



**Susan L. Stearns Named Next
Executive Director at NAMI New Hampshire**

Stearns takes the helm as the statewide nonprofit marks 40 years of support, education, and advocacy

The NAMI New Hampshire Board of Directors is excited to share that Susan L. Stearns will be the next Executive Director of NAMI New Hampshire (National Alliance on Mental Illness) effective January 14, 2022. An extensive search process informed by NAMI NH members, volunteers, staff, board, and stakeholders led to the selection of Stearns who will be only the 5th Executive Director in the statewide nonprofit's 40-year history.

Stearns has been serving as Deputy Director of NAMI New Hampshire where she has been employed since 2013. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, she has worked in the non-profit sector in New Hampshire for over 30 years, advocating for families, children, and individuals with disabilities. Her personal experience advocating for loved ones in both the child and adult mental health systems drives her passion for transforming New Hampshire's system of care in order to improve the lives of all Granite Staters affected by mental illness and suicide. She does this work because no one's child should have to fear seeking help for a medical condition because of stigma and discrimination.

On the selection of Stearns, NAMI NH Board President Russell Conte remarked, *"I am extremely pleased to announce that the NAMI NH Board of Directors voted to approve Susan Stearns as NAMI NH's next Executive Director after a comprehensive search process. Susan is able to hit the ground running given her extensive experiences both with NAMI NH and the broader mental health system in New Hampshire. Susan has proven to be a fierce advocate for those affected by mental illness and suicide, and her service as NAMI NH's Deputy Director has been invaluable to the organization's past success. Susan is the right leader for the next chapter of NAMI NH."*

Stearns will succeed Ken Norton who served as Executive Director for nearly a decade and previously announced his plans to transition from the role. Recognized with the Nonprofit Impact Award from the NH Center for Nonprofits in 2019, NAMI NH provided support,

education, and advocacy for more than 40,000 Granite Staters affected by mental illness and suicide last year.

Taking the helm of NAMI NH as the mental health toll of the COVID-19 pandemic becomes increasingly apparent, Stearns noted, *“I am humbled to be chosen to lead NAMI NH’s team of dedicated staff and volunteers at this critical time. Together, we will continue our work, advocating on behalf of Granite Staters affected by mental illness and suicide, offering support, education, and, most of all, hope.”*

ABOUT NAMI New Hampshire

NAMI New Hampshire is a grassroots organization working to improve the lives of all people affected by mental illness and suicide through support, education and advocacy. Learn more at

NAMINH.org.