

Eric L. Welch, CFRE
NAMI Greater Orlando (FL) Executive Director
Nominated by Nick Richard, Executive Director of NAMI St. Tammany (LA), seconded by Ken
Dority, Executive Director of NAMI Greenville (SC)

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 EDC membership should consider when casting their vote.

Over the past few years, I have established a solid working relationship with both NAMI National staff and fellow Executive Directors. I will assist the communication efforts on both sides, establishing common ground and areas of opportunity where both can grow and thrive. My diverse background in non-profit management, especially in fundraising, can assist all tiers of the alliance.

My "Strength Finder" survey results list strategic thinking, charisma, and the ability to think win-win/long-term as my top assets. I will bring this winning, team-player attitude to the board. I also have many years of experience in coalescing groups in a mission surrounding a common goal, especially through volunteers.

As a day-to-day operations manager of a \$450,000+ organization, I coordinate financials, profit/loss, revenue/expense analysis. I can work closely with the operations team to maximize profit and limit expenses. With a staff of 6, I maintain a high-quality staff with exemplary, recruiting, management, and accountability. I will bring my expertise in this area as well. I also have a natural ability to quickly analyze situations and make recommendations to alleviate issues.

I look forward to bringing my 25+ years of experience to the NAMI board as we continue our education, support, and advocacy mission.

I have personally helped advance the NAMI mission on the council by...

I served on the EDLE planning committee in 2019, and then as an officer in 2020 and 2021. Especially in 2019, we created a conscious effort to blend the training with a win/win/win mindset between the board, staff, and ED council. I continue to monitor the ED Listserv and bring solutions wherever possible. I combine long-term strategies with the ability for group achievements.

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

The NAMIWalks team has selected me multiple times to be used as an example on events. The next one is in July. I have solid relationships with Shirley, Dan, and many of my fellow EDs. I use these relationships to best understand all needs and guide the different teams to success. I also assist to maintain schedules and deliverables to ensure deadlines. I look forward to expanding the relationships to incorporate more EDs and innovative solutions.

NOMINATOR NARRATIVE

Nick Richard
Executive Director, NAMI St. Tammany (LA)

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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 or you do not specifically know, please explain what qualities you feel the candidate possesses that will apply to service on the NAMI Board of Directors.

It is with a strong sense of pride that I recommend Eric Welch to the NAMI Board. He has all of the traits you would need in a Board Member, especially as NAMI looks to expand to include the voice of Executive Directors in the field. Eric brings over 25 years of nonprofit management, development, marketing, fundraising, advocacy and donor relations expertise. As mentioned previously, he Certified Fund Raising Executive. This in itself holds immense value, but coupled with the experience of operating a NAMI Affiliate, makes his skills and experience invaluable. He utilizes his high level communication, public speaking, and spokesperson abilities to bring people together. This is evidenced in his roles with the Executive Director Council, including serving as an officer, as well as serving on the planning committee for Executive Director Leadership Exchange. Eric has the ability to help others find common ground when they disagree on what actions to take. I know that he will be a beneficial addition to the Board because he embodies the NAMI mission and has shown he is willing and able work with a variety of individuals to achieve this.

This individual has helped advance the NAMI mission on the Executive Director Council by...

Consistently being a leader who is present and willing to hear the issues and successes of other NAMI orgs. He is always willing to have the hard conversations, while still being respectful of others' viewpoints. His experience in the fundraising world is unique and I have watched him listen to the ideas of other EDs and use their experiences to formulate successful strategies that have helped other NAMI Affiliates and States better organize fundraising initiatives.

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

His actions as an officer on the Executive Director Council, have given him the opportunity to work a varied amount of NAMI orgs. Eric's style is extremely accessible and he is a very hands-on team member. Not only does he possess the leadership skills needed for a leader, but he also has the behind-the-scenes skills as well. This is evidence by the growth of his Affiliate, as well as the increased support from businesses throughout his region.