

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 2nd January 2024, 5:30 PM, by Videoconference

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

Guests: Lorraine Zeller and James Campbell from the Community Living Coalition; Dolly Sandoval, a prospective board member; Xochilt Borja, a policy aide in Supervisor Arenas' office.

Meeting convened at 5:32 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved.
- b. Nov 7th, 2023 BoD minutes approved.
- c. The guests and the board introduced themselves.

2. **State Registry for Independent Living—Lorraine Zeller:**

- a. Lorraine gave an overview of a document that mandates a state registry listing all independent living housing for people with disabilities. Lorraine gave the motivation for the registry and outlined how it could be used. Lorraine also proposed a community task force to review current standards for housing behavioral health clients in unlicensed independent livings and to make recommendations. Lorraine would like the board to consider endorsing this proposal.
- b. Discussion followed. Moryt asked whether there is a way to incentivize more independent living operators. Navah observed there is going to be pressure on all these resources again and asked whether we had talked to the public guardian's office. Karen spoke about undoing Proposition 19.

3. **Reports and Updates**

a. **Treasurer Update—Steve:**

- i. Please refer to the Treasurer's Illustrated Annual Report. We ended the year with \$4M in cash. We have collected almost all of the Schiro Trust bequest. We raised \$1.3M this year, a little above budget. Expenses for each of the last 13 years have been under budget, always in payroll, because we are always late in hiring the staff positions we budget for. We ended the year with a loss of \$92k. Expenses go up every year. Revenue has not gone up; it has fallen slightly for the last three years. We are budgeting for a small loss this year. We expect to receive \$135k in interest this year. Harold requested that we discuss the budget at the next board meeting. We have programs that could use additional investment. Steve agreed. A motion to approve the illustrated end-of-year report as presented was passed.

b. **VP Updates:**

- i. **Juan:** We now have a waiting list of 15 people for our FaF and PaP classes. The Family Support Group in coordination with the Office of Family Affairs is going well. We gave two presentations about NAMI-SCC in Dec.
- ii. **Bev:** nothing to report.

c. **President's Update—Uday:**

- i. The MHSA Independent Living Empowerment Project will close in March. We need to bridge the housing incentives for providers. Uday has received mixed signals as to whether we can do that. One view is that the funding is approved. Another is that it will be used for family members not providers.
- ii. Uday spoke about the legislation for a state registry listing independent living housing that Lorraine is working on.
- iii. Frank will be inducted into the SCC Behavioral Health Board.

- iv. Uday mentioned the upcoming meeting with Jessica Cruz, Executive Director of NAMI CA. He also spoke about meeting the CEO of San Jose Behavioral Health. We want to speak to him as he reached out to us.
 - 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. Jan to Apr is the peak time for grant submissions. She also spoke about the grant reports submitted last month and four more due in Jan.
 - ii. We raised a total of \$273k for the Walk, close to our goal of \$280k. 861 people registered for the Walk and we had 78 teams. This year's Walk will be held on Oct 5.
 - iii. The Holiday Gift Program went well. We were able to combine an IOOV presentation with the gift donations in a few places.
 - e. **Fundraising Committee Update—Harold:**
 - i. We need to focus on corporate sponsors from the 'tech' sector for the NAMI Walk. Harold reviewed some of the NAMI National Walk team winners. Harold will retire from the board in Apr but will continue to work on the Walk. The agenda for the Fundraising Committee will include a review of the Advisory Council, to consider new members and prune non participants, and a discussion about the leadership of fundraising.
 - f. **Newsletter—Bev:** Articles for the Feb issue should be submitted by mid-Jan.
 - g. **General Meeting—Bev:** Bev reviewed the speaker for the next meeting and requested suggestions for future speakers.
4. **Other Actions**
- a. **Community Merit Award:**
 - i. Rovina has sent a letter to the principal of Price Middle School who will receive our Community Merit Award 2024. They will attend the Feb General Meeting. There followed discussion of possible press coverage.
 - b. **Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates—Frank:**
 - i. Frank will be sworn in as The District 5 representative on the Behavioral Health Board on Jan 8. Everyone has encouraged Frank to talk about the role of family in recovery.
 - ii. It is almost two years since the county declared a state of emergency in behavioral health. Frank asked what has changed?
 - iii. **Navah:** observed there are a lot of new rules coming down this year. We will need to be strategic about what we want to push for.
 - iv. Frank mentioned good conversations with Jim Beall and Vic regarding this.
 - v. Frank attended a meeting on parity at the library in Los Gatos. Senator Cortese and Assemblymember Pellerin were there. There were 15-20 speakers, among them psychiatrists and consumers. Psychiatrists are experiencing a difficult time getting reimbursed for their services. After the meeting Frank spent some time with Cortese and Pellerin. They are working on legislation that will require a longer lead time for a for-profit hospital to cancel critical services. They also want to make licenses more easily transferable and are considering a requirement to compensate the county who must pick up the tab. This is a result of our advocating on the issue.
 - vi. Frank spoke about the shortfall of \$68B in this year's California budget. We had better be ready to fight for mental health. Proposition 1 is part of the problem. It creates the ability for a money grab. Mental health is always a target.
 - vii. There is not much current activity on legislation.

viii. We have a good opportunity with the BoS and at the state level. We have access. Frank requested we talk to him if we have concerns. We need to help set the direction to sail in. Our representatives also need us. They want to hear from us.

c. New Business:

- i. There followed a discussion of real estate conversion for mental health use. An office building in Japantown was recently converted into a mental health clinic. San Jose has a 30 percent vacancy in office space. More buildings could be coming up for conversion. We want to encourage new psychiatric facilities but these are still hospital-lite. While we lost the battle with Good Samaritan Hospital we have not lost the war. Real estate could be procured but staffing remains a problem. This is not merely a local issue, it is a national issue.
- ii. Moryt spoke about CARE Court and SB43. SB43 will not be fully in effect until 2026. CARE Court will be in effect by the end of this year. It is capacity driven.
- iii. Navah encouraged us to focus on what we are looking to achieve in the coming year. She suggested we add an agenda item for the next meeting. We should select four or five areas we want to focus on. There was discussion of a board retreat to be held in the office.
- iv. The nominating committee lasts for one year. For this year the nominating committee will be Navah, Bev and Steve. The nominating committee considers all board positions including members at large.

5. Dates to Remember

- a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 6th Feb 2024 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

Jan 07, 2024