

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

This year's Nominating Committee was composed of Don Smith, Chair, Leslie El-Sayad, Marta Hernandez, Melinda Hardin, Brenda Stacey-Scott, Judi Evans, Jeff Fladen, and Sylvia Phillips.

The Nominating Committee of the Board makes the following recommendations for the 2018-2019 Board.

Slate of Nominees to the Board (All terms 2018-2021):

- VP West:** Niki Shaheen (Incumbent after being appointed to position vacated by the death of Ann Cardoso. Nominated for first elected term)
- West Rep:** Dianne Young (Incumbent, Running for a second term)
- Middle Rep:** Amber McDonald (Incumbent, Running for a second term)
- East Rep:** Donna Maddox (Running for first term)

About the Candidates:

Niki Shaheen: VP West

Niki is President and Founder of J. C. Runyon Foundation, a nonprofit that provides collegiate scholarships to students affected by behavioral health disorders. Her talents include fundraising and advocacy for persons and families challenged by mental illness.

She and her husband, Jim, live in Germantown. They have 3 sons and are about to welcome their 2nd daughter-in-law into the family in May.

Her Education includes a BS in Early Childhood Development and Education - Murray State University, Gifted Education Certification - Western Kentucky University. MS Leadership and Policy Studies - University of Memphis. **Work Experience includes**, St. Ann Catholic School - Nashville, TN, Todd County Schools - (County Gifted Education Coordinator) Elkton, KY, Glynn County Schools - Brunswick, GA, Chatham County Schools - Savannah, GA, Shelby County Schools - Memphis, TN, **Professional Awards**• 1992 Kentucky New Teacher of the Year • 2009 SCS Teacher Leader of the Year **Board Experience**•Secretary Collierville Education Foundation, Secretary of the Vestry Church of the Redeemer, Current - President/Board Chair JC Runyon Foundation, NAMI TN - West TN Representative, Secretary, (Current) Vice President West TN.

Dianne Young: West Representative

Dianne is one of the most dynamic and prolific preachers and Bible teachers in the Mid-South. She is a widely sought conference speaker and celebrated author; she has touched the lives of thousands all over the country with her spirited and audacious style of preaching. Dianne serves as Pastor of The Healing Center Full Gospel Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee, since 1986, where she is proficient in organizing, counseling, unifying and networking. Pastor Young attended the University of Memphis and Carolina University of Theology receiving her BA. She received an honorary doctorate from St. Thomas Christian College in Jacksonville, Florida. She is also a Certified Wellness Coach.

In 2003, the Pastor Young and her husband, Dr. William M. Young, co-hosted the inaugural National Suicide and the Black Church Conference. Since that time, Pastor Young has coordinated four National Conferences raising awareness nation-wide of the increasing number of African Americans now making suicide an option. The conference they started has continued to grow each year and now hosts approximately 350 attendees from across the country, including powerful speakers.

Pastor Young is the author of two books: "Courage To Rise and Be Healed" and "Strength For The Journey." She is the Program Coordinator for the faith-based HUGS (Help Us Grow Successfully) Program, and Project Director for the EMOTIONAL FITNESS CENTERS OF TENNESSEE.

Pastor Young was appointed to the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Planning and Policy Council, July, 2012 - July, 2015 by Commissioner Douglas Varney.

Amber McDonald: Middle Representative

Amber is the Director of Government and External Affairs for the Tennessee Emergency Communications Board where she is responsible for the Board's legislative, media, public relations, legislative analysis and outreach projects. Before joining state government, she oversaw the production of STEM educational outreach videos for Vanderbilt University and also worked as a reporter for Fox News' two-time Emmy award winning morning show, Tennessee Mornings. Most recently, she has moved to network television where she is a guest host for the largest television shopping network in the world, QVC.

Before joining the team at Fox, she spent 10 years as a news and entertainment reporter, covering the Nashville fashion scene and the Country Music Association's CMA MusicFest in addition to working for Scripps Network (DIY Network, Food Network, Shop at Home Television). In 2011, she hosted the LIVE telecast of the 2011 Governor's Inauguration ceremonies. She also developed the curriculum and was an instructor for the Connecticut School of Broadcasting.

Amber's experience includes having appeared in several national television commercials and TV shows, films and music videos. She has also served as a member of the American Women in Radio and Television Association. In 2008, she was named one of Nashville's Top "25 Most Beautiful People" by Nashville Lifestyles Magazine, voted Nashville Scene's "2011 Best Of Nashville" and a scholarship winner in the prestigious Miss America Pageant.

