

NAMI Maryland Board of Directors

CANDIDATE PROFILE

Name: Sarah Crimmins

County/City of Residence: Harford

Affiliate: Harford

1. Are you an individual with a mental illness or family member of an individual with a mental illness? Yes X No

Describe: I am an individual with a mental health condition.

2. Educational Background: I have a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood/Elementary Education.
3. Work History/Professional Background: I was an elementary school teacher for six years and an administrative assistant for a construction trade organization for one and a half years.
4. Discuss your connection to NAMI's issues and mission: My connection to NAMI issues and mission are very personal. As an individual living with mental illness, it is very important for me to educate others about what it's like to live with a mental illness so I can help them learn how to communicate with those who are ill. It's also important to listen to those who suffer and those who are caregiver,s because we can learn from them as well. Finally, I advocate for better treatment for better medications and for services for those who suffer with mental illness.
5. What is your experience with NAMI programs and services, either as a participant or instructor? As a NAMI member, I am an In Our Own Voice Presenter and State Trainer, and I tell my story to college students, first responders and others when invited. I run the NAMI Connection support group for Harford County and am a NAMI Connection State Trainer. I have done trainings both in and out of state for NAMI Connection. I am also a Peer to Peer Facilitator and ran a Peer to Peer class with a co-facilitator last year.
6. Why are you interested in joining the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors? I am interested in joining the Board of Directors because I believe it is the next step for me in getting involved with NAMI. I am already involved in several programs, and I want to become more involved in public policy, fundraising and in making NAMI a household name. I love being involved in NAMI, and I want to encourage others to become involved in NAMI. I believe that as a consumer on the Board, I could bring a unique perspective to the Board and I also want to help my chapter in Harford County grow and flourish. I want to be part of sharing ideas on how to make NAMI grow, on fundraising ideas on advocacy, and be an active member in every sense of the word.

7. **What skills/expertise/knowledge can you offer to the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors:** I am an excellent public speaker who is not afraid to go in front of a variety of audiences to share my own story or to share about NAMI and its mission. I am willing to testify before Congress if given the opportunity. I am eager to get involved with planning, which as a teacher I have experience doing. I am familiar with technology and social media and would use this to help get NAMI's message across. I used to write newsletters as an administrative assistant and, after brushing up on some skills, would be able to do that. I am full of ideas, and would like to bring those ideas to the table regarding fundraising and other tasks. I am a diligent worker, and I take my time so things are done correctly.
8. **Describe your involvement with any other community/volunteer organizations or Boards:** I currently volunteer at Upper Chesapeake Medical Center at the Coffee Kiosk, and I volunteer during the school year for the EDGE program, a program for middle school youth, teaching them religious values and educating them on religious virtues.
9. **What additional information would you like voters to know about you?** NAMI has literally been a lifesaving organization to me. Before NAMI, I felt like my mental illness was a punishment to me and it meant that I had no value and was unable to accomplish anything. Now that I have a place to use my gifts and talents and to share my story and teach others to share their story, I believe my life has purpose and meaning. I may not be the most experienced candidate on the ballot, but I am one of the most dedicated and I believe in NAMI and what it can do for individuals with mental illness.

NAMI Maryland Board of Directors
Candidate Profile

Name: Rosamond Dove County/City of Residence: Anne Arundel County/Annapolis

Affiliate: NAMI Anne Arundel County

1. Are you an individual with a mental illness or a family member of an individual with a mental illness? Yes No

Describe: My daughter has a mental illness.

2. Educational Background: College

3. Work History/Professional Background: I was formerly a veterinary technician. Currently, I am a personal trainer and a corrective exercise specialist.

4. Discuss your connection to NAMI's issues and mission: I am anti-stigma and passionate about spreading the word of NAMI and how we can make families feel better while living with mental illness.

5. What is your experience with NAMI programs and services, either as a participant or instructor? I am a Family to Family teacher and support group leader. I have answered the NAMI Anne Arundel County Warmline for seven years. I am a past president of NAMI Anne Arundel County and have served 3 years on the Board of NAMI Maryland.

