NAMI NYS Board Meeting Minutes Approved 6 Dec 19
Saturday, September 14, 2019   9am

NAMI NYS provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives NAMI NYS envisions a world where all people affected by mental illness live healthy fulfilling lives supported by a community that cares.

Present:

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<th>Excused</th>
<th>Stamatia Pappas</th>
<th>phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ann Canastra</td>
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<td>Ariel Coffman</td>
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<td>Lynda Regan</td>
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<td>Sue Gagne</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Rina Riba</td>
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<td>Ceceile Green</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Ellen Ritz</td>
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<td>Colleen Johnson</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Dhanu Sannesy</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Rob Laitman</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Irene Turski</td>
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<td>Jayette Lansbury</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Evelyne Tropper</td>
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<td>MaryJo Muscolino</td>
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<td>Judy Watt</td>
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Other: Wendy Burch, Executive Director, NAMI NYS.

Called to Order by Ariel at 9:03 AM

Committee Reports:

Criminal Justice Report:
Jayette presented and reviewed the CJ Report
- The committee is focused on CIT, HALT Solitary, and better communication in jails, prisons, forensic facilities, and detention facilities.
- Jayette attended several meetings and provided presentations.
- Looking for better care for inmates both mentally and physically.

Programs:
Ellen presented the program committee report.
- Draft of the Mission: Through education and support, NAMI programs will help change stigma and misconceptions which will result in people getting treatment and help sooner. Programs offer resources and connections which will help support families and peers.
- The plan is to bring more programs, classes, and support groups to affiliates which will lead to fulfilling NAMI’s program mission.
- The committee will be collecting information on:
  - Actual programs, classes and support groups that each affiliate has offered in the last two years
  - What has been a problem or block to offering programs, classes and support groups.
  - Having a program point person in each affiliate will help with the process. Discussion of the importance of this.
- Ellen talked about job description for teachers that includes timelines of when to order, will send out to those interested.
- Ellen shared the draft NAMI –NYS Affiliate program questionnaire. Wendy will forward to the board for review.
- Wendy will do a budget to see the most effective way to have trainings in what regions.
Nominating and Election Committee-Report on Upcoming Election and Proposed Candidates

- Currently 9 openings/vacancies on the board-7 candidates running-2 possible appointees.
- Returning board members who are running: Ariel, Ellen, Colleen, MaryJo, Dhanu, and Ann.
- Wendy distributed three other eligible applications:
  - Martin A. Gromulat is eligible to run/in on ballot.
  - Pooja Mehta and Margaret (Maggie) Bristol applications also came in after the deadline.
- Discussion on how to create the ballots. Wendy distributed the draft of the ballot. Suggested to “bold” at the bottom of the ballot that this ballot will be voided if more than 5 candidates are selected.
- NYS Law says—if you are appointed to a board-you can only serve until the next election.
- Anyone running-please send in your bio and headshot to Wendy by Wed. Sept 18th (or before). Wendy agreed to take pictures after the meeting.

By-laws Committee

- NAMI National has a great mission statement. Discussion of the Preamble/Mission Statement.
  - Mission Statement: NAMI provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives.
  - Vision Statement: NAMI envisions a world where all people affected by mental illness live healthy fulfilling lives supported by a community that cares.
- Ellen reviewed what had already been voted on previously by the board so that everyone is familiar with the changes that will be voted on by the full membership. The draft bylaws were presented to the board for review.

Motion to endorse the proposed bylaws with the addition of NAMI Nationals mission and vision by Evelyne, seconded by Ellen. Approved. Voted for: 11

New Business

- Wendy brought up the question of what is NAMI NYS’s role in intervening in situations/issues happening at local affiliates. A complaint came in to the state office about bullying of an individual. There are also by-laws violations (ie. appointing board members). Wendy has been in communication with the office. Several suggestions were given to Wendy – for staff mediation/board guidance. We should not get involved in personality conflicts-but how can we help?
- Wendy did recommend that they talk to their attorney for bylaws.
- Mediating between affiliates is in the bylaws. There is no guidance for dealing with internal affiliate issues.
  - Issues of Harassment
  - Issues of ByLaws violations
  - Issues of 360 issues-not adding board members into the system.
- Document what NAMI NYS is doing and our involvement in the situation.
- Wendy will ask National for clarification on what our responsibilities are. Are there resources that National could provide to the affiliate?
Is there something that National should be enforcing (ie. not uploading proper documents to 360)?

**Motion** to adjourn at 11am by MaryJo, seconded by Dhanu  **Approved**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Gagne  
Secretary