

**Connie Mom-Chhing, DM, MPA  
NAMI Southwest Washington (WA)**

**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.**

I'm honored to be nominated as one of the candidates for NAMI Board as I strongly feel that my personal and working experiences would allow me to support NAMI's mission of advocacy, education, support, and public awareness of mental health. As a survivor of the Cambodian genocide that took place from 1975-1979, my family and I have lost many family members, experienced and re-experience from time to time the trauma of war which has significantly impacted my family members and my own childhood experiences. My family and I have been able to cope with lifelong trauma through the guiding principles of hope and compassion for those in need.

It is through my own alignment of personal values with that of NAMI that has inspired me to seek this leadership position on NAMI Board.

Furthermore, I strongly feel that my extensive knowledge of and working experience in the health care field with an emphasis on integrated care would further NAMI's work to support families of different ethnic backgrounds who are underserved and underrepresented, as well as the broader community across the nation. I would also be able to contribute to NAMI my leadership experience in starting, operating, and sustaining nonprofit organizations that have made a difference in many lives.

I have personally helped advance the NAMI mission in my community by promoting the public awareness of mental health, and supporting and participating in NAMI initiatives for the past 20 plus years.

I work well in coordination with other leaders to accomplish goals as evidenced by my leadership in helping to spearhead the planning and implementation of behavioral health and primary care integration throughout WA state.

### **Nominator Narrative**

**Kim Schneiderman**

**Executive Director, NAMI Southwest Washington**

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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.**

NAMI SW WA has observed that she made a positive and commonly pivotal contribution to many committees and task forces to improve behavioral health services in our state. NAMI SW WA benefited from her unfailing collegiality, humane approach to the mental health community, and unblemished professionalism.

Connie was born in Cambodia, and the story of her emigration to the United States is a testimony to her courage and determination.

Connie will provide the essential guidance and leadership in establishing throughout NAMI's affiliates processes of strategic planning and organizational improvement that will inspire confidence in the donor community that their donations will be well used. The donor community is now aware that behavioral health is a crucial area of need now. But donors search out and select those organizations that rise above the others in organizational excellence. Connie can assist NAMI and its affiliates to achieve this status in the view of the philanthropic community.

Connie's professional positions since 2008 have required executive and director level management of a sequence of revenue models, with responsibility for their oversight and management. Connie has served in positions of management/executive experience in the behavioral health community of Southwest Washington. Her appointments to the positions speak to the confidence that the community has in her experience and judgement to lead in healthcare. She has been instrumental in forwarding integrated care in Washington State and has worked with the criminal justice system on behalf of people experiencing mental health challenges.

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

We testify to the highly positive experiences working with her from 2012 to the present, during which time she occupied positions of leadership and high responsibility during a time of behavioral community transition, with Southwest WA Behavioral Health (CEO), Columbia United Providers (Chief Behavioral Health Officer), and Community Health Plan of WA (Director, Integrated Managed Care).

Invariably, we observed that she made a positive and commonly pivotal contribution to many committees and task forces to improve behavioral health services in our state. NAMI SW WA benefited from her unfailing collegiality, humane approach to the mental health community, and unblemished professionalism.

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

Connie currently provides strategic direction for statewide rollout of integrated behavioral health and medical services and serve as business owner with primary accountability for the relationships and contract terms of all the Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organizations in Integrated Managed Care regions to ensure successful operations of the regional crisis services delivery system and other contracted non-crisis services.

She has also provided leadership and behavioral health operational consultation to executive leadership to ensure operational compliance with business, financial, quality management, human resource, compliance, provider network, information system, and contract performance requirements.