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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maggie Bristol</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Pooja Mehta</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ann Canastra</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>MaryJo Muscolino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ariel Coffman</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Julie Neches</td>
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<td>Lucille Ettere</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Lynda Regan</td>
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<td>Sue Gagne</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Ellen Ritz</td>
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<td>Ceceile Green</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Dhanu Sannesy</td>
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<td>Rob Laitman</td>
<td>Excused</td>
<td>Evelyne Tropper</td>
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<td>Martin Gromulat</td>
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<td>Judy Watt</td>
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Other: Wendy Burch, Executive Director.

Meeting called to order by Ariel at 9:05am.

Agenda Accepted

**Motion** to approve the July 10, 2020 minutes by Mary Jo. Seconded by Evelyne. **Approved.** Voted for: 13

**Treasurer’s Report – Reviewed Submitted Report**

- The Finance Committee has worked with NAMI-NYS finance staff to prepare a budget for 2021.

**Motion** to accept the 2021 budget by Dhanu. **Seconded by Ceceile. Approved.** Voted for: 15

- The budget includes adding the Communication Specialist position as a fulltime position and moving expenses for the office. The position title/job description/summary is still under development.
- The office lease expires in June 2021, and the staff is exploring moving to another location following all the issues experienced under the current landlord. Discussion of possibly moving into the OMH owned buildings. Also discussed having a location right out side of the city/on the city limits to save money on rent.
- Also discussed staff working remotely. This is the trend with many organizations. Would not be able to be fully remote as some staff need to utilize the office space. Several suggestions were given as far as locations. Have until June of 2021.
- The Finance Committee recognizes that with effects of the pandemic on the economy, NAMI-NYS should be prepared for a decrease in income during 2021. The committee will be working with staff to develop a contingent budget in order to be prepared for such an eventuality.
- While approving recent expenditures, the Finance Committee noted that there has been an issue with Board members contacting NAMI-NYS vendors directly for services. The committee is reminding Board members to go through the appropriate channels when needing outside services related to NAMI-NYS business, first through the executive director, and then to bring the matter to the Board if the executive director cannot assist.
Executive Director/Staff Reports - Review of Written Reports Submitted

- Wendy provided updates on the NAMI CEO Taskforce: The NAMI CEO Task Force held its first meeting on August 26th. The task force is comprised of 15 NAMI leaders representing Board presidents and executive directors at the state and local level, young adults and the various NAMI Councils. The first meeting consisted of a discussion around the task force’s work and the importance of NAMI understanding the needs of the field. The bulk of the discussion addressed the best way to collect information from the field on various topics. This group is scheduled to meet twice a month for the next several months.

- Wendy is representing NAMI on the steering committee to update OMH’s white paper on guidance around best practices and items to consider for the recipients of OMH care, which was last updated in 2005. OMH is also creating a white paper that addresses families (following the completion on the document focusing on recipients), which NAMI will be participating in as a part of the steering committee as well. When the white paper for families begins construction in early 2021, NAMI members will be offered in active role in its development.

- Partnerships and Other Opportunities: NAMI-NYS has developed several partnerships and outreach opportunities in recent months. We continue to partner with the NYS Council on Problem Gambling, and I will be serving on a panel on October 8th during their conference. I also represented NAMI on a panel during Faithfest 2020 on July 23, which was a forum on mental health presented by Faith to Face Ministries. We have recent partnerships with two colleges/universities, where NAMI-NYS is working with RPI to train students in NAMI support groups for students on campus and with Nassau Community College’s nursing program, where the students are working on several projects, including an anti-stigma campaign. I am also a member of the OPAL Stakeholders Advisory Board, led by Dr. Lisa Dixon. OPAL stands for Optimizing and Personalizing interventions for people with schizophrenia Across the Lifespan (OPAL) — an NIMH Center. NAMI-NYS has also been active in advocacy with several partners, around the concern around funding for behavioral health providers and the closing hospital psychiatric services during the pandemic.

OFF THE MASK UPDATE-Reviewed Written Report

- Off The Mask will take place on November 6th at 7:30 PM and will be virtually live streamed on Facebook. A professional production company to pre-record the fashion show piece has been confirmed. Each model has been contacted in regard to the changes to the event. The pre-recording portion of the event will take place at the Desmond Hotel on October 3rd and 4th. Myself and the committee are currently ironing out the details for the pre-recording days, to ensure we maintain COVID-19 guidelines and make all models feel safe and comfortable.

- Each model is still being asked to raise $2,500, and they are working hard and being innovative in accomplishing this goal.

