

**Lisa B. Dixon, MD, MPH**  
**Nominated by NAMI New York State**

**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.**

My career has focused on improving the lives of individuals experiencing serious mental illness and their families. I have been especially interested in and committed to the power of family and peer support and knowledge that is acquired from experience. I have been able to apply my research skills to ask questions regarding the effectiveness of interventions built upon that experience and to show how powerful such knowledge can be in helping others.

Further, I have learned from both personal and professional experiences that we need powerful alliances and partnerships that include multiple stakeholders in order to give individuals experiencing mental illness the chance to have fulfilling lives. We also need these alliances to conduct research. I have worked hard to be a good listener and someone who can create strategic connections and partnerships.

As a journal editor, I am interested in expanding knowledge and sharing authentic perspectives with scholarship and respect.

If I am elected to the NAMI Board of Directors, I expect that I will use my skills and experience in promoting the goals of NAMI.

**I have personally helped advance the NAMI mission in my community by** speaking openly about my family experience, serving on the Board, conducting research and evaluation of NAMI programs, raising funds for the walk, and providing educational talks.

**I work well in coordination with other leaders to accomplish goals as evidenced by** the numerous leadership positions I have earned within my academic department at Columbia and the New York State Office of Mental Health as well as the at the journal, Psychiatric Services.

## **Nominator Narrative**

**Wendy Burch**

**Executive Director, NAMI New York State**

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Lisa Dixon, M.D., M.P.H. is a Professor of Psychiatry at the Columbia University Medical Center and the director of the Division of Behavioral Health Services and Policy Research within the Department of Psychiatry. She also directs the Center for Practice Innovations (CPI) at the New York State Psychiatric Institute.

Dr. Dixon has been a friend and supporter of the NAMI mission for many years. Her dedication to improving the lives of both individuals and families impacted by mental illness stems from her expertise as a groundbreaking psychiatrist and researcher, as well as her lived experience as a family member of someone with serious mental illness.

Dr. Dixon has been honored for her dedication and support by NAMI at every level- national, state and affiliate-and she has also been recognized by several other renowned institutions and organizations, including the American Psychiatric Association and the American Public Health Association.

Dr. Dixon's professional experience would serve as a valuable resource to the NAMI Board, as the NAMI Board Strengths Assessment identified "individuals with professional experience in team-based health care/medicine are sought to provide insight on alignment of NAMI programs and services with the provision of integrated physical and mental health care" as a skill or experience most in need on the NAMI Board.

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

Dr. Dixon has been a pioneer among her peers in her commitment to incorporating families in the recovery process. She conducted the research which led to NAMI's Family to Family program being deemed an evidence-based practice by SAMHSA. Dr. Dixon's leadership in directing New York State's early intervention program, OnTrackNY, has led to New York being the forerunner in delivering this

critical program that addresses first episode psychosis, embodying NAMI's strategic planning goal of ensuring that people get help early.

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

Dr. Dixon's awards and accolades demonstrate her commitment to working with leaders and partners at all levels. She is a recipient of NAMI's Scientific Research Award, NAMI NYC Metro's Volunteer of the Year Award and NAMI-NYS's Dr. Lewis Opler Memorial Award acknowledging her dedicated support for the organization. Dr. Dixon consistently demonstrates a deep commitment to NAMI-NYS, providing insights and expertise on legislative matters, contributing to NAMI-NYS newsletters and appearing as a frequent presenter at NAMI-NYS's education conferences. In addition, her work directing the Center for Practice Innovations requires her continued partnership with colleagues around the state and the country.