

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 5th May 2026, 5:30 PM, by Videoconference

Attendance: Uday Kapoor, Rovina Nimbalkar, Kathy Forward, Bev Lozoff, Juan Perez, Moryt Milo, Scott Whelton, Dolly Sandoval, Dr Hogan Shy, Gayatri Shah, Brandon Sanchez, Peter Newman.

Guest: Ky Le

Meeting convened at 5:32 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved.
- b. Apr 7th, 2026 BoD minutes approved subject to a minor correction.

2. **Guest Speaker: Ky Le—Deputy County Executive**

- a. The county executive has submitted the 2026-2027 recommended county budget to the board of supervisors. Ky showed us where we could download a copy and described its structure. He directed us to the sections we will likely most care about. He summarized many of the proposed changes and led us through many of the funding details. He described how the county is working with the state legislature to support public hospitals. He emphasized how they are trying hard not to lay off staff but seeking to find alternative positions for the 650 positions due to be eliminated.
- b. The members of the board asked Ky a good number of questions. Subjects covered: service impact due to staff reductions; staffing reductions in behavioral health clinics; behavioral health services in the new Valley Health Center building; allocation of Measure A funds; closure of the suicide prevention clinic; details of how staff will be relocated.
- c. Dolly asked how best we could make our opinion known. Ky suggested a letter from the board.

3. **Reports and Updates**

a. **Treasurer Update—Scott:**

- i. Please refer to the Treasurer's Report. Scott had nothing to add in addition to his report. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was passed.

b. **VP Updates:**

- i. **Moryt:** Bev and Moryt have been talking about gathering local news items, particularly stories from San Jose Spotlight, on the county mental health budget, immigration, and other healthcare related articles. We can highlight them in the newsletter and link to them from our website. We want to figure out ways to keep our community updated.
- ii. Moryt spoke briefly about gathering questions as the moderator of the panel discussion after the movie screening fundraiser.
- iii. **Juan:** Please refer to the Spanish Team Report. Things are going well; the support groups are well attended. Juan initiated a discussion of some of the issues Ky Le spoke about. It is not clear how folks will access services given the closure of so many services.
- iv. **Moryt:** agreed, the fear factor out there is great. It is a real problem on the Latino side.
- v. **Kathy:** it is going to affect the helpline because we have been referring people to services that will now close down. We will need verification or a plan of those services that will close and where to redirect people.
- vi. **Uday:** asked how we can reflect this in a letter from the board. We will probably need to wait until mid-Jun for things to be clarified. We need to update our resources.
- vii. **Rovina:** suggested we get someone to speak at our helpline meeting. Uday suggested Rovina write a letter to Sherri Terao, Director SCC Behavioral Health Services.

- viii. **Dolly:** felt it would be best not to wait. Perhaps we could make our letter a response to the county budget document.
- ix. **Bev:** Brandon Sanchez has been appointed to our board as a member at large. The NAMI National Conference is at end of month. Sarah Prabhu is going. We will ask if she can contribute an article for newsletter. We now have a NAMI Walks sponsorship committee that is looking for volunteers. Please contact Rovina or Jennifer Larson if you would like to join.

c. **President's Update—Uday:**

- i. Dolly and Uday met with Sean Kali-Rai, publicist and liaison for Patrick Rohan, CEO of Good Samaritan Hospital, San Jose. They talked about next steps for a meeting with Patrick with the goal of reinstating the psychiatric beds that were eliminated. Sean suggested some kind of presentation emphasizing a return on investment from reinstating the beds. Rovina will organize a get-together for discussion.
- ii. Moryt introduced a discussion that included Brandon's difficulty getting Good Samaritan Hospital to join a community meeting to bring everyone together to de-conflict. Brandon discussed the policies regarding where the police take someone experiencing mental health difficulties.
- iii. Uday mentioned the proposal from HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to curb psychiatric over-prescribing of SSRIs.

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 and Outreach Report.

- i. We have submitted a lot of grant applications this month.
- ii. Our May is Mental Health Awareness Month event is coming up next Tues. It is an online screening of the movie Anxiety Nation followed by a panel discussion. It is a small fundraiser for EtS with 56 tickets sold so far.
- iii. We are working on sponsorships and looking for a keynote speaker and chairperson for the NAMI Walk.

e. **Newsletter—Bev:**

- i. The May issue went out on Fri. Articles for the Jun issue should be submitted by mid-May. We would like to link to articles on the budget crisis from a page in newsletter. We want to focus in on the local angle.

f. **General Meeting—Bev:**

- i. The speaker for the Jun meeting will be the Proxy Parent Foundation. It is a special needs trust and personal support services organization.

4. **Other Actions**

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

- i. Dolly is continuing weekly email discussions with Frank and Karen. She mentioned legislation regarding housing for those in CARE Court. Nothing is really happening yet.

b. **Board Training Update—Kathy:**

- i. We had a meeting with our consultant. We plan to hold the first one hour session at the board meeting in Aug, and the second in Sep.

c. **New Business:**

- i. No new business.

5. **Dates to Remember**

- a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 2nd Jun 2026 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Newman
May 10, 2026