

Victoria Harris MD, MPH
Nominated by NAMI Washington

Nominator Narrative

Lauren Simonds

Executive Director/CEO, NAMI Washington

Strengths and attributes the NAMI Board has identified as high priority needs for the 2023-2024 NAMI Board of Directors; any strengths/attributes identified by the nominator are starred and in bold:

- **Diversity of age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, 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
- Human capital management
- Legal and risk management
- **Criminal Justice****

In 250 words or less, please explain how the candidate will use their skills in the areas identified here and in the Open Letter 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.

1. She is a NAMI Washington board member, and as such she attends our meetings, is a leader of the organization, and in fact, is the state representative to the Peer Leadership Council. 2. Dr. Harris is a retired psychiatrist with professional and personal lived experience. When in practice, she worked for the third largest behavioral health provider in Washington state – the King County jail system. 3. Dr. Harris is herself a person living with a behavioral health condition in recovery, and has had the experience of being arrested, put into jail, and ultimately involuntarily committed due to her mental illness. This experience, combined with her professional experience makes her a superior candidate for the board, especially in relation to the board's focus on the decriminalizing mental illness. 4. Dr. Harris would also bring diversity to the board: she is a member of the LGBTQIA community, and is from a West Coast state, and the Eastern part of Washington as well – which is mostly rural. For these reasons, the NAMI Washington Board of Directors supports the nomination of Dr. Victoria Harris serve families and individuals affected by mental illness as a member of the 2023-2024 NAMI Board of Directors.

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

lobbying and speaking publicly about her experiences as a mental health professional as well as a person who has been involuntarily held in both jail and an inpatient setting. She is a leader, and always is thinking about ways to increase NAMI WA's visibility.

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

her work with the NAMI Washington board of directors, who have to make decisions for the WA State Alliance of NAMI Affiliates