

19 May 2021

Dear NAMI leaders:

On behalf of the NAMI Indiana Board of Directors, it is my honor to formally nominate Ray Lay for the 2021-2022 slate of candidates to serve on the NAMI Board of Directors. Ray and I were both elected to the NAMI Indiana Board in October 2015, and I have been privileged to work alongside him for nearly six years. Ray's life has been impacted by his own serious mental illness diagnoses and I can think of no one stronger than he in using his life experiences to advocate for those affected by mental illness.

As an already nationally recognized speaker in mental health circles, Ray will contribute to the NAMI Board of Directors as an exemplary voice to support and spread NAMI's vision of mental health for all, particularly through the lenses of his lived experiences as a person with serious mental illness, a formerly incarcerated and formerly homeless individual, a veteran, and a person of color. Yet, Ray does far more than checking off boxes of inclusion and representation – he is tirelessly passionate about his advocacy, grateful in his opportunities, and committed to do more than what he has already accomplished.

In addition to Ray's work through NAMI Indiana, he also serves the mental health community by sitting on two state commissions – Indiana Disability Rights Commission and Indiana Behavioral Health Commission – and is the longest serving Peer Support Specialist at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis.

Ray contributes countless volunteer hours to NAMI Indiana, generous financial gifts, and expertise to the NAMI Indiana board and membership. I am confident that Ray will be an asset to the NAMI Board and fully endorse his nomination so that he may continue his and NAMI's advocacy work further.

With gratitude,



Linh M. Preston, President
NAMI Indiana, Inc. Board of Directors

Attachments:

NAMI Indiana Board Resolution for Ray Lay, approved 10 April 2021
NAMI Indiana Board Meeting Minutes, 10 April 2021

BOARD RESOLUTION

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of NAMI Indiana, Inc. (NAMI Indiana) on April 10, 2021, the following resolution was proposed and approved by the Board:

WHEREAS NAMI Indiana is dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life for persons who are affected by mental illnesses by providing education, support, advocacy, and research. The state organization supports and develops local affiliates and represents the needs of the membership;

WHEREAS Ray Lay is a NAMI member and NAMI Indiana Board Member in good standing;

WHEREAS Ray Lay is representative and leader for mental health in Indiana and across the country, is the longest serving veteran Peer Support Specialist at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center, is a member of the Indiana Disability Rights Commission, is a member of the Indiana Behavioral Health Commission, is a board member of the Coalition of Homelessness Intervention and Prevention, and is the founder/owner of SMI Enterprises LLC;

That the NAMI Indiana Board of Directors is in full support of the nomination of Ray Lay to serve as a Board Member on the NAMI National Board of Directors.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linh M. Preston".

Linh M. Preston, President
NAMI Indiana, Inc. Board of Directors

NAMI INDIANA, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - Minutes
 April 10, 2021 via Zoom

Present	Absent	Director	Present	Absent	Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Laurie Buckner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Debra Murray
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marsha Burden, Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Linh Preston, President
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Crooke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nichole Ramirez
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephen Groce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deepti Rao
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Thomas Holloway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Annie Ruth
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toni King, Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joan Showalter
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aaron Kochar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	David Spradley
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ray Lay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Laurie Taylor
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nathan Maudlin			

Directors: Linh Preston (President), Deepti Rao (1st VP), Laurie Taylor (2nd VP), Toni King (Treasurer), Marsha Burden (Secretary), David Spradley (member-at-large), Laurie Buckner, Michael Crooke, Stephen Groce, Thomas Holloway, Aaron Kochar, Ray Lay, Nathan Maudlin, Debra Murray, Nichole Ramirez, Annie Ruth, Joan Showalter

Staff: Barbara Thompson (Executive Director)

Meeting Handout(s): April Agenda; December 2020 Minutes; February 2021 Minutes; CICF Fund Types; Open Letter from NAMI Board; Board Resolution

