

NAMI CONSUMER CONFERENCE CALL

March 7, 2007

Present: Mark Arneson, President, Louise Stapert, Secretary, Anita Lowrie, Meredith Clark, Lois Knoke, Jim Simbeck, Tina Manning, State.

#2. An addition to the agenda was added and approved. Jim Simbeck reported on Cnectd, (correct spelling).

#3. The minutes of the February were approved. There had been some additions and changes after the meeting.

#4. The website is slow in developing. There is a NAMI Consumer page on the South Dakota NAMI website. Phyllis and Mark edited the minutes of February and posted information about the upcoming NAMI walk. They thought the rest of the minutes needed to be approved before posting. The point of timely dissemination of information was brought up. Tina asked about posting the upcoming agenda on the NAMI Consumer page. It was also suggested that information on how to participate on the call be posted.

A question was raised as to why more board members were participating. Many are working during the time the conference call is held.

#5. Mark encouraged consumers to walk in the annual NAMI Walk coming up. This supports the conference, it pays the stipends for In Our Own Voice, supports Family to Family and the Lending Library. Mark has a sample of a successful fundraising letter he found at nami.org/nami.walks. (I found the letter by typing letter sample in find box.) He said it was easier to send a letter than make a telephone or direct appeal.

This fundraising is especially important as NAMI has lost \$50,000 in funding from the state of South Dakota.

#6. Executive committee will plan for Consumer Council at large. Members are Kim Shorers, Bill Schroll and Rhonda Palm. Executive committee will try communicating by e-mail to work on goals.

#7. A discussion of things or actions have helped you in recovery was held. Anita said that being more forceful for herself has helped her. Mark said he has always been assertive in mental health care for himself. NAMI Faithnet was also mentioned.

#8. Jim Simbeck reported on the bulletin board posting page. There are 29 members from all over the country and some other countries involved. The address is <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/CNECTD>.

Jim said he had been invited to participate in the National Empowerment Center Conference call. (This is run by Dr. Danial Fisher. <http://www.power2u.org/>) He will report on it next month.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Stapert