6. Why are you interested in joining the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors? I find the NAMI Maryland State Board to be a well-functioning group that promotes the mission of NAMI.

7. What skills/expertise/knowledge can you offer to the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors? I am a good people person. I am effective in bringing clarity to certain situations.

8. Describe your involvement with any other community/volunteer organizations or Boards: I am involved with my church, homeless relief, and my riding club.

9. What additional information would you like voters to know about you? I am honored to be asked to be on the NAMI Maryland State Board for a second term.

NAMI Maryland Board of Directors

CANDIDATE PROFILE

Name: **Denise Evans** County/City of Residence: **Montgomery/Chevy Chase**

Affiliate: **NAMI Montgomery County**

- 1. Are you a person with a mental illness or a family member of an individual with a mental illness?** Yes No
Describe: Family member of two loved ones with mental illness (depression, bipolar, anxiety)
- 2. Educational Background:** ScB Applied Mathematics & Economics, Brown University and MBA, Stanford Graduate School of Business
- 3. Work History/Professional Background:** IBM Corporation, 39+ years of leadership and executive positions primarily in sales and marketing, both U.S. and globally. Served as IBM Maryland Senior Location Executive in the 1990s.
- 4. Discuss your connection to NAMI's issues and mission:** Member - NAMI Montgomery County, Advocacy for NAMI membership and programs, education as F2F Teacher, vocal on challenges of navigating mental health services and systems for loved ones, especially when in crisis.
- 5. What is your experience with NAMI programs and services, either as a participant or instructor?**
Participant, F2F (Don & Tina Slater were co-teachers) 2004
F2F Co-Teacher October 2016 w/Julie Tillery
- 6. Why are you interested in joining the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors?** Participating in F2F Course in 2004, so positively impacted my ability to understand and support my family members with mental illness, I've been a huge supporter of NAMI ever since. In 2010, I brought a team of skilled IBM volunteer resources to NAMI Montgomery County to lead development of a communications strategy and plan including outreach to the Hispanic and Asian communities. I have supported the NAMI Heroes Gala Dinners materially and financially. Having participated in the NAMI F2F Teacher Training gave me a new level of appreciation for the talents and resources of NAMI MD. I've also supported NAMI Maryland's "In Our OwnVoice" program and always recommend NAMI to other family members whenever I'm aware of their need. I want to assist NAMI MD Board in their mission with my skills and experiences below.
- 7. What skills/expertise/knowledge can you offer to the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors?** Business acumen, corporate executive leadership, extensive non-profit Board experience (including as Treasurer), strategy & marketing, communications, including frequent public speaking in the US and globally, building new organizational capabilities, and cultural intelligence.

8. Describe your involvement with any other community/volunteer organizations or Boards:

Currently serving on the following boards: The Galt Foundation, The Women's Presidents Organization, Enterprising Women Magazine, The Global Summit of Women, Expert Community for Catalyst, Inc. and the for profit board of The S.O.L.V.E. Group.

9. What additional information would you like voters to know about you? *I'm a committed and*

dedicated member of all boards on which I serve and intend to give my all to the NAMI Maryland board should my nomination be confirmed. I've previously served on the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce board and have experience with the Montgomery County Public Schools system. I'm a native of Washington, DC and Maryland and attended public schools.

NAMI Maryland Board of Directors

Candidate Profile

Name: Frank C. Fillmore, Jr. County/City of Residence: Baltimore County

Affiliate: NAMI Metro Baltimore

1. Are you an individual with a mental illness or a family member of an individual with a mental illness? Yes No

Describe: My son Nathaniel was diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder after a psychotic break 9 years ago. Nathaniel, now 30 years old, was a college student and budding musician.

