NAMI New York State, Inc (NAMI-NYS) provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives.

PRESENT:
Judy Watt (On phone; joined at 3:19 pm and left at 4:47 pm)
Sue Gagne (On phone, joined at 4:23 pm)
Margaret Bristol (on phone; joined at 4:18 pm)
Lucille Ettere
Evelyn Tropper
Dhanu Sannesy
Ann Canastr 
Ariel Coffman
Ellen Ritz
Mary Joe Muscolino
Pooja Mehta (On phone; joined at 4:09 pm)
Robert Laitman (On phone, joined around 6:12 pm)
Lynda Regan (excused absence)

OTHERS:
Wendy Burch (Executive Director)
Julie Neches (Visitor)
Jayette Lansbury (Visitor)

The meeting was called to order by Ariel at 3:08 pm. Introductions were made.

A motion was made to accept the minutes, as amended. This motion was made by Ann Canastr and seconded by Ellen R. The motion was approved.

Treasurer’s Report:

- Wendy B. gave the report in the absence of Lynda Regan.
- A total of $3000 is allotted for committee expenses.
- IT expenses were generated, and 2 older computers needed to be replaced; the older computers have been repurposed for in office use, for example, training, etc.
- The deadline for the NAMI National Conference has passed.
- Travel expenses over $450 requires the approval of the Finance Committee
- As per Wendy, an advance for flights can be requested if someone needs extra time to book a flight
- Discussion ensued as to the concern that it may be too early to book a flight based on individual concerns
- An updated copy of the Committee Expenditure form was shared
- As per Wendy, the goal of the Committee Expenditure form is to streamline the committee reports.
- Motion to accept the Committee Expenditure form as presented was made by Ellen R; the motion passed with no abstention.

Program Committee Report:

The report was presented by Ellen R.

- A person who desires to do regional training has to be recommended by their Affiliate leadership.
- NAMI National has set guidelines about Family to Family facilitators/teachers; ALL need to be retrained.
- Question was raised about what will happen with trainers in a rural versus more highly populated areas; quality assurance to be done in order to ascertain quality leaders/facilitators.
- Home Front training has been cancelled by National, concerns about the observable trend of the dropping of veteran's issue on a national level.
- In Our Own Voice facilitators are needed.
- A review of the quality of other facilitators are needed.
- Support Group facilitators are needed.
- An inquiry was made as to the location of trainers across the state; Wendy indicated that the office is working on a map to list trainers and facilitators across New York state. Ariel stated that it is important to account for all trainers and facilitators across New York state.
- Advisory calls are done with Ariel, Wendy and NAMI National on a routine basis if there is a need for additional inquiries about perspective individuals who desire to take on leadership roles, e.g. trainers, in the organization.
- Minimum for all Affiliates is to complete 2 Signature programs each year.
- Rob L reminded of the importance of identifying and ensuring the Membership in NAMI is verified.
- Wendy suggested that teachers/facilitators and presenters should be based on how an Affiliate is able to use them in order to enhance efficacy.

Policy and Procedure Committee Report:
The report was given by Ellen R.

- Confidentiality is a critical issue for Board of Directors especially Board Personnel and Staff related issues.
- Board Members are entitled to ALL information pertaining to the functioning of the Board and the organization as a whole.
- The Board President is charged with representing the will of the Board as a whole.
- As a rule, the governing body of the organization needs to ensure that confidentiality is not breached in and about Board and Staff discussion.
- Ariel C. reminded everyone that although Board, Staff and Affiliate relationships are important everyone must be careful NOT to violate confidentiality.
Nominating Committee Report:
This report was presented by Ann C.