President’s Call to Order at 10:08 am

President’s Report – Linh Preston

1. **Minutes approval:** [December 2020 and February 2021 NAMI Indiana board minutes].
 - a. Motion to approve December 2020 minutes by Ray Lay, seconded by Laurie Buckner. Motion passed.
 - b. Motion to approve February 2021 minutes by Deepti Rao, seconded by Laurie Taylor. Motion passed.
2. **Announcements:**
 - a. NAMI Virtual Convention, registration open. July 27-28 small registration fee
3. **Other – Mission Moment:**
 - a. NAMI Indiana mission and purpose were reviewed by using a fun Quiz on Zoom. The mission and purpose are located in the NAMI Indiana Bylaws.
 - b. Discussion and review of NAMI Indiana bylaws, programs, and goals. Goals discussed included:
 - i. Focus more on the process of engaging, supporting and helping NAMI Indiana’s

local affiliate groups. NAMI Indiana wants to continue to grow affiliate support group numbers and to let the affiliates use NAMI Indiana as an assistant to help them grow. There are 15 Indiana affiliates.

- ii. Looking to develop new groups as well as support the ones that already exist. Discussion on NAMI Indiana signature programs and the impact they have on our communities.
- c. Impact story: success stories from various Indiana support groups shared.

Finance Committee Report – Toni King, Treasurer

1. **Additional Handout(s)/Document(s):**
 - a. Budget vs. Actual [7/1/2020-2/28/2021]
 - b. Statement of Financial Position [2/28/2021]
2. **Financial update(s):** No significant concerns with income or expenses to date.
3. **Investment Subcommittee:**
 - a. NAMI Indiana has significant cash available to invest. Currently, NAMI Indiana has an endowment fund at the Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF). CICF has a record for better ROI depending on the Board's comfort level for risk (i.e., conservative or aggressive.) Options for investment of available funds:
 - i. Add to endowment at CICF.
 - ii. Open one or both types of other funds at CICF – a board-restricted fund (with intent to grow so that interest will support NAMI Indiana operations) or a non-permanent fund (which is similar to a savings account and the account with Schwab with better ROI).
 - b. Most of the money held for investment has been moved from NAMI Indiana's checking account into a money market account until investment decisions are made.
 - c. Need further discussion: What is the Board's strategy regarding risk level? What are the pros and cons of following a more aggressive or a more conservative approach? What are the risk areas? Is this the right time to take some of the money and take some risky jumps over the long run? Important to find a financial advisor as soon as possible.
 - i. With the new fund accounts at CICF – need to name the funds (e.g., NAMI Indiana Endowment Fund) and names could be creative to better market for fundraising; need to ensure the name will remain relevant in the long term.
 - d. Financial advisor – NAMI Indiana is still looking for a financial advisor for guidance on the Schwab account.
 - e. Review for board: NAMI Indiana's financial assets are housed at three organizations:
 - i. Huntington Bank: Checking and Money Market accounts
 - ii. Schwab: original investment account
 - iii. CICF: permanent endowment fund
 - f. Follow up:
 - i. Find a financial advisor
 - ii. Barbara will finalize paperwork to open funds at CICF

Governance – Linh Preston

NAMI Board of Directors:

1. **Voting:** NAMI Board of Directors nomination
 - a. Motion to support the Board Resolution to nominate Ray Lay to serve on the national NAMI Board of Directors made by David Spradley, seconded by multiple board members simultaneously, by Laurie Buckner on record. Motion passed with Ray Lay abstaining from vote.
2. **Board nomination**
 - a. One key deadline is May 23, 2021 –all nominations of board candidates and proposed bylaws amendments must be submitted to NAMI.
 - b. Board Resolution and nomination letter from Barbara Thompson and/or Linh Preston to send

Public Policy Committee (PPC) – Stephen Croce, Public Policy Chair

1. **988 Legislation – Indiana HB 1468:** Bill to establish 988 in Indiana has had last-minute language added, including adding the crisis number on student IDs. Draft is now back to the House with changes from the Senate. 988 to be begun in Summer 2022. Planning committee is working with 911 to coordinate efforts. Indiana does not yet have funding to support 988.
2. **988 and NAMI** (national office): NAMI is working on getting more federal dollars to support 988 implementation nationally and coordinating information to state offices about how each state is planning to implement 988. Related – NAMI’s Ask the Experts – Help Not Handcuffs series is available on NAMI’s website.

