

**Laurita J. Barber**  
**Nominated by NAMI Franklin County (OH)**

**CANDIDATE NARRATIVE**

**Strengths and attributes NAMI board has identified as high-priority needs for the 2020–2021 board; any strengths/attributes identified by the candidate are starred and in bold:**

- **Diversity of age, race, ethnicity, language, experience and national geography \*\***
- Knowledge of the philanthropic community and track record with donor cultivation
- **Experience with a variety of revenue models and financial oversight and management \*\***
- Healthcare/medicine especially in team-based practice that provides integrated physical and mental healthcare
- Criminal Justice experience, professional and/or lived, to provide insight into one of the central platforms of the NAMI 2020-2025 Strategic Plan

**In 250 words or less, please explain how you will use your skills in these areas to move the mission of the NAMI Board forward. If you do not have any experience in these areas, please explain what qualities you feel that you possess that the NAMI Board of Directors should consider when making their recommendations to the membership.**

As an African American female with lived experience, I use every opportunity in my community to break down the barrier of stigma by being open and transparent, and by educating so those individuals experiencing a mental health condition can begin to become comfortable reaching out for help.

My experience in the financial arena that include nonprofit, private industry, government, and banking will help move the mission of the NAMI Board forward. I am extremely disciplined, a self-starter and motivator. I also have experience with compliance, and, as a Certified Fraud Examiner, I was trained to look for deviances.

My dedication and commitment to NAMI (because they saved my life and allowed me to find my purpose) fuels me in my effort to do whatever I can to move the NAMI Board forward.

**I have personally helped advance the NAMI mission in my community by...**

I have personally helped advance the NAMI mission in my community by starting a NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group in my church to help combat stigma. I was also responsible for implementing and growing the ETS program for our affiliate, in which I had to work closely with city school officials and staff. In 2017 our Affiliate completed over 98% of all of the presentations in Ohio. As the representative for our affiliate, I was invited to have breakfast with Tipper Gore in honor of her commitment and support of the NAMI Ending the Silence program

**I work well in coordination with other leaders to accomplish goals as evidenced by...**

I work well in coordination with other leaders to accomplish goals as evidenced by my oversight, coordination and implementation of the Mental Health First Aid program with faith leaders in our community.

### **Nominator Narrative**

**Rachelle Martin**

**Executive Director, NAMI Franklin County (OH)**

**Strengths and attributes NAMI board has identified as high-priority needs for the 2020–2021 board; any strengths/attributes identified by the nominator are starred and in bold:**

- **Diversity of age, race, ethnicity, language, experience and national geography \*\***
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**In 250 words or less, please explain how the candidate will use their skills in these areas to move the mission of the NAMI Board forward. If the candidate does not have any experience in these areas, please explain what qualities you feel that the candidate possesses that the NAMI Board of Directors should consider when making their recommendations to the membership.**

Laurita will use her skills in the following ways:

- She will work as team player in assisting the NAMI National Board in making accurate financial decisions.
- Because Laurita is a veteran with lived experience she will provide the Board with outstanding feedback on how to meet the needs of veterans with lived experience.
- NAMI FC has a Faith Based Project where Laurita is the lead Mental Health First trainer. Our goal is to train 15 Churches in this fiscal year.

**This individual has helped advance the NAMI mission in my community by...**

Evidence of Laurita's commitment can be seen through my successful implementation of the NAMI Ending the Silence program for our affiliate. In 2017 our Affiliate completed over 98% of the presentations in Ohio.

**This individual works well in coordination with other leaders to accomplish goals as evidenced by...**

- Manage and support staff and volunteer teachers, mentors, and facilitators annually across seven agency programs
- Arrange travel plans for staff and volunteers for in- and out-of-state trainings and conferences
- Provide phone and email support directing families to community resources

- Coordinate with local and online vendors to fulfill supply orders
- Coordinate with Paycor providing new hire/termination information, changes in payroll and wage garnishments
- Coordinate background checks for new hires and respective volunteers
- Track and maintain employee timesheets