2. **Educational Background:** BA English (1978); MS Business (1985) the University of Baltimore
3. **Work History/Professional Background:** For the past 30 years I have run The Fillmore Group (TFG), an Information Technology consulting firm based in Towson, MD. Current clients include the IRS, BNY/Mellon Pershing, State Street, T. Rowe Price, and the IRS. TFG is a Premier IBM Business Partner.
4. **Discuss your connection to NAMI's issues and mission:** For the past two years I have served as a member of the board of directors of NAMI MD. I have been chair of the Re-Affiliation Committee and currently serve on the Finance and Audit Committee.
5. **What is your experience with NAMI programs and services, either as a participant or instructor?** I first learned about NAMI as a participant, with my wife Kim, in the Family-to-Family training delivered by NAMI Metro Baltimore in 2009.
6. **Why are you interested in joining the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors?** The past two years have been a steep learning curve for me. I think I understand enough about NAMI and its idiosyncratic way of doing business in order to make a real contribution now.
7. **What skills/expertise/knowledge can you offer to the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors?** I believe that running a business for 30 years and working in all areas of sales, marketing, finance, administration, and professional services delivery will enable me to help direct NAMI Maryland, a small not-for-profit business.
8. **Describe your involvement with any other community/volunteer organizations or Boards:** I also serve on the board of directors of Concert Artists of Baltimore (www.cabmusic.org), a small local choral and orchestral musical group.
9. **What additional information would you like voters to know about you?** In my spare time – of which there is little – I enjoy good food and fine wine, cheer for the Baltimore Orioles, and kayak.

NAMI Maryland Board of Directors

Candidate Profile

Name: Ton Gardeniers

County/City of Residence: Anne Arundel/Harwood

Affiliate: Anne Arundel

1. Are you an individual or a family member of an individual with a mental illness?

Yes No

Describe: Both my sons Lucas and Jacob have an auto immune disorder with Mental Illness symptoms (Anxiety; OCD; ADHD). My oldest daughter Caitlin (1986) had Borderline Personality Disorder and passed in 2012; my youngest daughter Eva suffers from PTSD and depression, and an auto immune disorder with Mental Illness symptoms (Anxiety; OCD; ADHD). I myself was diagnosed with ADD 2 years ago. There is also Schizophrenia and other mental illness in my wife's family.

2. **Educational Background:** Law degree (Leiden University); Master of Arts International Affairs (Johns Hopkins" School of Advanced International Studies).
3. **Work History/Professional Background:** Retired from the financial sector; was based in New York and Amsterdam. International banking (Capital Markets and Healthcare). Supervisory Board member of Julius Clinical, an Academic Clinical Research Organization.
4. **Discuss your connection to NAMI's issues and mission:** I want to give back because I know firsthand how devastating mental illness can be, and have seen how much NAMI can help. I have been on the NAMI Maryland Finance Committee and a Board member for, respectively, 4 and 3 years.
5. **What is your experience with NAMI programs and services, either as a participant or instructor?** Not directly due to situation at home, but intending to take part in one of the programs.
6. **Why are you interested in joining the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors?** I hope to be able to continue to help the organization in the financial, audit, fundraising and strategic areas. I am passionate about giving NAMI Maryland as much support and opportunity as possible to do what it is so excellent at.
7. **What skills/expertise/knowledge can you offer to the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors?** Organization and financial management; corporate business; accounting; banking; investments; fundraising; law; non-profit governance and management ; healthcare; insurance; strategy.

- 8. Describe your involvement with any other community/volunteer organizations or Boards:** Supervisory Board member of Julius Clinical (JC), an Academic Clinical Research Organization. I was just elected to the Board of the Netherlands America Foundation (NAF); Advisory Board of African Medical & Research Foundation. I recently resigned from the Board of trustees of the Maryland University of Integrative Health in order to be able to continue to dedicate significant time to NAMI, the NAF and JC.
- 9. What additional information would you like voters to know about you?** Born and raised in The Netherlands. Lived/worked 50% of adult life in the US. Returned to the US (Maryland) in 2009. Devoted to NAMI Maryland!

NAMI Maryland Board of Directors
CANDIDATE PROFILE

Name: Kumar Jayasuriya County/City of Residence: Montgomery County Silver Spring

Affiliate: Montgomery County

1. **Are you an individual with mental illness or a family member of an individual with a mental illness? Yes**
Describe: Several members of my family and my wife's family suffer from depression and bipolar disorders. I am currently managing my own bipolar disorder. Based upon the family history of both my family and my wife's, I am concerned that my son is at risk of adult-onset of bipolar symptoms.

