

Glenda Wrenn Gordon
Nominated by NAMI Georgia

Nominator Narrative

Kim H. Jones

Executive Director, NAMI Georgia

NAMI Board service demands experience, knowledge, commitment, and time to help others. Board members must be passionate about NAMI's goals, values, and beliefs. This year, the NAMI Board is highlighting specific skills that they are seeking in candidates to strengthen the current skill sets on the board. You can review the [2024 Open Letter](#) from the NAMI Board President for more information on the call for candidates.

Please list the skill areas identified in the Open Letter in which this candidate excels.

Dr. Wrenn is a board certified psychiatrist and African American mother of four children. As the founding director of the Kennedy Satcher Center for Mental Health equity she was directly responsible for cultivating the donor relationship with Hon. Patrick Kennedy that established a \$25 million dollar endowment for the Center. a skill that was strengthened through her service on the Board of the Scattergood Foundation, a behavioral health philanthropic organization where she serves on the Program Committee and oversees disbursement of funds to community-based organizations in Philadelphia, PA. As a NAMI Board Member, Dr. Wrenn has worked with the Chief Development Officer to introduce NAMI to potential strategic partnerships, and has contributed to the engagement of existing partnerships by providing in-kind lectures on mental health topics to existing corporate sponsors. As Chief Clinical Strategy Officer for Mindoula Health and President of Mindoula Clinical Services (a value-based behavioral health start up company), Dr. Wrenn is experienced in managing P&L and ensuring financial sustainability for behavioral health organizations. Dr. Wrenn is a diverse healthcare executive with a track record for excellence in implementing quality behavioral health programs and services while cultivating profitable solutions that advanced mental health equity. She is particularly passionate about building connections within the field of behavioral health and is sometimes referred to by her colleagues as the "Kevin Bacon of mental health" for her skillful network connections.

Explain any additional skill areas in which this candidate excels not identified in the Open Letter that you believe would be an asset to the NAMI Board.

In addition to her reputation as a national thought leader on a variety of mental health topics, Dr. Wrenn is a passionate advocate for systemic change in how mental health services are delivered, financed, and accessed. This is grounded in her commitment to selfless service to her community and was further activated as she faced the common struggle as a mother navigating the mental health system through the eyes of her oldest son. The skill of leveraging her deep knowledge of mental health policy and clinical excellence to mobilize others to act and advance positive system-change is an asset to the NAMI Board as it aligns closely with the organizational goals around engaging youth and young adult, communities of color, and novel philanthropic partners to advance NAMI's mission.

This individual has helped advance the NAMI mission in my community by...

being a leading voice to destigmatize mental illness among mothers of children impacted by serious mental illness. In her fearless truth-telling as the inaugural guest of NAMI's podcast, Dr. Wrenn normalized the fact that no one can take mental health for granted and that mental illness and addiction can happen to anyone. Dr. Wrenn has represented the voices of Black Women in her personal journey to find rest and calm within the chaos of a demanding career, familial obligations and illnesses, and other relentless storms of life. In publicly sharing her lived experiences, she amplifies and centers the voice of Black Women into the narrative of authentic leadership and flourishing within systems of inequity and oppression.

This individual works well in coordination with other leaders to accomplish goals as evidenced by...

the fact that Dr. Wrenn is consistently identifying other's to "bring to the table". As co-Chair of the Youth and Young Adult Workgroup, she responded to an invitation to serve as Chair, by suggesting that the role be shared with a new (young adult) board member. She worked collaboratively with staff and other Board members to build on existing work and designed a survey and focus group guide to elicit insights to help NAMI staff advance this key priority area. Although she is comfortable leading in the spotlight, Dr. Wrenn is skilled at facilitating a group process and bringing out the best in a group. She listens deeply and intuitively to identify where the group is "stuck" and puts words to the unspoken problem so that the collective efforts will be effective. Her ongoing work developing the Workplace Mental Health guide is another example of collaborative actions to leverage her knowledge skills and expertise to support the NAMI mission and our impact in the community.