

**Glenda Wrenn Gordon, MD, MSHP**  
**Nominated by NAMI Georgia**

**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.**

I will use my expertise in health equity, diversity and inclusion to support NAMI in reflecting the population it serves as well as engaging communities of color in the work of NAMI. My background in community-based participatory research and community-engaged mental health initiatives will help advise the organization as it sets strategy and plans initiatives that intent to activate communities of color. One of my valuable qualities is an extensive professional and personal network, which I will maximally leverage to advance the mission of NAMI.

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

I regularly refer my patients and families impacted by mental illness to NAMI and its programs (NAMI Family-to-Family, NAMI In Our Own Voice). I have dedicated my career to reducing the stigma of mental illness and elevating the dignity of people impacted by these conditions through my clinical, research, and organizational roles. I serve my local community as well as communities throughout the US through national efforts. I have regularly directly engaged NAMI leadership in national policy initiatives.

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

Convening a national advisory board that represented a diverse group of stakeholders and the leadership of major advocacy and professional organizations as founding director of a mental health policy center.

Service on numerous advisory committees and Boards to impact mental health equity, outcomes, access, quality, and funding.

I am known for my strength as a system-thinker, action-oriented problem solver, and taking near-consensus solutions and translating them to decisive action. I have worked with CEOs, politicians, community leaders, and professionals individually as well as within groups. To each of these settings I bring my listening skills and servant-leadership to focus on a goal and develop a collective action plan.

## **NOMINATOR NARRATIVE**

**Kim H. Jones**  
**Executive Director, NAMI Georgia**

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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 the candidate possesses that the NAMI Board of Directors should consider when making their recommendations to the membership.**

Dr. Wrenn will leverage her diverse perspectives and expertise to help NAMI better engage and activate communities of color. This advances the mission of the NAMI Board forward by broadening representation and building the coalition of advocates who can address health inequities, decriminalize mental illness, and increase access to necessary supports to achieve wellbeing and recovery. Dr. Wrenn has served and led local and national organizations extensively throughout her career. As a Board Member, she has meaningfully contributed to several organizations who transformed their impact through achieving fiscal stability and improving the impact of their signature programs.

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

In addition to serving as a CIT instructor in GA, Dr. Wrenn led a community-engaged, system transformation at Grady Health System to integrate mental health services in the Emergency Department and Primary Care Clinics, eliminate coercive and dehumanizing practices in the Psychiatric Emergency Service, and engage callers of 911 with appropriate mobile crisis services. During this time, she also partnered with Fulton county's pre-arrest diversion initiative and brought other stakeholders to the process. In her academic role, she led the Smart and Secure Children Parent Leadership Program that engaged low-income communities and schools to promote positive parenting, brain health, and community resource development.

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

Every effort Dr. Wrenn has led or participated in has required stakeholder engagement, coalition building, and partnership. The fact that each of these efforts have remained and been sustained after her time with them is evidence that she is effective in engaging other leaders and cultivating leadership to achieve her goals.