**Grand Rapids Area NAMI Board Meeting Minutes**

**April 8, 2024 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM**

1. Call to order by Board PresidentMarian Barcus at 5:35 p.m. In attendance: Marian Barcus, Jenny Wettersten, Mark Hager, Shane Troumbly, Dan Seward, Randal Yoder, Lynn Cochran

Absent: Craig Pierce, Jeff Carlson

1. Motion to approve minutes from last meeting made by Shane, second by Jenny. Motion carried.
2. Treasurer’s report by Mark Hager.
   1. Mark: balance approximately $29,000-$32,000. Youth Grant = $5,000. Have spent about half of youth grant. Balance to be retained and spent on youth initiatives. Mental health education fund up to $4,200+
   2. Marian motioned to approve financial report provided by Mark. Second by Jenny. Motion carried.
   3. First Call for Help looking for us to help finance a speaker/comedian, probable total cost = $30,000. Need more information. Discussed the cost and return on investment while still wanting to support FCFH.

**4.** Committee Reports

1. Education/Outreach- update provided by Marian & Shane. Meeting monthly.
   1. May 14th 12-1:30 Veterans mental health panel – theme is veterans’ mental health. Large panel assembled (7 panelists). To hold a panel planning meeting in April. Location: mall. Joint venture with KOOTASCA. We will provide pizza. Mark, Marian, Shane to run IT test. Expense to us will be primarily food.
2. Membership
   1. Mark reports ~ 39 members
   2. Discussed low membership numbers
   3. Board member vacancies: we have vacancies coming up on 7/24. Dan to not re-up. Kaytee to not join our board at this time. Jeff to not re-up. Thus, we have two immediate openings and two more after 7/24. Jenny’s term expires 7/25. We need to continue efforts at recruitment.

**5.** Old Business

a. Family Support Group update. Some interest in a remote/zoom group, however, will stay at in-person for the time being.

b. EmPath unit update from Lynn. Have a scheduled date to meet: April 15, 3:30 pm, with Essentia. Marian updated on some of her conversations with GICH. Lynn to continue to explore options due to GICH declining to follow through in developing an EmPath unit.

c. Youth Grant Update, Lynn updated. “Say it out loud,” and “college survival toolkit guide” brought to the Itasca campus and a K-12 school. Spent approximately half the grant money. Lynn submitted final report on March 22. On-line campaign on the college guide to run through April 10th. Stats forthcoming. Consider TikTok for future endeavors. Balance of $ retained, to be used for youth programs promoting mental health, lowering suicide rates, etc. Marian to talk to Teresa Alto who is coordinating a mental health wellness day on the Itasca campus in September regarding how NAMI could support/contribute.

d. NAMI walks – NAMI MN meeting Friday 12th, 12:30-1 regarding holding in Grand Rapids.

e. National Convention in Denver in June. Lynn to attend. Estimated expenses ~ $1,500. Motion to approve all relevant expenses made by Marion. Second by Jenny. Motion carried.

**6**. New Business

a. Scholarship for Itasca Psychology/Human Services student candidate ($2,000). Per Charlie Black, the scholarship is in the regular scholarship rotation, unless we discontinue it. Per Mindy Nehring at the GRCF, may be grants available we could pursue to add to this scholarship.

b. NAMI National bylaw changes will affect local chapters. NAMI National want to move away from membership fees, rely on donations. Marian to talk to Sue Abderholden. Board discussed pros/cons, anticipated consequences (including voting). Generally, our board supports ongoing membership.

**7**. Marian adjourned the meeting at 7:1 0 p.m.

***NEXT MEETING: June 10, 2024 5:30 PM via Zoom***

*Recorded by: Jenny Wettersten*