Amber received her Bachelor of Arts from California University and has received additional training through Point Park College and Vanderbilt University. In her spare time she devotes much of her efforts to charity assisting such organizations such as NAMI and animal welfare organizations. In addition, she serves on the Board of Directors for the Brain Injury Association of Tennessee. In January of 2013, Amber's mother was hit by a drunk driver and suffered a traumatic brain injury. Spending time with her Mother, family and two fat cats, Talbot Lou and Simba Kitty are her favorite past time.

Donna Maddox: East Representative

I am a native South Carolinian who moved to Tennessee with my husband Roy 39 years ago when he accepted a position at a law firm in Chattanooga. I earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Sociology at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia and later obtained 30 hours in Accounting at Columbus College. My interest in studying in the social services field stemmed from a desire to help others, an example set by my parents.

My first social work was in Macon as a Case Worker for the City in a HUD project which relocated 350 impoverished families and individuals. After moving to Chattanooga, I served as a volunteer at Johnson Mental Health Center (JMHC). My work on the Advisory Board introduced me to group home residents who were diagnosed with chronic and persistent mental illnesses. Later I was elected to the Board of Directors on which I served two terms, culminating in serving as Board Chairperson for two years. After rotating off the Board, I became a JMHC employee serving as Marketing Director. In that role I assisted the CEO and Board in the formation of Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System (VBHCS). In my 22 years of employment with JMHC/VBHCS, I served as Director of Care Management and in the last 12 years as Center Director of JMHC which put me in direct contact with consumers, family members and our community on a daily basis. In September 2016, I retired from that position. I continue on a part-time basis with VBHCS as their Director of Special Projects focusing on legislative and community endeavors.

My passion for trying to help better the lives of those who deal with mental illness, particularly those diagnosed with significant and persistent illnesses, led to being appointed to the Boards of Directors/Trustees of the Chattanooga Homeless Health Clinic, AIM Center, Inc., and Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute (now beginning a new 2nd rotation on this Board). I served as the Co-Chair of Chattanooga City Mayor Berke's Taskforce to End Veterans Homelessness and today serve as Co-Chair of the Chattanooga Interagency Council on Homelessness. In 2009 I worked with Hamilton County and City governments, the Sheriff's Office and Chattanooga Police Department to bring CIT to this area. I then served as a CIT trainer for eight years. With three other community members, I helped to form the Community Transformation Reentry Alliance which has brought together over 150 people to work on reentry issues focused on those with mental illness who are incarcerated or at-risk to return to incarceration. I am a member of a Mental Health Awareness group who advocates for awareness in our community.

Together Roy and I volunteer our time with Family Promise and are active members at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Episcopal. We are blessed to have two children who allow us to be active parts of their lives also! Recreationally, I enjoy walks, hikes, reading and cooking. It is an honor to be nominated to the NAMI State Board.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

Since the last member meeting, the Executive Committee reports the following changes and appointments to the Board of Directors.

The Executive Committee has appointed Ron Morton to fill the East TN Regional Representative position vacated when Jan Cagle moved to the Secretary position of the Executive Committee.

With full approval of the Board, President Sylvia Phillips, has appointed Allen Bartels and reappointed Katie Adkisson as At Large Representatives for the professional expertise they bring to NAMI. Both appointments will end in conjunction with Sylvia's term as president (2017-2020).

Completing Term

The Board wishes to acknowledge the invaluable service of Leslie El-Sayad as she completes her one year term as Past President. Leslie began her service to the NAMI Tennessee Board when elected as East Vice President in 2008 and has served faithfully for the last 10 years.

Appointed to the Board:

Ron Morton: Filling East Regional Representative Position (Term 2016-2019) Manager of Recovery and Resiliency BlueCare and TennCare Select of Tennessee

Ron Morton has been working in the areas of substance abuse and mental health since 1984, having earned 2 Masters Degrees in Clinical Psychology and achieved candidacy for a Ph.D. at California School of Professional Psychology. He is currently the Manager of Recovery and Resiliency for BlueCare and TennCare Select of Tennessee and provides behavioral health services for the TennCare population. As a part of his work, Ron is heavily involved in advocating for and doing outreach into very rural communities in the mountains of Tennessee. Ron has worked in locked and unlocked facilities providing mental health services and understands very well the need for Mental Health First Aid.