2. **Educational Background:** Law Degree and a Masters of Information Science

3. **Work History/Professional Background:** I am currently an attorney within the law firm of Baker Donelson. My focus is the management and design of internal data management systems. For example, I'm working on projects to allow the firm to more accurately budget time and resources for each client engagement. In previous positions I have practiced law, taught legal research and writing, built databases, and designed websites. In my work with another non-profit organizations, I lead a social media based communication team.

4. **Discuss your connection to NAMI's issues and mission:** I joined NAMI Maryland after meeting Kate Farinholt. She recruited me to work on the re-affiliation committee, devoted to evaluating the affiliation status of all NAMI Maryland local affiliates. Since working with NAMI, I have referred friends to NAMI services. Each time the friend has returned with statements such as:

"Your link couldn't have been more helpful. I just called and talked with a counselor from XXXX in XXXX county. She was great."

"I spoke with XXX on the 24 hour crisis line. She was fantastic. We can call or go in and speak with a counselor 24/7.... It was a great call."

NAMI Maryland was there when my friends needed help the most. I would be honored to help NAMI Maryland continue this vital work..

5. **What is your experience with NAMI programs and services, either as a participant or instructor?** This is the first year that I'm personally taking advantage of services available through NAMI. During the recent NAMI Maryland Walk, I talked to representatives from the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance. I will be participating in the DBSA support groups.

6. **Why are you interested in joining the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors?** I am passionate about building support systems that people in my situation need. My family is like many throughout Maryland. We need help to manage the bipolar disorders in our parent's generation. We also need to build a strong support system that will be available to my son even after I can no longer help him. As a board member, I would work to build systems to provide hope to those suffering with mental illness.

7. **What skills/expertise/knowledge can you offer to the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors?** For the last 20 years, I have managed projects, budgets, and staff. I have also built and managed information systems, such as library catalogs and online repositories of data-sets. In addition, I have also practiced law and taught legal research and writing in several law schools.

8. **Describe your involvement with any other community/volunteer organizations or Boards**

Asian American Action Fund

Currently, I am on the Executive Board of the Asian American Action Fund (AAA-Fund). In addition, I am also serving as the co-chair of the AAA-Fund Communications Committee. In this position, I lead a social media team devoted to empowering progressive Asian-Americans to become politically active. I have also led a team to select a design company to re-design the AAA-Fund website. I am managing the redesign project.

Youth Empowerment Society

I am also a member of the executive board of the Youth Empowerment Society (YES), a Baltimore-based group devoted to supporting recently-homeless children. When I was a child, my parents moved across country regularly. Only as an adult did I realize that our extended road-trips masked the fact that we were living out of our car for several months at a time. I believe that we suffered this homelessness because of untreated bipolar disorders. I also believe that I have succeeded in my life because my family stopped moving and established a stable and safe environment to grow.

As an adult who has had some success in spite of early homelessness, I want to help formerly-homeless youth find consistent housing and the support network needed to succeed in society.

9. **What additional information would you like voters to know about you?** Through much of my life, I struggled to succeed because I did not identify the right mental health services. I struggled to complete simple projects and to maintain relationships. I consistently drafted eloquent documents, which I delivered one day late. I made friends just as fast as I alienated them. As an adult, I found the right treatment to address my problems and I'm working to correct years of lost opportunities.

Through my work with YES I hope to provide housing and resources for homeless youth. Through AAA-Fund I work to build a government-sponsored safety net. By working with NAMI, I would like to help those with emotional and mental challenges succeed. I would also hope to help the caregivers of those so challenged.

