



## 2011 Vacancy Appointment Information Regarding Service on the NAMI Board

The NAMI Board will have a vacancy beginning in July 2011. This vacancy will be filled by appointment of the Board based on the report of a Nominating Committee made up of three Board members designated by the President. The NAMI Board sees this as an opportunity to reach out to NAMI State Organizations, NAMI Affiliates and NAMI members for suggestions. The NAMI Board will be looking for individuals who bring dedication as well as experience and skills that will augment those already serving on the Board.

The NAMI Board is a working board whose members play active and important roles in setting policy for the success of the national organization. To best serve in the Board role, members are expected to:

- Attend and participate fully in all Board meetings, Annual Conventions, Leadership Institutes, and other organizational functions – including service on Board committees
- Understand and protect the fiduciary health of the organization
- Understand and adhere to the democratic process of a non-profit Board
- Understand and support NAMI's programs and public policies
- Be NAMI members in good standing
- Adhere to ethical standards of conduct and avoid conflicts or interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest
- Make a meaningful financial contribution to NAMI annually, but with no required minimum.

Employees of NAMI, the national organization, may not serve on the Board.

See the NAMI Board's "Open Letter" for a more complete discussion of the skills and expertise that is sought for NAMI Board service.

**Suggestions:** Suggestions are being accepted starting now for consideration for appointment to the NAMI National Board of Directors in anticipation of this vacancy.

Suggested individuals must be NAMI members in good standing (dues paid to a NAMI Affiliate in good standing).

Suggestions may be sent to:

**Lynn Borton**  
**3803 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100**  
**Arlington, VA 22203**

Or emailed to [LynnB@nami.org](mailto:LynnB@nami.org)

Suggestions in response to this communication must be received by July 1, 2011.

**Board Composition:** To ensure compliance with NAMI's bylaws, 75% of the Board must be persons who have or have had lived experience with serious mental illness, or parents or other relatives, including civil partners, thereof. Candidates are asked to make a statement to this effect.

All members of the current NAMI Board consider themselves to be persons who have or have had lived experience with serious mental illness, or parents or other relatives, including civil partners, thereof.

**Desired Information:** To assist the Board in its deliberations, interested individual are expected to provide the following information by July 1, 2011:

- 1) Complete the Interest and Intent Form [see attached] (a) confirming willingness to be a candidate and to serve if elected; (b) self-identifying as a person who has or has had mental illness or as a relative thereof, including civil and domestic partners; (c) providing a 50-word statement regarding this self-identification; (d) self-disclosing any current public office or current membership on the governing board or any for-profit or not-for-profit organization and any employment with NAMI or NAMI State Organizations or NAMI Affiliates; and (e) committing to disclosing for yourself and immediate family (spouse, civil or domestic partner, parents, dependent children, siblings) any employment, business or other financial interest that involves NAMI, any NAMI Affiliate, or NAMI State Organization, or any other person or entity providing goods or services for payment that are related to mental health care.
- 2) Respond to the following questions that have been put forth by NAMI leaders.
  - i) What brought you to NAMI and what roles have you played in your NAMI Affiliate and NAMI State Organization?
  - ii) What advocacy and organizational priority areas do you believe NAMI should be pursuing in the next three years and how can you help as a Board member?
  - iii) Please describe any previous service on a board and what you regard as your greatest contribution to that organization's work through your service on its board.
  - iv) How can you contribute to NAMI's evolution as "a dynamic, well-run organization that seeks and engages a diverse and growing membership," as called for in the NAMI strategic plan?
  - v) What fund raising, financial oversight, legal, marketing, or information technology expertise do you have to offer to NAMI?

**Questions:** Please direct all questions to Lynn Borton at [LynnB@nami.org](mailto:LynnB@nami.org)