Executive Director’s Report – Barbara Thompson, Executive Director

1. **State Conference:**
 - a. The Marriott hotel let us push the date for the State Conference from October 2020 to October 2021. Discussion: Should the Stat Conference be held in person or postponed again until spring 2022? Is there potential to use the Marriott contract for the Summit in spring 2022?
 - i. If we cannot have it in October and the Marriott will not let us move it back again then we will have to pay the amount of money that is specified in the contract. It is about \$12,000 to cover the food and beverage minimum.
 - b. Attendance has been decreasing over the last few years; sponsorships remain static. Summit attendance has been increasing as have sponsorships. Discussion around increasing attendance (and revenue) for State Conference:
 - i. Keep geared to family and need to find ways to attract more professionals
 - ii. Increase marketing about it
 - iii. More strategy in choosing topics that attendees would be interested in
 - iv. Find better (i.e., more marketable) keynote speakers (e.g., would someone from the Colts be willing to speak?)

- v. May be helpful to expand CEUs to nurses and nurse practitioners
 - vi. Add more “Ask the Expert” sessions – offer attendees access to those who may not be easily available to speak to (e.g., psychiatrists)
 - vii. Review time and location of the State Conference – may not be entirely convenient for the majority of potential attendees. Educational/conference season tends to be May to July. If timing of conference is moved, will need to address that the state conference serves as the membership’s annual meeting, including annual voting on board members and officers.
 - viii. Survey past attendees about topics they’d like to see. – Look at feedback we receive at the end of conferences to see what people say about the experience. Barbara shared that we do have evaluations that people turn in. They are always positive. Any negative statements are always about the temperature of the room or the food.
 - ix. Consider making the conference both virtual and in person. This way a person can make a choice as to how they want to attend. It was discussed that there may be a financial gain if the conference was held virtual.
 - x. Think about ways we can target/reach the audience. May need to consider getting the newsletter back on paper and send it by mail. Possibly market to professionals by sending them a post card and a couple of flyers. Also, could make flyers to that can be passed out to clients in the clinics.
- c. Follow ups:
- i. Determine if State Conference will be in person, virtual, or hybrid. (Board)
 - ii. Confirm if the Marriott hotel will let us move the date and if not, can we use that money for meals/use for other trainings, events, etc. (Barbara)
 - iii. Form an event committee – the board needs to help more in these efforts. (Barbara/Board)
 - iv. Email survey past attendants to find out what they would like to see at the State Conference (Barbara)
 - v. Determine how to offer CEUs to registered nurses (Marsha)
2. **Fundraising:** Opportunity to do NAMI Walks.
- a. Would be in addition to annual Bowl-a-Thon (which would be moved to the spring)
 - b. Discussion:
 - i. Concern for competition among all charity walks taking place, including with NAMI Greater Indianapolis’s own NAMI Walk.
 - ii. Potential for profit sharing with the NAMI Indiana affiliates that don’t do their own walk. Goal to have at least one NAMI Walk outside of Greater Indy’s region.
 - iii. For 2021, national office is not charging regular NAMI Walk fee, which is \$5,000 for the license. National office will still provide support. Good opportunity to start Walks again because of fee waiver.
 - iv. National NAMI Walk Day is October 9, 2021.
 - v. If moving forward, will need to be planned quickly and will need support from the Board.
3. **Affiliate Development:** Focusing on Noble and Wayne (Richmond) counties; further discussion tabled until next meeting

4. **Personnel:** Hired new Program Manager, Opening for Communications Coordinator; further discussion tabled until next meeting
5. **Program Growth and Development:** Nothing discussed at this time
6. **Criminal Justice:** Summit outcomes, Expanding CIT – Starke, Clark, St. Joseph counties; further discussion tabled until next meeting
7. **In-person programming timeline:** Request to Board to start thinking about timeline to resume in-person programming (trainings, support groups, etc.)

New Business – Board President

None

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Save the Dates:

Upcoming Board Meetings

Saturday, June 12, 2021

Saturday, August 14, 2021

October - TBD, after State Conference

Upcoming Events

Mental Health & Criminal Justice Summit

(Virtual)

March 19, 2021

Leadership Conference

(Marian University, Indianapolis)

Saturday, June TBD, 2021

NAMI National Convention

July 27-28, 2021 *NOTE shortened dates

Washington Hilton Hotel

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