

Rajeev Jain, PhD, MBA
Nominated by NAMI Central Texas

CANDIDATE NARRATIVE

Strengths and attributes the NAMI Board has identified as high-priority needs for the 2021-2022 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****
- **Human capital management including professional experience in human resources and personnel development & management****
- **Legal and risk management****
- Criminal Justice experience, professional and/or lived

In 250 words or less, please explain how you will use your skills in the above 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 possess that the NAMI Board of Directors should consider when making their recommendations to the membership.

As an immigrant who has lived in different socioeconomic settings in the US over last 30+ years, I see how people navigate various cultural, economic and demographic boundaries. While such boundaries are often cited as barriers, they can also become opportunities for propagating NAMI messaging in new ways to new audiences and new donor pools.

Board service for a non-profit imparting financial literacy to the under-served populations for over four years has given me valuable experience in donor cultivation. I believe donors appreciate a sincerity of approach, recognition and respect while also looking for their giving to be impactful. Representing NAMI to potential donors would be an honor for me as the cause of mental health and wellness is very close to my heart.

My professional experience has included complex cross-functional roles spanning finance, technology, marketing and strategy. This will help me guide NAMI towards an appropriate financial management and governance model suitable as an umbrella of many chapters and affiliates with very diverse individual financial and programmatic needs and resources. I earned a formal "Financial Risk Manager" certificate in 2010, and continue to learn more about the tragic intersection of criminal justice and mental health.

My most enjoyable moments at work have been when I have made a difference in the work experience of others. I look forward to supporting the NAMI leadership in developing appropriate policies and an organizational culture that promotes growth of staff members and volunteers at all levels of the organization.

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

Serving on the DEI working group and the Finance committee for NAMI Central Texas.

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

In serving on a non-profit working board over several years, I progressed through the roles of Treasurer, Vice President, and then President, recruiting and onboarding new board members, balancing professional skill and raw passion on the board, and succession planning at the conclusion of my term limit. In corporate environments, I promote collaboration and consensus-building, strive to be a calming influence, and resolve conflict and ambiguity by creating the space for a clearer articulation of assumptions and intentions by various stakeholders.

NOMINATOR NARRATIVE

Karen Ranus
Executive Director, NAMI Central Texas

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Mr. Jain's personal and professional experiences directly meet five of the six priority areas specified in NAMI's 2021 Call for Candidates: 1-diversity (of race, geography, corporate experience and his personal commitment to cultural humility which seeks to understand and to serve); 2-high-level financial oversight and management at all levels; 3-human capital management; 4-direct risk management experience and 5-knowledge of the philanthropic community and track record with donor cultivation. During his years of volunteer leadership on a non-profit board, he also had board-level oversight of a program for teaching financial literacy to incarcerated women. As cited in the Call for Candidates, Rajeev meets all four of the leadership experience recommendations: 1-prior leadership experience on non-profit boards; 2 and 3-national-level leadership within corporate communities; and 4-his appointment to serve on NAMI Central Texas Finance Committee following his prior service on our affiliate's DEI Work Group.

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

Mr. Jain has come to NAMI volunteer service because NAMI was here to meet his needs as a family member. And, also like many of us, he quickly reached out to affiliate leaders to express his strong desire for giving back by sharing his time and his skills as the needs or opportunities arose. In addition to his passion for our mission, Rajeev also possesses skill sets and experiences that we believe would be of great value at the level of the national board –especially as NAMI experiences an unprecedented surge of growth, along with NAMI National's increasing commitment to field development, strategic deployment and technology innovations, all areas highly visible in Rajeev's personal and corporate experiences.

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

Mr. Jain is eager and open to help in any way he can. There is a heartfelt eagerness and a commitment to serving that we've seen evidenced in how he has engaged with our affiliate from the beginning and in his service as part our DEI Workgroup and his initial engagement with our Finance Committee.