



Los Angeles County Council

September 3, 2014

Mr. Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, M.D., Ph.D., President
NAMI California
1851 Heritage Lane, Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95815

Ms. Jessica Cruz, Executive Director
NAMI California
1851 Heritage Lane, Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95815

Dear Sergio and Jessica,

The twelve affiliates that comprise NAMI LACC are writing to share some concerns over the voting process at the NAMI California Convention for the Board of Directors.

We ask that NAMI California be transparent about whether a quorum in the vote for the state Board of Directors was reached, and whether an appointment was made. We would have welcomed some praise and thanks toward those who ran and an explanation of why the appointment was made. What bothers NAMI LACC is that the rules for the state election process are not clear to anyone but the state Board of Directors and the lack of transparency is disconcerting. If a quorum was not reached, NAMI California should review its procedures about who is allowed to vote as several LA area members were locked out of the voting process.

We fear that without bringing this issue to your attention, the election process will continue to reflect the wishes of the sitting board rather than the wishes of the affiliates, and that the board will continue to appoint the candidate of their choice instead of the grassroots selection. NAMI California will be worse off if it continues to favor VIP appointments over the family member or consumer perspective on the state board, which board candidate Jim Randall from San Fernando Valley affiliate so well represents.

We in Los Angeles know that Jim Randall received substantial support from our community and around the state. His qualifications and strong support make him an excellent candidate for the next appointment, should a seat become available.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney Weissman".

Brittney Weissman
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Conrad".

Joe Conrad
President