nothing to report.

c. **President's Update—Uday:**

- i. Frank organized a meeting with Dave Cortese regarding parity. Jim Beall attended and Dave asked his staff to take action on some items discussed. Uday also brought up the subject of parity in the NAMI Council of Affiliate Presidents. This is an issue in many states. Navah asked about the scope of parity we are discussing and whether we include hospitals.
- ii. Vic and Uday attended a meeting of the Cities Association of Santa Clara County. They gave a talk about NAMI and what we do. The audience was mayors and city council members. Steve Preminger, Director of the Office of Strategic and Intergovernmental Affairs for SCC, was present and he took Vic and Uday aside after the meeting for discussion.
- iii. Uday attended an Independent Living Association meeting organized by Lorraine Zeller. **Kathy:** The MHSA Independent Living Empowerment Project will sunset in March. They are setting up more of a housing department. Kathy expressed her concern about this. Lorraine is trying to reestablish the Community Living Coalition. Uday summarized the meeting and what was discussed.

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

- i. Rovina reviewed the grant applications submitted last month and those due in the coming month. NAMI Walk Silicon Valley has raised \$270k so far. We have one more month before fundraising ends. There were 861 people registered for the walk and we had 78 teams. The venue worked well. We are working on the year-end letter. It will be distributed to 3,500 people via US mail and also via Constant Contact email. We are working on the Holiday Drive. We will spread the gift distribution through Jan and organize an associated IOOV presentation. We are beginning to work on the budget for 2024, a Holiday Party for staff members and a volunteer appreciation event.
- ii. **Vic:** spoke about our Charity Navigator 3-star rating. **Harold:** investigated this about six months ago. It is because we haven't done an audit. They require an audit for organizations that exceed a revenue of \$1M. **Steve:** informed us that we now need an audit for 2023 because our revenue is so high. Charity Navigator is at least two years behind. We will get derated because we have too much cash compared to expenses. **Navah:** asked Rovina to update the NAMI-SCC factsheet on the website.

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

- i. Harold asked for feedback from the Walk. Discussion of the Walk followed. There were many positive responses from people. The booth arrangement was better than the previous year. Many people had difficulty finding the finish line. Perhaps we could make it more obvious. The heat made many things difficult. The route was confusing with not enough signage. About 550 people showed up for the Walk.
- ii. The Fundraising Committee has not had enough attendance recently. We are working to engage the Community Advisory Council members. The keynote speaker at the Walk, Paraag Marathe, was very good. He might make a good person to add to our Community Advisory Council.

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

- g. **General Meeting—Bev:** Bev reviewed the speaker for the next meeting. We are looking for ideas for speakers for future meetings. There was discussion of the speaker at the previous meeting on nutrition and mental health. A wide range of differing opinions were expressed.

3. **Other Actions**

a. **Community Merit Award:**

- i. The secretary announced the result of the vote by email for the recipient of our Community Merit Award 2024. Stacey Bibo and Price Middle School was selected. We will contact Stacey and her school principal, create a plaque for them and invite them to select either the Jan or Feb General Meeting for the presentation.

b. **Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates:**

- i. No legislative report as both Frank and Karen were traveling.

c. **Discussion of California Proposition 1—Vic:**

- i. **Vic:** opened the discussion by summarizing his opposition to Proposition 1. It is governor Newsom's initiative with the inclusion of two bills. It was rushed through the legislature with many last-minute changes made with little consideration. It is a housing bill in reality. Governor Newsom has spent a large amount of money on housing already and is looking for other sources of money. It is a \$7B bond issue to be paid back with MHSA funds.
- ii. MHSA funds are being diverted to housing. Vic summarized the effect on the programs in MHSA. There is a lack of clarity on how much must be spent on substance abuse. According to Jim Beall this is the third time they have tried to take MHSA money. It is not going to stop. It is an existential threat to these funds.

- iii. **Uday:** observed that NAMI CA supports Proposition 1 and asked what we can do as an affiliate. We can send a letter to NAMI CA if we disagree. Board members can oppose it on their own.
- iv. **Moryt:** discussed changes to the MHSA Innovation Fund.
 - v. **Vic:** summarized the programs within the MHSA. The county expects they will receive \$9M less. But they also have to pay \$22M more for housing projects and they have to make cuts to other programs.
 - vi. MHSA currently supports co-occurring substance abuse but not substance abuse alone. Proposition 1 will extend to covering substance abuse alone.
 - vii. **Uday:** spoke about CalAIM changing how reimbursements are made. Many expenses are no longer taken into account. This is affecting Dave Mineta at Momentum.
 - viii. **Vic:** feels they have commingled separate ideas that will resonate with the public to get the proposition passed.
 - ix. We can ask for a meeting with Jessica Cruz, Executive Director of NAMI California. Uday suggested we contact Stephanie Welch, Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health for CalHHS, instead. She will give answers to our questions. Uday and Rovina will meet to discuss options.
- d. **New Business:**
 - i. No new business.

4. **Dates to Remember**

- a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 2nd Jan 2024 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

Nov 12, 2023