- The overall event will still include a silent auction, a virtual art exhibit/auction, and raffle in which each of these components will be available to view and bid on through give smart.
*Board members are each asked to provide a basket for the raffle at the value of $75-100. Coordinate to get the basket to the office. There may be points of contact that can bring them in.

Board members are asked to save the date of November 6, 7:30-9:30 for the event.

Helpline Report-Discussion of the report being reviewed by a board committee- going to the Zero Suicide Committee. Wendy will ask Christine to sit in on the next committee meeting to connect.

**Committee Updates**

**Education Conference Committee Report-Lynda**

- Online-Oct 23 & 24th. Virtual conference platform to utilize. Promotion of save the date will begin next week.
- Discussion around cost of conference. Consensus is to offer the conference for free with a $20 “suggested donation.” The Board also stressed emphasizing the promotion of NAMI membership.
- Ariel suggested using the conference to thank mental health workers, like housing providers; it was suggested that we take the time to also acknowledge other frontline workers. The Board intends to purchase an ad in the conference journal.
- The Board also discussed streaming the conference in community residences and OMH facilities.
- Personnel Committee-Mary Jo
  - Committee is in regular contact with the executive director. Wendy reported that the NAMI-NYS signed a new contract with Pinnacle HR, with HR services on retainer when needed at an hourly rate.

- Nominating Committee-Ann and Mary Jo

The Board voted to enter executive session at 10:50 am.

**Motion** to accept the slate of 10 Board candidates by Ceceile. Seconded by Ellen. Approved. All in favor.

The Board left executive session at 11:19 am.

**Programs Committee-Ellen**

Ellen reported on the work of the Programs Committee, including the creation of screening forms for affiliates to use when vetting candidates to be trained to become programs leaders.

**By-law and Policies and Procedures Committee-Ellen**

The Policies and Procedures are still in the process of being updated by the committee. The by-laws will be reviewed annually to determine any needed changes.

**Veterans Committee-Maggie**
Maggie outlined the planned participation at various events, many of which have either been cancelled or are being presented virtually. She also reported on the last meeting, where Julie discussed a connection at the Department of Defense for collaboration on committee work.

The committee is looking to formally expand its mission to include current military members and their families and changing the committee’s name to reflect the mission.

**Multicultural Committee-Ceceile**

Cecile reported on the committee’s work, including the update of the committee’s mission. The committee has provided input to the Education Conference Committee on topics related to multicultural issues/concerns.

The Board discussed collecting demographic data to have a better idea of who we are serving.

Ariel inquired about LGBTQ at the conference. This topic will be addressed but is still in the works.

**Reintegration Committee-Evelyne and Julie**

The committee described the spreadsheet of data it has been compiling, collected from various agencies, demonstrating the cost effectiveness of best practices. Once this information is compiled, the committee can share that information to be used for advocacy and op eds. The committee also pointed out that the COVID situation presents an opportunity to bring mental health issues to the forefront, since more people are recognizing it as a problem.

**Zero Suicide Committee-Judy and Lucille**

The Board discussed having this committee help to oversee the Helpline, and the Helpline Coordinator should be included in committee meetings.

Lucille described an initiative to create remembrance gardens for those who have died by suicide and how NAMI Putnam made it happen in that county. It was suggested that other groups could partner on this, both ones dedicated to suicide awareness (like AFSP) and others (like the boy scouts). The committee also agreed to pursue action around Survivor From Suicide Loss Day on November 21.

The Committee will meet soon to discuss the memorial garden project. Dhanu, Lynda and Ariel all wanted to be added to the list for notification of committee meetings.

**Youth Advisory-Pooja**

Pooja detailed the work of the group, including the survey form distributed to interested young adults. The group will begin meeting later this fall, and in the meantime the committee will work on outreach to young adults to attend the conference.

**Strategic Planning-Ariel and Wendy**

The committee aims to have the strategic plan finalized by the October meeting prior to the election.
The Board agreed to hold the next Board meeting on October 16 from 6 to 8 pm, and the meeting directly following the election is scheduled for Sunday, October 25 at noon, at which time the new Board will elect officers and set Board meetings for the 2021-2022 year.

**Government Affairs-Ariel**

Ariel briefed the Board on Matthew’s recent testimony addressing the recent withholds (and proposed cuts) to mental health services. The committee is planning a town hall at the end of September for the affiliates about advocacy items and effective ways to advocate. The committee has a new member, the executive director from NAMI Finger Lakes, who is also a town supervisor.

**President’s Report-Ariel**

The Audit Committee and Executive Committee both need to meet prior to the upcoming NAMI-NYS election.

Ariel thanked the Board for all their work during this difficult time.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Julie. Seconded by Ellen Approved. Voted for: All. Meeting adjourned at 12:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Gagne
Secretary