

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 2nd Sep 2025, 5:30 PM, by Videoconference

Attendance: Uday Kapoor, Rovina Nimbalkar, Kathy Forward, Bev Lozoff, Juan Perez, Frank Alioto, Scott Whelton, Karen Deloumi, Jillian Yang, Dr Hogan Shy, Peter Newman.

Guests: Dr Gayatri Shah, Brandon Sanchez, Sruti Ramnath

Meeting convened at 5:33 PM.

1. Welcome

- a. Agenda approved.
- b. Aug 5th, 2025 BoD minutes approved.

2. Meet Brandon Sanchez and Sruti Ramnath

- a. Rovina introduced Brandon to the board. He is currently Deputy Chief at the San Jose Police Department. Brandon spoke about his interest in joining the NAMI-SCC board. He feels this will be a good opportunity to better understand mental health and how we can deal with mental health issues in the community. We are always seeking ways we can improve.
- b. The board introduced themselves to Brandon.
- c. Sruti is Executive Director for Rcoz, an organization that seeks to raise awareness and build acceptance of mental health issues among South Asians. Sruti introduced their programs and spoke about their events. She mentioned how they seek to break myths and help normalize conversation around mental illness.

3. Reports and Updates

a. Treasurer Update—Scott:

- i. Please refer to the Treasurer's Report. Things are consistent and on track though there are ups and downs due to timing. Personal contributions are above budget. We plan to hold a meeting of the Investment Committee later this month. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was passed.

b. VP Updates:

- i. **Bev:** reminded each of us to complete the Conflict of Interest Form, sign it and send it to Stacy in the office. It is not too late to contribute to board sponsorship of the Walk though we now have enough to secure a sponsorship on behalf of the board.
- ii. **Juan:** Please refer to the Spanish Team Report. Juan spoke about how they are proceeding with the support groups and classes now that the Office of Family Affairs has been closed. He spoke about the need for psychoeducation. Uday asked about Juan meeting with the Mexican Consul. Juan replied that he will talk to Rovina first.

c. President's Update—Uday:

- i. Uday was invited to attend the meet and greet for Michael Scates, the new President and CEO of Momentum for Health.
- ii. Rovina, representing NAMI-SCC, was invited by Assemblymember Gail Pellerin to attend the State Assembly for her presentation of ACR 70, which proclaims September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. We received a lot of recognition at the Assembly floor.
- iii. The secretary announced that we will begin consideration of candidates for next year's Community Merit Award at the Oct board meeting. We plan to select a candidate at the Nov board meeting.

- iv. Uday attended the NAMI Council of Affiliate Presidents. He reported on a presentation given by the web services company that NAMI uses. They gave an update on their services.
- v. There was discussion of a date for an in-person meeting for the board. Rovina will send a follow up email proposing Dec 9th.
- 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 Education Report.
 - i. Rovina summarized recent and upcoming grant applications and paid particular attention to the Korean American Community Foundation.
 - ii. Rovina spoke about our two county contracts, one for the Helpline and the other for our education programs. We had to reapply for the education programs contract which created a lot of paperwork.
 - iii. Our NAMI Walk occurs in one month. Sponsorships are lower than for previous years. We are in the lower \$100k range. We have 240 participants signed up.
 - iv. We have started work on the end-of-year letter.
 - v. Rovina spoke about the closing down of the Office of Family Affairs at Susan Ellenberg's Kitchen Cabinet.
- e. **Newsletter—Bev:** Articles for the Oct issue should be submitted by Sep 19.
- f. **General Meeting—Bev:**
 - i. The speaker for the General Meeting next week will be our own Dr Hogan Shy. He will speak on the role of the primary care physician in mental health treatment. We are still looking for a speaker for the Nov meeting.

4. Other Actions

- a. **Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates—Frank:**
 - i. **Frank and Karen:** met with Margaret Abe-Koga today, Supervisor for District 5. She is very much an advocate for MH. It was a very good meeting. They talked about assisting with outreach within District 5 and she was very amenable to that.
 - ii. **Frank:** is on the Finance Committee at the Behavioral Health Board. The finance situation needs work in Santa Clara County. They have no contingency plans in case funds get cut.
 - iii. **Frank:** mentioned SB363, a bill requiring much more documentation when a mental health insurance claim is denied. It seems to have a good chance of passing.
 - iv. **Frank:** spoke about the national situation regarding mental health funding. The Trump administration has cut a lot of benefits. They are proposing that we move from our community care model back to the asylum system to save money.
 - v. **Uday:** asked about the removal of LGBTQ support from the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. It has been removed at the federal level. It may be reinstated in some states. The Canadians are offering their crisis number for Americans to use.
 - vi. **Kathy:** spoke about the Behavioral Health Services Act Stakeholder Advisory Committee. It appears that they are limiting membership of that committee. It looks like they don't want as much input any more.
 - vii. **Karen:** initiated a discussion of what we might bring before Susan Ellenberg's Kitchen Cabinet Meetings. This is not an advocacy meeting; it is her personal meeting. She gets opinions from us. Occasionally we can bring something up. It is very complementary to our advocacy work.
- b. **New Business:**
 - i. Please come to the NAMI Walk.

5. Dates to Remember

- a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 7th Oct 2025 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

Sep 07, 2025