

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

NAMI Whatcom

May 12, 2022

Virtual (Zoom)

Approved by Motion 2022-06-09.1a

Present

Board: Brian Estes (President), Mieka Rhoades (VP), Tom Scott (Secretary), Kim Brown (Treasurer), Rosemary Webb and Chris Ohana.

Staff: Kim Sauter (Executive Director).

Volunteers: Ruth Davidson.

Guests: India Nishi.

Absent

Board (Excused): Blaire Sebren.

Called to Order by Brian 12:00am.

Brian read the Mission Statement.

Ice Breaker – Mieka

Fondest childhood memory/memories.

Clubhouse Progress - Ruth

Ruth showed a document on the formation of the Clubhouse. "We are a head of schedule... we are in a good spot..."

Document included "Standards" providing structure (Open meetings; No staff only meetings; No employment at Clubhouse for "members" but staff are often paid; No on-site healthcare.). Standards are extensive and broad in scope. "501©3 progress." Accreditation is "strongly encouraged". "Bellevue CH Visit." "Technology Plan." Of the latter the software/operating system is a major point of concern/discussion.

Brian brought up that the Whatcom County Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force, Behavioral Health Committee heard about the Clubhouse and interest was noted to hear more about the Clubhouse.

Medicaid may have a large impact on planning and operations.

There is a major training next weekend.

Land Acknowledgement Statement– Kim B.

Kim read the current Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Some comments/discussion regarding amending the Statement and what a Land Acknowledgement should cover. One such proposal is being submitted to the Board.

Consent Agenda: Motion 2022-05-12.1 Accept the Consent Agenda as amended. **Tom, Kim, Passed unanimously.**

- **Motion 2022-05-12.1a** Approve February 10 Board Meeting Minutes as presented;
- **Motion 2022-05-12.1b** Approve March 9 Board Meeting Minutes as presented;
- **Motion 2022-05-12.1c** Approve April 14 Board Meeting Minutes as presented;
- **Motion 2022-05-12.1d** Accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Strategic Plan - Brian

General approval for the project was the consensus. Terms of Dissolution were discussed. All present were very supportive of the project.

Insurance and the organization format were also discussed in an open format.

When the question of whom might sign the Letter of Intent, Kim S., ED was considered the proper person given approval was provided at this meeting.

Motion 2022-04-12.2 Adopt the Strategic Plan Moved Rosemary, Chris. Passed Unanimously.

Fundraising Committee - Brian

Meeting scheduled for June 1. The Stigma Stomp is a topic of this Committee. Members are Rosemary, Brian, Kim S. & Kim B. Meetings are once a month and often last less than an hour.

Rosemary noted that our fundraising is trending down from last year.

Chris noted she is interested in grant writing.

Brian noted a conversation about a conversation with City Councilmember Dan Hammel and thought it is time to approach the County Council regarding financial support. Brian is interested in participants.

Major Issues for Discussion/Action

Kim needs someone to help with a presentation at the Unitarian ... Church, June 19. Rosemary volunteered.

June 4 NAMI Walks. Links et cetera to follow by e-mail.

Advocacy - Brian

Brian provided a link (below) in Supporting/Related Resources for the City's Townhall, May 16.

Brian to present video regarding 988, mental LEO health call's/mobile crises response. "MCOT", Mobile County Outreach Team. Kim noted a City art program. It would be great if the two programs could be more closely linked. Example programs to consider in Georgia and Arizona. Another resource is Mobile Crises Now, an 80 page document.

Whatcom County Response System Division: Brian provided a presentation from the County on the topic. Crises Stabilization Center, at Irongate is a 32 bed facility. "Grace & Lead" Grace "Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement." LEAD is the LEO component. Co-Responder program.

Words Matter: How to talk about suicide. Recent local incidents illustrated issues with words creating or reinforcing stigmas.

Marketing Videos - Brian

Videos to "drop" Monday. Committee meeting frequently. Social media launched/launching. Kim, "[the] videos are beautiful." Board to be e-mailed about launches.

Board members asked for boilerplate... Tom suggested... cloud...

Staffing Change Coming – Brian (executive session)

Coming staff turnover coming. Board discussed transitioning support.

India Introduction – Brian

Generally some getting acquainted about Board function and "fit". India noted how the Strategic Plan was a great foundation from which to work going forward.

Adjourned 1:44pm (Brian, Tom)

Supporting/Related Resources

- **City of Bellingham Townhall**, <https://cob.org/event/cctownhall-05162022>
- **Whatcom County behavioral health response systems** video, <https://www.whatcomcounty.us/3932/Response-Systems>
- **City of Bellingham Community Voices on Public Safety**, Monday May 16th, 6:00-8:30 via zoom, <https://cob.org/event/cctownhall-05162022>
- **NAMI National Help not Handcuffs**. This is a great 4-part webinar on a variety of issues related to mental health and the criminal justice system, including crisis response. Episode 3 discussed the crisis response systems in GA and AZ, which have been identified as model practices. <https://nami.org/Blogs/NAMI-s-Ask-the-Expert/2021/NAMI-Ask-the-Expert-Help-Not-Handcuffs>
- **Finally, National Guidelines for Behavioral Health Crisis Care – A Best Practice Toolkit**, <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/national-guidelines-for-behavioral-health-crisis-care-02242020.pdf>

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas R. Scott, Secretary