



Tarrant County

NAMI TC Board of Directors – Meeting February 5, 2015

ATTENDANCE: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. at the MHA office in the Alfred Saenz Conference Room.

Present: Sherry Fairchild, Brandon Alexander, Edward Guthrie, Jerri Escobedo, Lynda Bryant, Rachel Lubke, Elle Valderas, Ruth Collins, Vivian Siao, Jennifer Nunley

Absent: Scott Collins

Quorum: Met

Staff: Sue Adams

Guests: Eric Vanderwerken, Cynthia Brown

WELCOME: Sherry welcomed the board, staff and guests. Each person shared something about their weekend and something about themselves that people don't generally know about them.

VACANCIES The board has one open position as well as no treasurer. Sherry proposed Brandon Alexander be elected treasurer and Jennifer Nunley be elected to fulfill the remaining one year of the open position. Brandon presented information regarding his qualifications to assume the role as treasurer. Jennifer has been on the board previously and it was the remainder of her original term which was open. Ed Guthrie motioned to elect Brandon as Treasurer; and Rachel seconded. Motion passed 8-0-0. Ed Guthrie motioned to elect Jennifer Nunley to the open vacancy; Elle seconded. Motion passed 8-0-0.

MINUTES: January 2015 minutes were reviewed for approval. Elle motioned to accept the minutes as presented with one correction to add the word "the" under new business, Rachel seconded. Motion passed 10-0-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT No Treasurer's report was given due to lack of a treasurer (see Vacancies).

OLD ITEMS:

1. Newsletter Committee: Rachel Lubke looked into using Publisher for the newsletter, but it is unavailable for the Mac. Rachel suggested using Adobe, but Sue would need an updated version in the office to edit the Newsletter. Licenses run about \$50 per month. Alternately, Rachel suggested that she use the NAMI laptop, but it would require the laptop to be out of the office for extended periods. At present, the laptop is used mostly for the General Meeting so it would be feasible for Rachel to have the laptop for periods of time. Sue Adams will review the insurance coverage for loss or damage. The following people have volunteered to be on the Newsletter Committee: Candi King, Elle Valderas, Sherry Fairchild and Ruth Collins.
2. Business Cards: Rachel Lubke presented the new format which was discussed. The format as presented was accepted as is. Members and staff who need cards should email Rachel with request as well as personalized information – credentials (no more than 2 were requested), board position, phone information as well as email. After Rachel receives the information from members, she will price the options from different printers and present the information to the board in an email. An email vote will be used approve the purchase if information can be gathered before the meeting.

NEW ITEMS:

1. Letter from Dr. Victoria Moessner: A letter was received from a caregiver living in Michigan whose daughter recently had an episode in Tarrant County. The caregiver was concerned about the lack of treatment her daughter received while trying to obtain adequate treatment for the episode. It was decided to a) send a copy of the letter along with a cover letter from NAMI-TC to Wayne Young at JPS as the facility was mentioned in the letter, b) take copies to Capitol Day as an

example of the mental health situation in Texas, c) Sherry would respond to the caregiver with a letter expressing the board's sympathy as well as the steps we have taken in response to the letter.

2. Grants/Awards: Ed began a discussion on the need to have our financial books audited if we were to apply for grants and awards. Brandon Alexander volunteered to locate someone to perform the audit and facilitate the audit. \$5,000 has been set aside previously and never used for auditing expenses. Sherry mentioned that we would need to provide demographic information on the people NAMI-TC helps when applying for grants. Ruth Collins volunteered to set up a spreadsheet to help track the demographic information. Elle Valderas mentioned her son Tobalo may be able to help with data entry.
3. Peer Support Groups: Elle requested the board consider setting up a weekly Connections support group in the community (e.g. Penn Square Clinic). Rachel provided an update on the people with Connections leadership training. There would need to be more leaders to set up a community weekly support group. Interest is high in a weekly meeting.
4. Training: We are going to have a Family support group trainer from Houston come to Fort Worth to train NAMI-TC members interested in becoming leaders for the Family support group. There are currently 8 people interested. Sue will check with the trainer to see how many people can attend. A second trainer may be required. There is additional interest in getting Spanish speakers trained to allow facilitation of breakout Spanish groups.
5. Family-to-Family: Jerri Escobedo raised the need for FTF teachers. She raised the need to provide the class more than twice a year. There are a limited number of teachers right now. More teachers would be required to increase the frequency and to provide for substitutes for the current teachers.
6. Growth: Sherry Fairchild and Ed Guthrie would like to see the membership grow. They would like board members help in placing calls to visitors to the General Meeting each month and the visitor lists for October through December 2014 were divided (October – Ed; November – Jerri; December – Vivian; Rachel – Open Door). They also discussed restructuring the General Meetings and support groups. One suggestion was to have the meal first and then split into support groups. There may or may not be a speaker in a revised format. Jerri noted that she would like to continue having speakers as the information presented has been useful for caregivers and peers alike. Rachel added that increasing services to peers is needed to grow the membership. In addition, she recommended that Peer-to-Peer be offered more than twice a year.

MONTHLY MEETING Feb 19th: Judge David Cook – Pre-trial diversion programs
PROGRAM TOPICS: Mar 19th: Dr. Michael Leffingwell – To be determined
Apr 16th: TBA
May 21st: TBA

BOARD COMMITTEES: Newsletter: Deadline for articles or artwork to be 25th of each month. See Old Business #1
Membership: See New Business #6
Budget: See Vacancies and New Business #1
Hospitality: Jerri provided a proposed budget for this year. In addition, she is working on a schedule for helpers in the kitchen during General Meetings. Vivian Siao volunteered to help Jerri with hospitality.

NAMIWALK MANAGER:	Julia Webb was out of town. She provided a general budget proposal for this year.
EDUCATION:	Family-to-Family: Mondays starting February 23, 2015 at 6:30 in the Lone Star room at MHA. Scott Collins and Cynthia Brown will teach. Peer-to-Peer: Mondays starting March 9, 2015 at 6:30 in the Alfred Saenz Conference Room at MHA. Jennifer Nunley and either Rachel Lubke or Charles Valenzuela will be teaching.
ADVOCACY/ LEGISLATIVE REPORT:	Capitol Day preparations are under way. A bus is being rented and some people will drive down. There are still 20 open spaces on the bus. The committee will pay for 10 consumers to go – 5 spaces have been designated, if anyone knows of any consumers who would like to fill the open 5 spaces, let Elle Valderas know. Elle requested that Sue Adams arrange with University Christian Church to use their back parking lot as the parking/meeting place for the bus.
MEMBERSHIP:	January: 14 new/renewals through NTC; six online new/renewals
Opportunities:	See Advocacy/Legislative Report.
Tabled Items:	Budget, business cards
ADJOURNMENT:	Meeting was adjourned around 8:30 pm. Next meeting is on March 5, 2015.

Respectively submitted,

Ruth Collins, Secretary