



March 23, 2023

NAMI
Attn: Elections 2023
4301 Wilson Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear NAMI 2023 Elections Committee,

The NAMI Washington Board is proud to submit the name of Victoria Harris, MD, as a candidate for the 2023-2024 NAMI Board of Directors. The nomination of Dr. Harris was confirmed on March 22, 2023 by a unanimous vote of the NAMI Washington Board of Directors. Dr. Harris is an active member of NAMI Washington and NAMI Spokane.

Dr. Harris is an exceptional candidate for the 2023-2024 NAMI Board of Directors.

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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lauren B. Simonds".

Lauren B. Simonds, M.S.W.
Executive Director