

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2024, 5:30 PM, by Videoconference

**Attendance:** Uday Kapoor, Rovina Nimbalkar, Bev Lozoff, Juan Perez, Frank Alioto, Moryt Milo, Steve Wade, Karen Deloumi, Jillian Yang, Dolly Sandoval, Peter Newman.

Meeting convened at 5:35 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved.
- b. Sep 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 BoD minutes approved.

2. **Community Merit Award Nominations—Uday:**

- a. **Uday:** read the list of proposed candidates that were not selected in the previous few years including Supervisor Ellenberg. **Dolly:** proposed Supervisor Joe Simitian. He has been instrumental in getting a community health clinic built on De Anza's campus. However, he is terming out this year. **Uday:** confirmed he has worked with us on many items though he has not been as prolific as Supervisor Ellenberg.
- b. **Bev:** proposed Dave Cortese. He has been such a supporter of mental health issues. Most recently he made SB1300 happen which has just been signed by the governor. **Moryt:** felt that it seems long overdue to her. **Frank:** observed that we have a pipeline to Senator Cortese. He is very devoted to mental health.
- c. **Uday:** summarized our proposed candidates: Cortese, Ellenberg, Simitian. We will vote at the Nov board meeting.

3. **Reports and Updates**

a. **Treasurer Update—Steve:**

- i. Please refer to the Treasurer's Report. The treasurer asked whether we had all read his report and accepted the affirmative response without a pop quiz.
- ii. **Bev:** initiated a discussion about why we are losing so many staff. **Rovina:** It is becoming frustrating. Every year I train a new person for the NAMI Walk. We might have to take into consideration a recent salary survey for nonprofits at the next budget. Except for the Events Coordinator, we have filled all the other open positions. **Steve:** observed we can pay more for people. **Rovina:** The three that left recently were full time. \$25-\$27 per hour is typical. However, they also get benefits if they move on to the county. NAMI is a good brand to have in your resume. **Dolly:** asked if our salaries are competitive. **Rovina:** They are on the lower side. **Moryt:** stated that an income of \$54 per hour is required to get by in Santa Clara County. We can try and be as competitive as possible. **Frank:** felt we should hire the best quality staff and pay them well so that we keep them. **Rovina:** agreed that the quality of our service depends on our employees.
- iii. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was passed.

b. **VP Updates:**

- i. **Juan:** Please refer to the Spanish Team Report. We have an FaF class starting with 18 persons and a PaP class with 8 students. We have two support groups each with about 20–25 participants. We are getting ready for the NAMI Walk and are close to accomplishing our goal. We are participating in a series of weekly radio interviews talking about our experience and the impact of NAMI in the community.
- ii. **Moryt:** attended the Momentum annual fundraiser event. **Prop 36:** Prop 36 will pass. It is criminalizing mental illness. It combines drug problems and mental health issues. Nowhere is this discussed in Prop 36. We should send something to our community to educate them

on this issue. There is fear that it will draw money away from mental health in the state budget. Why connect a drug crime to forcing someone into mental health treatment? **Frank:** has spoken to a lobbyist for NAMI CA. He doesn't think they will put out a statement though they disagree with the proposition. **Moryt:** read from the text of the proposition. What does mental illness have to do with drug crime? **Moryt:** will write something up on behalf of the board to publish to our Constant Contact list. **Rovina:** will check with Kathy regarding any constraints from NAMI CA. **Frank:** felt we should not be afraid to put out what we want. There will not be a problem if it is just educational.

iii. **Bev:** nothing to report.

c. **President's Update—Uday:**

- i. Uday is attending the meetings of the Independent Living Association with Kathy. Work is ongoing particularly in the habitability working group.
- ii. Uday will be representing us with an information table at a meeting of Indians for Collective Action.

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

- i. It was a good month for grants.
- ii. Fundraising for the NAMI Walk is at \$207k; 69 percent of our goal of \$300k. The keynote speaker is Dr Mary Ann Dewan and the honorary chair is Dr Anna Lembke. Rovina was interviewed by NBC Bay Area regarding the Walk. We have decided to retain the media company/PR agency PRX for rest of the year. It will be hot for the Walk. We will just do the short route. We will recognize Cindy Chavez at the Walk. We have 700 people registered.
- iii. We have begun writing the end-of-year letter. The PR agency will help. We will recognize Price Middle School and ETS in the letter.
- iv. The PR agency is introducing Rovina to a lot of people.

e. **Newsletter—Bev:** We just sent out the newsletter yesterday. Articles for the Nov issue should be submitted by Oct 18.

f. **General Meeting—Bev:**

- i. The next General Meeting will be in Nov.

#### 4. **Other Actions**

a. **Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates—Frank:**

- i. The governor has signed SB1300. This is our bill. It is a very small step. It increases the amount of time a hospital has to give notice to the state before it shuts down a health service. We are now known. We should be very proud of that.
- ii. We have a pipeline to David Cortese and his staff.
- iii. Frank is interested in limiting for-profit hospitals. Hospital Corporation of America has margins of 40 percent. Nonprofit or county hospitals are more like 3 to 5 percent because they reinvest in the hospital.
- iv. Frank is trying to get appointments with politicians but not having success, likely because of the upcoming election.
- v. Frank has been a member of the Behavioral Health Board for seven months. It does not have any power. It is mostly a listening post.
- vi. Frank is trying for an appointment with Supervisor Sylvia Arenas. Moryt suggested he wait until Jan when the new supervisors are in place.
- vii. Uday asked about AB2154 on involuntary hold. It has been signed by the governor.

**b. New Business:**

- i. Moryt spoke about CARE Court. There was a discussion of capacity, funding and care available. Uday suggested Ky Le could give us an update. Everyone agreed.

**5. Dates to Remember**

- a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

*Oct 6, 2024*