

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

NAMI Whatcom

August 12, 2021

Virtual (Zoom)

Approved by Motion 2021-09-09.1a

Present

Board: Rosemary Webb (President), Brian Estes (VP), Bruce Smith (Treasurer), Tom Scott (Secretary), Gracie Lamb, Chris Ohana.

Staff: Kim Sauter (Executive Director). Amy Armstrong.

Volunteers: None.

Guests: None.

Excused:

Board: Russ Sapienza (emeritus).

Called to Order by Brian 12:02pm.

Board of Directors' Application

Kim: Everything is going at the office.

Consent Agenda: Motion 2021-08-12.1 Accept the consent agenda as presented.

Moved by Gracie, Rosemary. Passed unanimously.

- **2021-08-12.1a** Approve 2021-05-06 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes as presented.
- **2021-08-12.1b** Accept Treasurer's Report for July as presented.
- **2021-08-12.1c** Accept Executive Director's Report for August as presented.

New State Policing Law – Gracie

Gracie went to BPD briefing. Their briefing seemed thorough and based on legal evaluation. Hiring has become even more difficult for multiple reasons of late.

General discussion ensued.

Consensus:

- NAMI Whatcom open letter to Whatcom enforcement. – Brian
Guideline: Should be broad/general yet very brief.
- NAMI Whatcom inquiry to Washington regarding how Op Ed was formulated. – Brian.
- Make "Policing" a recurring Board Agenda Item.

Later noted that it is likely that the terms for Rosemary and Brian will be adjusted to terminate this year with them being nominated for re-election at the next Annual Meeting.

Stigma Stomp Update – Brian

- Gracie, Team Formed.
- Expectation that each Board member form a team.
- Event Finance Committee has been meeting frequently and will continue.
- Discussing banner and sponsors.

Covid Restrictions – Kim

- NAMI Washington to make statement on September 2nd.
- One group in person but heavily managed.
- All other groups are virtual.
- Some love virtual due to distances and other reasons.
- Banner information to be discussed between Board meetings.

Want this topic on next Board agenda.

Board Training (501 Commons) - Brian

September 30th is first training date but facilitator not yet confirmed.

Board Nominations

- New prospect noted.
- Interview between Board meetings.
- If appropriate, nomination to be presented at September Board Meeting.

Term Lengths & Adjusting Terms of the Board – Gracie

By Consent, again **Tabled** to be **on Agenda for next month**.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

- Review Board Member term adjustments as needed in preparation for next Annual Board Election. The Board agreed by consensus.
- Review Covid recommendations and requirements from NAMI Washington.
- If appropriate, entertain nomination of new Board Member.
- Recurring topic for September and beyond: Policing and Behavioral Health Calls.

Next meeting Board Meeting, September 9 @ Noon, at/via Zoom.

Adjourned 1:10pm

Action Items (outstanding from previous meetings)

- Board members providing regular, preferably monthly financial contributions. – Ongoing.
- Kim to poll Board members for fundraising networking leads. – Ongoing.
- Tom – Change registration on new laptop to reflect ownership change.
- All – Recruit Peer and Peer Ally Board Member Candidates.
- Kim – confirm September 1-2 hour training date with 501 Commons and acquire time slot; Inform Board of results.
- Kim to attempt to acquire from 501 Commons a matrix of dates/times for succeeding trainings in the series.

Action Items (from this meeting)

- All Board – Each member form a team for Stigma Stomp.
- Brian – NAMI Whatcom open letter to Whatcom enforcement.
Guideline: Should be broad/general yet very brief.
- Brian – NAMI Whatcom inquiry to Washington regarding how Op Ed was formulated.

Parked/Tabled Items

- Brian to keep Board up to date on activities of Public Policies Committee particularly on the “Behavioral Framework” document.
- Under Policies (Subcommittee) review and determine “Standing” and “Ad hoc” committees as Policies and NOT as part of the Bylaws (which do not currently specify).
- At Annual Board Meeting after Officers Election, formally note the appointed officers such as X Liaisons so that Board and other members may know to whom to refer when needed.

Supporting/Related Resources

- Seattle Times Op Ed by [Katherine Seibel](#) NAMI Washington, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy
<https://tinyurl.com/KSeibelWhyLERefusingBHCalls>
- Crosscut article regarding the multiple Washington State laws regarding police use of force and related issues.
<https://crosscut.com/politics/2021/07/what-new-wa-police-accountability-laws-do-and-dont-do>
- Testimony from Kim to Bellingham City and Whatcom County Councils regarding full funding for Behavioral Health Officers
Available offices upon request.
- Testimony from Brian to Bellingham City and Whatcom County Councils regarding Behavioral Health Officers.
Available offices upon request.
- ACLU Take on HB1310
<https://www.aclu-wa.org/story/new-law-demands-de-escalation-not-abandoning-people-crisis>
- HB1310: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1310&Year=2021&Initiative=false>
- State Senators Dhingra & Pedersen Statement on HB1310 and Law Enforcement Responses
<https://senatedemocrats.wa.gov/blog/2021/07/23/dhingra-pedersen-police-have-a-responsibility-to-show-up-and-help-people-in-crisis-get-treatment/>
- State House Public Safety Committee Chair Roger Goodman (D-Kirkland) and bill sponsor Rep. Jesse Johnson (D-Federal Way) statement on HB1310
<https://housedemocrats.wa.gov/blog/2021/07/23/goodman-and-johnson-statement-on-implementation-of-police-use-of-force-bill/>

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas R. Scott, Secretary