- There was an identified need for a member to replace Riba Riba who resigned from the Board for the Nominating Committee.
- Motion made by Ariel C. to nominate Ceceile G to the Nominating Committee in order to replace Rina Riba; seconded by Dhanu S. Motion passed; no abstention
- Julie LeClair Neches whose references were reported to be vetted by Ann C was presented as a potential replacement for the vacancy on the Board as a result of Rina R resignation. Julie is said to be still interested in being on the NAMI NYS Board. Ann C recommended that Julie become a member of the NAMI NYS Board of Directors.
- Motion made by Evelyne T for Julie to replace Rina, who resigned as a member of the Board of Directors; seconded by Ellen. The motion passed unanimously.
- Julie accepted the post as a Member of the Board of Directors.
- November 2020 elections to the Board are all slated for 3-year terms
- This is the status of all perspective nominees at present: Pooja M, can run again; Julie LeClair Neches, can run again; Margaret Bristol, can run again; Lucile Ettere, can run again; Ariel Coffman, can run again; Sue Gagne, must take a gap year
- Pooja requested clarification on terms that she would be eligible for; an appropriate response was provided
- All Board members are encouraged to attend Board meetings
- Next Board Meeting is on Thursday, 5/14/2020; the OFF THE MASK event is on Friday, 5/15/2020
- Judy W is looking for members to join the Health and Wellness committee
- Rob L reminded Board Members that the alerts that he sends out are to be used at each Board Member’s discretion

Veteran’s Committee Report:
- Margaret Bristol is said to be the wife of a disabled veteran
- Home Front is tentatively scheduled for the end of March 2020
- Visions and goals for this year’s events are being explored
- Amy Hughes of Saratoga is an additional member of this committee
- There is a perspective participation from the Queens, NY veterans
- More inclusion of VA peers is being explored
- Stephanie McKeegan who is running for the Assembly in Westchester County is said to be an Advocate for veterans

Educational Conference Committee:
- Wendy B gave the report of this committee in the absence of Lynda Regan, Committee Chair.
- The conference committee is revamping the schedule for when individual committees can speak about their interest in the conference
- Board Members are encouraged to present ideas for individual sessions and for potential speakers
- Pooja made an inquiry on the potential development of a Youth Advisory committee; one of the goals of this committee would be to compile resources for younger kids to explore issues of mental illness

Strategic Plan Committee:

- Sue Gagne and Wendy B presented this committee report.
- The NAMI NYS survey has been completed; the deadline had been extended and the survey was sent out to all NAMI-NYS membership.
- Currently, the feedback from the membership is forthcoming.
- The survey results would be shared with the Board and the Membership once the survey is completed.

Group explored reasons why each Member is connected to the Mission Statement.

Ann C. shared extensively about the OFF THE MASK upcoming event; event to be held at Glenn Peter Jewelry. A link will be sent to each Board Member in order to volunteer as desired.

Membership Committee Report:

- This committee needs a Chairperson.
- Motion was made to have Ann C named as the Chair of the Membership committee; this motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Day is 3/3/2020; assignments and a plan of action for this event was shared by Wendy. A Housing Rally with NYAPRS is scheduled for 12 noon on 3/3/2020.

Personnel Committee Report:

- This committee report was presented by Mary Jo M.
- Had exit interview with Tina; Tina was reportedly looking to advance herself in the organization. Opportunities are limited due to the small size of the company.

MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:51 pm by Ellen R and seconded by Lucille E; motion carried.

- Rob. L made a motion for Wendy B to remain and Dhanu seconded that motion; Motion passed Wendy B remained in the Executive Session discussion.
- Executive Session ended at 7:10 pm after a motion was made to end the executive session by Ellen R. and seconded by Lucille; motion passed.

The NYS Counsel on Problem Gambling wants to partner with NAMI NYS affiliates to address the issue of problem gambling in their respective communities.

Reintegration Committee:

- The report was presented by Evelyn T, the committee chair.
• The goal is to create a data base of best practice for community integration of those who are suffering from Mental Illness
• Wendy and Ariel should be a part of this committee and they should be notified of dates and time of each Reintegration committee meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Ann C and seconded by Margaret B.; the motion carried; meeting adjourned.

Respectively Submitted by:

Ceceile Green