Mr. Morton has been teaching *Mental Health First Aid* since 2009 and, as a result, has been involved in improving mental health in Faith Based organizations, and Veterans' Communities throughout Tennessee.

An advocate for many causes during his career, he currently advocates for the mentally ill in Tennessee and throughout the country. He continues to advocate as past member of the board of directors for the national board for the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

A proud member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, he also enjoys Creek and Choctaw lineage. Mr. Morton worked for the San Diego American Indian Health Center for 10 years and was the President of the National Council of Urban Indian Health. During that time Ron advocated across the country and in Washington D.C. for increased funding for urban Indian Health programs. Mr. Morton developed the first Substance Abuse Treatment Program for Native Americans in the urban Center of San Diego as well as the first Native American Mental Health Needs assessment in San Diego County.

Ron is married and has two grown children and four grandchildren. He lives in East Tennessee on a small farm south of Knoxville where he and his wife Cyndy rescue and foster Greyhounds, Great Pyrs; Bassett

Hounds; and several litters of unwanted puppies each year. They have 9 dogs of their own including Greyhounds; Bassett Hounds; a Beagle and 2 Great Pyrenees.

Ron is a Veteran of the Vietnam War and served on the fight deck of the USS Ticonderoga in the Gulf of Tonkin during the Haiphong Harbor Blockade

Ron's wife Cyndy is a writer and retired Navy Commander who works from home and has recently passed the Tennessee State Bar. She is well known for her dog rescue work in East Tennessee and has a nonprofit called At Risk Intervention. Cyndy writes fiction, primarily techno thrillers and fantasy books about dogs.

Katie Adkisson: Filling At-Large Representative Position (Term 2017-2020)

Katie is a partner at Reed Public Relations, a boutique public relations firm based in Nashville, Tennessee. Katie oversees business development and several clients at the firm including some behavioral healthcare based clients like Insight Counseling Centers. Katie has been working with NAMI Tennessee for over 2 years. She first partnered with NAMI in 2016 for Mental Health Awareness Month and assisted with NAMI's campaign this year. She has also secured media coverage in the last year for NAMI during Mental Health Awareness month and against the recent Senate and House votes to repeal Affordable Care Act.

Allen Bartels: Filling At-Large Representative Position (Term 2017-2020)

Allen Bartels was born and raised in Nebraska, where he graduated from the Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, received his BSN from Midland Lutheran College and his MHA from Bellevue University. He has worked in both the State and Private Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Treatment systems as an RN and in Administrative leadership for more than 30 years. Prior to relocating to Nashville, he served as the Vice President of Clinical Services at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital in Hastings, Nebraska, where he worked for close to 24 years. He also served as the Chairperson of the State Advisory Committee for Mental Health for the State of Nebraska from July 2004 to July 2006. Since 2011 he has served as the Chief Operating Officer for the Parthenon Pavilion at Centennial Medical Center in Nashville, TN. In addition to overseeing Nashville's largest and oldest inpatient psychiatric facility, he is involved with several different organizations and heads up Centennials efforts regarding the Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Allen has been married for 40 years and has 4 children.

Marta Hernandez: Filling West Tennessee Representative (Term 2016-2019)

Marta Hernandez moved from Puerto Rico to the State of New Jersey at the age of 12 years old. She studied Technical Office Skills at Union County College in Cranford, New Jersey. Marta started working as a Peer Support Specialist in 2005 for the Mental Health Association in New Jersey. While she was managing Esperanza Self Help Center who was under the umbrella of the Mental Health

Association in New Jersey she got involved in the Consumer Public Policy Committee which represents thousands of consumers in the State of New Jersey and spoke against BILL NO. 2760 best known as IOC (that Establishes involuntary outpatient commitment to treatment for persons in need of involuntary commitment) at the Committee Meeting of SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE in Trenton, NJ. In the year 2013, Marta made the decision of moving to Memphis, TN. She started working for Alliance Healthcare Services as a Peer Support Specialist in one of their Group Home Facilities on March 2014. She was offered a career change in August of that same year and has been supervising Turning Point Peer Support Center. She has helped a great number of members at Turning Point Peer Support Center and outside of her work environment to accomplish many of their recovery goals through training WRAP, and other programs. Her interest for the mental wellbeing of her fellow peers has encouraged her to continue the fight against STIGMA not only in the community but also in Faith Congregations and now is working on teaching Faith Communities how to care for people with mental health conditions and how to say no to STIGMA.