

**NAMI Shoreline  
By-Laws  
2015**

**I. General**

1. The name of this organization shall be NAMI Shoreline.
2. NAMI Shoreline, hereafter called “the Affiliate”, is formed and shall operate as an affiliate under the Bylaws of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, a non-profit corporation.
3. The organization of the Affiliate and the conduct of its affairs by its members and officers shall be governed (a) by the applicable provisions of the Bylaws of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, (b) by the Bylaws of its State organization, the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Connecticut, and by the bylaws herein set forth.
4. In the event of a conflict between the sets of bylaws named above, the earlier mentioned bylaws will prevail.
5. The latest approved set of Bylaws of the Affiliate will supersede all previous versions of the Bylaws.

**II. Mission**

1. Provide support, education and advocacy for people with mental illness and their families, friends, and significant others.
2. Promote better quality of care, rights and interests of people with mental illness, particularly of those who cannot speak for themselves, and to advocate policies at the local, state and national levels to accomplish these objectives.

**III. Membership**

1. Membership is composed primarily of people with mental illness, their families, friends, mental health providers and/or allied professionals, and concerned members of the general public.
2. Members who demonstrate a continuing interest in the Affiliate, as exhibited by attendance of four meetings of the Affiliate, are eligible to vote in person on all motions considered at general membership meetings.
3. The organization shall be independent of other agencies and advocacy groups not affiliated with NAMI.

**IV. Dues**

1. Affiliate members pay dues yearly to NAMI CT as established by the Board of Directors.
2. The affiliate Board of Directors may waive or reduce dues for individual members at their discretion.

**V. Membership Meetings**

1. Regular meetings of the membership will normally be held once a month. Summer months may be exempted.
2. An Annual Meeting will be held for the election of officers.
3. Special meetings of the members may be called by the President, the Board of Directors or on request of five or more members.

**VI. Fiscal Year**

1. The fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30.

**VII. Board of Directors.**

1. The Board of Directors will have no more than 15 members, or less than 8, including the elected officers—president, vice president, treasurer and secretary
2. Directors must be members of the Affiliate and will be elected by the membership at each annual meeting as required, according to the article entitled “Elections” below.

**VIII. Terms of Office**

1. The directors’ regular term of office is three years.
2. The officers’ regular term of office is two years, continuing until the election of their successors.
3. The immediate past president serves as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.
4. After giving reasonable notice to the director or officer involved, the Board of Directors may replace any director or officer who has failed to attend three consecutive board meetings. And declare the office vacant.
5. The board may appoint temporary replacements to fill vacant elective positions until the next annual meeting.
6. Officers and directors are limited to two consecutive terms. An officer relinquishing his/her position is entitled to remain on the board for the remainder of their director term.
7. Terms of directors may be staggered so that one third of the board members is elected every year for three-year terms. The initial board members may be placed in three classes A, B & C for one, two and three years each for staggering purposes.

**IX. Duties of Officers**

1. The president presides at all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors. The president appoints chairpersons for all committees except the Nominating Committee, with the approval of the Board, and supervises their work. The President acts as the affiliate's executive officer and, in general, performs the duties usually associated with the office of president.
2. The vice president succeeds the president in case of a vacancy in that office and performs the duties of the president in his absence or due to disability. The vice president undertakes other responsibilities assigned by the president.
3. The secretary handles correspondence for the affiliate and records minutes of all meetings of the membership and the Executive Board.
4. The treasurer receives and disburses all the affiliate's funds and maintains a complete and accurate account of all funds received and disbursed. The treasurer provides members with periodic reports including an annual financial report listing all receipts and disbursements by budget category after the close of the fiscal year.

#### **X. Authorization to Spend Affiliate Funds**

1. The treasurer is authorized to pay as much as \$100 in any given month for any valid office expenses, with the approval of one other officer. All other disbursements of funds must be approved in advance by either the Board of Directors or the membership.

#### **XI. Elections**

1. The President will appoint a three-member Nominating Committee in sufficient time to allow the committee to prepare a slate of candidates for election as Directors and Officers at the annual meeting.
2. Nominating Committee will secure the consent of the nominees to serve if elected, prior to including them on the slate.
3. The slate will be distributed to the members at least 21 days prior to the annual meeting. Additional nominations may be made in writing by signature of at least three members up to 7 days prior to the annual meeting.

#### **XII. Standing Committees**

1. The Board of Directors may create standing committees (Membership, Programs, Education, etc.) and special committees as needed.
2. In the event no committee is formed for an function, the Board of Directors will serve the functions of that committee

#### **XIII. NAMI Name and Logo**

1. This Organization acknowledges that NAMI controls the use of the name, acronym and logo of NAMI and AMI, that their uses by this corporation shall be in accordance with NAMI policy.

2. Upon termination of affiliation with or charter by NAMI, the uses of these names, acronyms and logo by this Affiliate member shall cease.

**XIV. Non-Discrimination**

1. This Organization shall not discriminate against any person or group of persons on the basis of race, disability, creed, gender, religion, sexual orientation or age in the requirements for membership, its policies, or actions.

**XV. Parliamentary Authority**

1. A current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the conduct of business in all cases in which they are applicable and not in conflict with the bylaws.

**XVI. Amendments**

1. Any proposed amendment to the affiliate bylaws is to be presented in writing to the entire general membership at least 21 days before the meeting at which it is to be voted on.
2. Ratification of the amendment requires a favorable vote by at least two-thirds of the members in good standing present at the meeting.