

**Keino McWhinney  
Nominated by NAMI Texas**

**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 diverse background both personally and based on my geographic point of reference in rural West Texas give me a unique perspective in the complexity of the mental health landscape.

In addition, my experience in higher education and specifically my work for an academic health related university brings with it the ability to engage thought leaders from different areas such as academia, research, and clinical practice. My experience in the university setting has also informed my understanding of the need to practice integrated medicine where both physical health and mental health are seen as inseparable to caring for the whole person.

Finally, I am a strong proponent of the use of dialogue in producing deep and rich discussions as part of the decision-making process. I believe that many of our intractable problems remain unsolved not because of a lack of technical knowledge but because of a failure to reach common ground among people who have good intentions but differing viewpoints. One of my identified strengths is a desire to create harmony and consensus and it has served me well in navigating the interests of multiple stakeholders.

I have personally helped advance the NAMI mission in my community by serving as an advocate for mental health awareness and education in the Lubbock community and in the state of Texas. I have been a conference presenter on mental health policy issues at the Texas Association of Counties' 2019 annual conference, and I have sponsored and hosted multiple mental health events at Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center including but not limited to Mental Health First Aid trainings.

I work well in coordination with other leaders to accomplish goals as evidenced by Serving as a convener of key stakeholders (city, county, hospitals, foundations, and higher education) in the Lubbock community. In this capacity I was able to work with a team to facilitate a community wide mental health needs assessment conducted by the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute. This required over six months of stakeholder engagement and relationship building and culminated in the local stakeholders contributing financially to the assessment while also being willing participants in ongoing dialogue and consensus building. I cannot overstate my belief in the power of dialogue as a tool in finding common ground.

### **Nominator Narrative**

**Greg Hansch**  
**Executive Director, NAMI Texas**

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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.**

Mr. McWhinney brings professional experience in team-based health care/medicine. As Director of the Texas Tech University (TTU) Mental Health Institute, he promoted the vision that optimal health outcomes require a whole-person view of health inclusive of promotion, prevention, treatment, and recovery. He leveraged and coordinated the unique strengths of the TTU System's component institutions to improve access to integrated services for people experiencing mental illness, substance misuse, and co-occurring conditions.

He worked with stakeholders to influence policy and promote open communication on mental health efforts – including his service as a member of the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium. The Consortium is spearheading the development of a Child Psychiatry Access Network, which will support pediatricians in meeting the mental health needs of children.

His has significant experience with rural healthcare. Prior to returning to the TTU, he worked for the Population Health Department of a health system that serves southwestern Missouri and northwestern Arkansas. In 2019, he authored an op-ed on mental health awareness in rural communities.

While working with the Texas Tech Mental Health Institute, he worked with local law enforcement on projects to reduce the incarceration of individuals with SMI.

A young person of color, he lives in Lubbock. TTU and Lubbock services cover a significant rural population in West Texas.

He will use his knowledge of health care systems and promising practices in the mental health field to advance NAMI's work on integrated healthcare, criminal justice reform, and other key priorities.

While Mr. McWhinney's direct involvement with NAMI is limited, he has made valuable contributions to mental health policies, practices, and programs during his time at Texas Tech University. As Director of the TTU Mental Health Institute, Mr. McWhinney facilitated opportunities for coordination and collaboration on mental health related issues between the component institutions of the TTU System and the community. After leaving the Institute for a position with the TTU Chancellor, Mr. McWhinney helped NAMI Texas and NAMI Lubbock plan and implement a rally at TTU. Mr. McWhinney's efforts improved access to and quality of mental health care, aligning with NAMI's mission.

As Director of the Texas Tech University (TTU) Mental Health Institute, Mr. McWhinney worked with stakeholders, both locally and across the state, to foster meaningful dialogue aimed at influencing policy and promoting open communication on mental health related efforts. This includes collaboration with university partners – such as the Center for Adolescent Resiliency, the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health (TWITR), and the Family Therapy Clinic, as well as collaboration with community partners, such as the local mental health authority, NAMI Texas, and Mental Health America. Mr. McWhinney also served on Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council.