NAMI Maryland Board of Directors

CANDIDATE PROFILE - 2017

Name: Carolyn Knight

County/City of Residence: Montgomery County

Affiliate: NAMI Montgomery County MD

1. **Are you a consumer, or family member of an individual with a mental illness?** Yes
 No
Describe: I have a brother diagnosed with schizophrenia and have myself been treated for depression for 25 years. I consider myself primarily a family member and secondarily a person living with mental illness.
2. **Educational Background:** I have both BS and an MS in Nursing. I was an Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN).
3. **Work History/Professional Background:** I spent 20 years on active duty as an Army Nurse Corps officer, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel the same year my brother was diagnosed. I worked part time the next 24 years, first as a telephone Advice Nurse for Kaiser Permanente for a decade, followed by 13 years with Montgomery Hospice. I retired from active nursing two years ago.
4. **Discuss your connection to NAMI's issues and mission:** My initial contact with NAMI was within weeks of my brother's diagnosis. After decades of recommending that my patients seek information from the advocacy group dedicated to their specific problem, I knew that there was an organization out there that knew far more about schizophrenia than I and my family did. With his gradual onset, we had been slow to recognize what was going on. The missions of Education and Advocacy were always what drew me to NAMI.
5. **What is your experience with NAMI programs and services, either as a participant or instructor?** I extensively used the NAMI Montgomery County library of books, audio tapes and video tapes. It is where I first found a copy of Surviving Schizophrenia by Dr. Torrey and learned about the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual. I coordinated three of the NAMI Maryland annual state wide conferences in the 1990s. There was no Family to Family program then but I was later in the first group trained in Maryland as F2F teachers and taught the program for a number of years. Recently, I have been involved in the effort to bring a version of F2F, NAMI Homefront, to the families of active duty and military veterans.
6. **Why are you interested in joining the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors?** I have been and continue to be an ardent supporter of this organization which I see as a unique force for change in Maryland. During my current term on the Board, I have co-chaired the large, active and challenging Policy & Advocacy Committee. I wish to continue that work, helping guide the organization to be the pre-eminent trusted voice on mental illness in Maryland. My experience on the affiliate and state levels of NAMI have provided me with a good understanding of the essential roles all levels of NAMI play, particularly in the advocacy arena.
7. **What skills/expertise/knowledge can you offer to the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors?** I have been a witness to the progress in mental illness care and the evolution of attitudes over the past

27 years. I am also acutely aware of how fragile those gains are and how far we still have to go. I have witnessed the evolution and growth of NAMI on all levels over that time. My clinical experience and years with NAMI have provided me with invaluable skills in listening to differing perspectives, balancing sometimes competing priorities and working toward shared goals in an imperfect world.

8. **Describe your involvement with any other community/volunteer organizations or Boards:** I am on my volunteer (self-managed) Home Owners Association Board (424 homes) and currently serve as Board President. I am also vice president of the Greater Olney Civic Association.
9. **What additional information would you like voters to know about you?** Through my family's experience, I have particular interest in the intersection of mental illness and violence. This includes the impact on the family, the criminal justice system, police training, emergency medical personnel, and judges.

NAMI Maryland Board of Directors
CANDIDATE PROFILE

Name: **Deborah Photiadis** County/City of Residence: **Anne Arundel**

Affiliate: **NAMI Anne Arundel County, Inc.**

1. Are you an individual or a family member of an individual with a mental illness? Yes
 no _____

Describe: I am a sister, child, aunt, and mom of family members suffering from mental illness.

2. **Educational Background:** Graduate of St Johns Master's Program – Liberal Arts Education. Undergraduate in Business & Criminal Justice University of Buffalo

3. **Work History/Professional Background:** I am currently Director of Coalition Homes, overseeing the acquisition, development & property management of homes for the most vulnerable and chronically homeless in Montgomery County. My prior work history includes oversight of Maryland's Real Estate Department; Customer Management & Project Coordination for the University of Maryland Medical Center; and Executive Director the Maryland Governor's Council of Management & Productivity.

4. **Discuss your connection to NAMI's issues and mission:** My connection is deeply personal, having over 40 years of living with and being changed by the effects of mental illness on people I care for - participating in their successes and failures, distancing myself from the illness not the person, learning when to engage and when to walk away, becoming educated about feelings that are unrecognizable to me, and respecting their strength and sheer control to tackle the everyday.

5. **What is your experience with NAMI programs and services, either as a participant or instructor?** My husband works with NAMI in his capacity as director of policy and communications for the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors.

