

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 6th February 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, Jillian Yang, Dolly Sandoval, Peter Newman.

Visitors: Lorraine Zeller, James Campbell, Ammi Rostin

Meeting convened at 5:34 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved with the addition of Harold's request for the discussion of a board retreat.
- b. Jan 2nd, 2024 BoD minutes approved.

2. **Reports and Updates**

a. **Treasurer Update—Steve:**

- i. **Rovina:** gave a review of the budget as Steve was suffering a power outage at home and joined the meeting later by phone. Please refer to the Annual Budget. Revenue is budgeted to be close to \$1.5m. Expenses are expected to be similar to last year. Rovina worked through the budget discussing several items. We are budgeting for a loss of about \$150k in 2024.
- ii. **Navah:** expressed the desire for increased outreach to the Vietnamese community. **Harold:** suggested we hold a board retreat to discuss priorities for the coming year. He observed that we are only delivering EtS to a small fraction of the student population of the county. We have room to expand and we need to talk about how to grow our services.
- iii. **Steve:** Revenue is slightly higher than last year and so are expenses. There is no hiring in the budget this year. **Harold:** brought up a discussion about the audit. One of the reasons we don't have a top rating in Charity Navigator is the lack of an annual audit. **Steve:** an audit costs at least \$30k. State regulations require an audit if our revenue exceeds \$2m. We want to get this requirement waived because we only exceeded \$2m due to a one-time windfall. Discussion about the audit firm followed. A good rating in Charity Navigator is unlikely to be worth \$30k to us. **Rovina:** It does not impede us in raising grants. A lot of nonprofits have endowments. A motion to approve the preliminary budget was passed.

b. **VP Updates:**

- i. **Juan:** Please refer to the Spanish Program Report. Our FaF and PaP classes are full. The warmline is working well. Juan spoke about a WRAP class in the county where everyone is a NAMI member attending one of our classes. We have a strong team working with Adela. All classes are now in person but the support group is still via Zoom because we have attendees from a wide area.
- ii. **Bev:** nothing to report.

c. **President's Update—Uday:**

- i. **Uday:** was invited to attend the State of the County meeting by Supervisor Ellenberg.
- ii. **Uday:** has been attending the Community Living Coalition meetings.
- iii. **Lorraine:** summarized her proposal for a task force and an independent living registry to be facilitated by a neutral party. She is gathering folks to make public comments and looking for a letter of endorsement from NAMI-SCC.

- iv. **Uday:** spoke about the Community Advisory Council luncheon. James Williams, the County Executive, will give the keynote. Uday would like to see a roundtable discussion led by a moderator to follow the keynote.
- 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. She also spoke about the grant reports due soon. Rovina has met with some of the grantees of grant applications that didn't succeed last year.
 - ii. NAMI Walk Silicon Valley will be held on Oct 5th this year. The Events Manager has resigned. We are looking to hire a replacement. We are also looking for new Walk committee members. Stacey Bibo of Price Middle School has agreed to join the committee. Our Walk is one of NAMI National's top ten. **Bev:** felt it exciting that we are one of the top ten Walks. We should make a big deal of it.
 - iii. NAMI National has launched NAMI Do-It-Your-Way which makes the donor drive available for fundraising outside of the Walk. This does not replace Facebook fundraising; you can use both. We didn't qualify for the pilot as we don't have enough online fundraising. **Harold:** is not looking for additional fundraising opportunities beyond the Walk.
- e. **Fundraising Committee Update—Harold:**
 - i. Our fundraising committee met. We did a thorough debrief of the Walk and came up with some ideas for improvement. The heat on the day of the Walk didn't go well. We'll try Oct again this year but if the heat is bad again we may switch to May in future years. We are looking for new Walk Committee members. There is so much more potential for corporate sponsorship for our Walk.
 - ii. We reviewed the Community Advisory Council membership. We came up with proposals for dropping some inactive members and inviting new members. We feel the Community Advisory Council has been successful. The Community Advisory Council luncheon is scheduled for Sun Apr 7th.
- f. **Newsletter—Bev:** is really pleased that people have gotten in touch with us through things they read in the newsletter. Frank reported the chair of the BHB read one of the articles. Articles for the Mar issue should be submitted by Feb 16.
- g. **General Meeting—Bev:** reviewed the speaker for the next meeting and for upcoming meetings. Moryt spoke about speakers for the Mar and May meetings, and in particular, TRUST (Trusted Response Urgent Support Team) and the Mobile Crisis Units. TRUST was founded by the families of people killed by police officers.

3. Other Actions

- a. **Community Merit Award—Rovina:**
 - i. The principal of Price Middle School will receive our Community Merit Award 2024 at the Feb General Meeting. Everything is set up.
- b. **Slate of Board Members—Bev:**
 - i. We have a complete slate of board members for the upcoming election. Bev reviewed the list.
- c. **Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates—Frank:**
 - i. Frank announced that the San Jose City Council failed to endorse CA Proposition 1 in a vote earlier today. Matt Mahan was absent because he was sick and the councilmember from District 10 was also absent.
 - ii. Frank reported a conversation with Dave Cortese's staff on legislation they are working on as a result of the bed closures at Mission Oaks. The hospital lobby in CA is very powerful.

The legislation proposes a requirement for extended notice when a hospital discontinues a service. It is not possible to require that licenses be more easily transferable. The legislation will not be as tough as we would like.

- iii. Uday and Frank initiated a discussion about parity.
 - iv. **Navah:** suggested that one of our priorities for this year should be the expansion of the number of beds in Santa Clara. CARE Court may increase the requirement for beds. The re-purposing of vacant buildings was discussed. It's not a simple fight. We are up against some significant forces. A wide-ranging discussion followed.
 - v. The ACLU announced they are bringing a suit against SB43. They lost a case in New York fighting similar legislation. **Navah:** spoke about SB43. She suggested we send a NAMI-SCC letter expressing our view.
 - vi. There is not much current activity on legislation.
 - vii. **Karen:** spoke about her feelings on CA Proposition 1. Vic's response was discussed. Frank privately sent a letter to the Mayor of San Jose urging a no vote.
 - viii. **Harold:** asked if NAMI CA has a legislative committee where input from individuals can be received. **Navah:** recalled that a long time ago they had a mixed legislative committee but decisions are now made through the board.
- d. **New Business:**
- i. There was no discussion of a board retreat as we were out of time and still needed a brief closed session.

4. **Closed Session**

- a. A closed session of the board was held to discuss our response to Lorraine's request for a letter of endorsement from the board for her proposal. We agreed that Uday will craft a letter and we will vote on it via email.

5. **Dates to Remember**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

Feb 11, 2024