

**Dave Slusher**  
Nominated by NAMI Southwest Ohio

**Nominator Narrative**

Katie Harper

Executive Director, NAMI Southwest Ohio

*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 [2025 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.**

Service delivery, Members of Faith Communities, Communications Strategy

**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.**

Familial lived experience, Business Acumen, Emotional Intelligence, Speaking Truth to Power, Conflict Navigation with Compassion, Dedication to Going Beyond the Status Quo, Diverse Inter-generational Relationship-Building

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

After taking Family-to-Family ten years ago, Dave was inspired to give back. He has guided around 300 families through Family-to-Family across 25 sessions, offering them hope and a strong sense of community. 10 of his graduates have trained to become leaders themselves. He's shared his story with the community across 119 Ending the Silence, CIT Family, & StigmaFree presentations; you'll often find him at community events engaging with the public on our behalf with resources, and he never misses a NAMIWalks. Dave has done all of this while still caring for his own family on their mental health journey.

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

Dave has partnered closely with our Community Engagement Manager to make strategic connections to expand StigmaFree. His ability to connect with others is truly inspiring, and we bear witness to his relationships with others in our organization of all ages and diverse backgrounds and experiences. He consistently brings forward thoughtful feedback on program challenges, pairing concerns with actionable recommendations that reflect insight and a solutions-oriented mindset. Most recently, he proposed an innovative idea for a "What's Next" step following Family-to-Family, which he's now working with our staff to develop - a reflection of his commitment to continuous improvement.