6. **Why are you interested in joining the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors?** To advocate, influence and work toward an environment where a person is not defined by their mental illness and can achieve recovery. To directly support those who care for and those who have a mental illness and are in need of services and supports in the community.

7. **What skills/expertise/knowledge can you offer to the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors?** I bring a wealth of professional skills from facilitation, strategic & critical thinking, and logistic capabilities to substantive knowledge of the facilities & housing industry and the impact the NIMBY syndrome has on this population. I am a pragmatic individual focused on concrete results.

8. **Describe your involvement with any other community/volunteer organizations or**

Boards: Habitat for Humanity- board member, fundraising. Community Supportive Housing-member. St Johns Alum – family mentoring program, children literacy. SPCA – donor.

9. **What additional information would you like voters to know about you?** It would be an honor for me to serve on the NAMI Maryland Board. I sincerely believe that we can do better in treating, assisting toward recovery and integration, and working and living with those challenged by mental illness.

NAMI Maryland Board of Directors
Candidate Profile

Name: Mary Diane Price

County/City of Residence: Baltimore County

Affiliate: Metro Baltimore

1. Are you an individual with a mental illness or a family member of an individual with a mental illness? Yes No

Describe: I had an Auntie with mental health issues who lived in New York, all alone. Growing up as an youth, I didn't know much about mental health. From my education and work experiences, I realize that my family overlooked so many of my Auntie's symptoms; just because she went to work every day and took care of herself. But, thinking back my Auntie had so many warning signs of mental health- like throw pennies from the window in the moving car; walking the streets at night---naked (when the family thought it was just sleep walking). Once she even went to a relative's funeral and stood up and asked why the deceased wasn't in attendance at the funeral. And she displayed so many other mental health signs.

2. **Educational Background:** University of Maryland- BA- Sociology.
3. **Work History/Professional Background:** Over 25 years with the State of Maryland. I have worked as a case manager, administrator, ombudsman for Medicaid, and other outreach positions. I have worked with Johns Hopkins, after leaving state service for two years to get outside work experience.
4. **Discuss your connection to NAMI's issues and mission:** My connections with NAMI are helping people improve their quality of life. I want to help in reaching those with mental health illness and help them to get treatment and services. I want to bring awareness to those with the illness and to seek help. I want to help develop better strategies and identify best practices around mental health services, treatment centers, and resources. I also want to address and review current legislation around mental health issues in Maryland. These are all the connections that I share with NAMI around its issues and mission.
5. **What is your experience with NAMI programs and services, either as a participant or instructor?** As a state employee, currently I work for the DHMH-Office of Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs, as an Administrator. Although I don't work with directly with NAMI, I do work with all of the state's mental health programs and even participate on their program and services. I'm very much aware of the great works of this organization, and would like to have the opportunity to join my state efforts and resources to your organization.
6. **Why are you interested in joining the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors?** I would like

to join to share my experiences and state resources with the organization. Also to help identify those in need, to help develop productive outreach and educational symposiums. To solicit good sponsors through my connections to help bring funding and support to the mission and goals of NAMI.

7. **What skills/expertise/knowledge can you offer to the NAMI Maryland Board of Directors?** I bring lots of state of Maryland experience around mental health programs, Medicaid knowledge, connections with managed care organizations, knowledge of state policy and regulations on health care. Over 25 year of state services ranging from human services to health care transition. I have contacts with state stakeholders and many faith-base and non-profit originations. I also have knowledge for organizing big symposiums and conferences, etc.
8. **Describe your involvement with any other community/volunteer organizations or Boards:** I serve as a regular citizen, serving as the Director of Missions and Trustee at my church. I oversee over 5 different ministries designed for helping people less fortune than us. More importantly, I have developed services and programs to help those in need; especially those with mental health issues. I also have great working relationships with Johns Hopkins Hospital and School of Medicine; The Parents Place of Maryland, Inc.; Children's Hospital in DC; The Coordinating Center; and University of Maryland- Baltimore Systems.
9. **What additional information would you like voters to know about you?** I love helping people reach their potential, and I love making a difference and building relationships and partnerships.