

2017 NAMI Massachusetts Board Candidate Bios



Samuel Botsford is in recovery from bipolar illness. He is an *In Our Own Voice* presenter for the past three years, and he is mentoring his second Peer-to-Peer class this fall. Botsford will bring a history of working in and with nonprofit organizations. He wants to join the NAMI Mass board to be a representative for younger people with mental health issues and be an ambassador for our programs. Botsford feels passionately about our mission and desires the opportunity to put his passion to work by seeking election to his first term on the NAMI Mass board. He believes he will be an empathetic board member.



Kathleen Considine, M.S.W., is a family member and tireless, passionate advocate for individuals and families affected by mental health conditions. She is devoted to NAMI Mass and her local affiliate, NAMI Plymouth. She is seeking her third term on the NAMI Mass Board, where she serves on the Executive Committee, chairs the Education and Support Committee and serves on the Personnel Committee. Also, Considine serves on the Search Committee for our new Executive Director. She has introduced school mental health programming to NAMI Mass, which has resulted in our successful professional development presentation for teachers, Allies for Student Mental Health. She is a state trainer of our Family Support Group facilitators, a long-time teacher of *Family-to-Family*, and a NAMI *Basics* teacher. Considine is a facilitator of the NAMI Plymouth twice-monthly family support group and is an active volunteer on the Plymouth DMH Site Board, Plymouth Mental Health Court, Plymouth Sheriff's Mental Health Advisory Group, and Behavioral and Emotional Health sub-committee for the Plymouth School District, among others. Considine believes she still has work to do and is seeking her third term.



Lynda Cutrell has worked in financial services management for 25 years. She served on the NAMI National Board from 2009 to 2012, and on the NAMI Mass Board of Directors from 2008 to 2013, serving as NAMI Mass Board President for one year. Cutrell is the creator and artist of the *99 Faces Project* currently at the Boston Museum of Science. The project promotes a new narrative of recovery for the public, increasing information and awareness of the science of mental health. She is eager to serve NAMI Mass again.



Michael Fetcho lives in Canton. He has is one of the few people with mental illness on the Board and finds it very important to have peer representation and a 'voice' at this level. He has served since 2011, and wants to be a part of the important leadership transitions at NAMI - Mass that are underway. Michael earned a BA in English and a MA in Public Administration, and had a successful 30 year career as an executive in both the hotel and non-profit industries, before taking early retirement. He has a 17 year old daughter in high school, and is a big proponent of 'early detection and intervention' which did not exist when he was that age. He is very hopeful that we can spare or lessen the amount of suffering for many young people today. He is a Presenter in NAMI's *'In Our Own Voice'* Program, a top Fundraiser in the NAMI Walk, a member of the Development Committee and past Chair of the Nominating Committee. Michael asks for your vote, so he can continue to help expand NAMI's work, during his third term. Thank you.



Andrew Gerber is Medical Director and CEO of Austen Riggs Center, a private psychiatric hospital in the Berkshires. He serves on the NAMI Berkshire County board. He respects NAMI's mission, vision, and values. Gerber is devoted to the support of individuals with mental health challenges and their families and loved ones. He teaches at UMass Amherst, Columbia and Yale Universities. His degrees include an M. Sc. with distinction, Psychoanalytic Developmental Psychology, and a Ph.D. in Psychology from University College London, and an MD from Harvard Medical School. He has earned numerous honors and awards, and published numerous research papers. In addition, Gerber is a member of the American Psychiatric Association and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry among other professional affiliations. This will be Dr. Gerber's first term on the board.



Joanne Grady Savard was founder and CEO of Abbott Personnel Consulting, a staffing solutions firm serving Boston businesses for three decades. Currently, Grady Savard is founder and principal of Redwood Advisors, a pro bono advisory services organization providing women-led enterprises with strategic planning, business development, and marketing. As a fundraising officer, she implements donor and corporate engagement initiatives at the U.N.-affiliated International Institute of New England, a humanitarian organization providing area immigrants and refugees with education, housing, and employment opportunities. She is a member of the Human Rights Committee of Gould Farm, and on the Patient Family Advisory Council at McLean Hospital. This would be her first term on the NAMI Mass Board.



Margaret Hannah is Executive Director of the Freedman Center for Child and Family Development at William James College, and teaches in the School Psychology Department as Adjunct Faculty. She serves on several committees and task forces within the Commonwealth advocating for mental health and wellness services, including the Mass Academy of Pediatrics Mental Health Task Force, Stakeholder Group for the Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative, and the NAMI Mass Compass (our information and resource helpline) Advisory Board. She believes her professional experience in program development and systems building will be an asset to our organization. If elected, this will be her first term.



Monica Luke is the founder of The Living Assistance Fund (LAF) that focuses on providing access to mental health care for individuals who cannot afford their care. She understands the journey to get care firsthand; her son was diagnosed with schizophrenia in 2001. After almost 25 years in the high-tech industry, Luke left IBM to become a mental health advocate full-time. In 2017, LAF is helping to establish a Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) at McLean Hospital that is incorporating patient-centered care and Open Dialogue principles. She is active in the NAMI Boston affiliate – applying her high-tech skills to building a new website for the affiliate, running design workshops, coordinating with the website vendor and dealing with technical problems. Luke is currently doing the same for NAMI Mass. She is running for her first term.



Suzanne Newman worked as a CPA with clients in the non-profit sector and securities industry. She served on the Wellesley School Committee for nine years and remains a Town Meeting member. Since the diagnosis of a close family member with schizophrenia seven years ago, Newman has gradually become active with NAMI Newton-Wellesley, where she is currently treasurer and a *Family-to-Family* teacher. She would like to investigate how NAMI Mass might more seamlessly support the local affiliates – allowing the affiliates to focus on their strength of providing education classes and support groups. If elected, this will be her first term.



Dr. Tonisha Pinckney is an advocate for living beyond severe depression. She is a parent of a son diagnosed at nine years old as a schizophrenic-paranoid type, and another older son diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. She also advocates for social justice, mental health reform, and issues affecting victims of physical and financial abuse, and violence. As a black American, she works to bring awareness to minority and low-income communities. Pinckney is a survivor of domestic violence and multiple sexual assaults. She is the author of two books where she discusses her life experiences. Currently, she is the Director of Undergraduate and Graduate Criminal Justice programs, and Program Director of Law, Politics, and Society at Anna Maria College. Addressing issues of racial, socioeconomic, and gender disparities is a major part of her life and career. Currently serving on the board of NAMI Central Mass, she is seeking her first term on the NAMI Mass Board.



Francisco Ramos grew up in one of the most impoverished areas in Mexico City, in a home with many untreated mental health issues that translated into domestic violence, and physical and emotional abuse. He has been in the U.S. since 1983, and has worked many years in the public health arena. Ramos grew up with a commitment not to allow the situations that affected him become normal in his life. His struggle to liberate himself from an unhealthy home life lead to his commitment to help others. He is honored to be nominated to the NAMI Mass Board for his first term.