

Application Form

Profile

Sarah A Chodakewitz
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

[Redacted] [Redacted]
Home Address Suite or Apt

Oakland CA [Redacted]
City State Postal Code

[Redacted]
Primary Phone

[Redacted]
Email Address

[District Locator Tool](#)

Resident of Supervisorial District:

N/A - Out of County

John Muir Health Director, Government and Community Affairs
Employer Job Title

Length of Employment

1 year and 3 months

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

Yes No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

District 4

How long have you lived or worked in Contra Costa County?

1 year and 3 months

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

Yes No

Board and Interest

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Workforce Development Board: Submitted

Seat Name

Have you ever attended a meeting of the advisory board for which you are applying?

Yes No

If Yes, how many meetings have you attended?

Previously, Stephanie Rivera represented John Muir Health at the Workforce Development Board and prior to that Ashley Georgian. I have not yet attended a meeting but am eager to join.

Education

Select the option that applies to your high school education *

High School Diploma

College/ University A

Name of College Attended

University of Washington

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Masters in Public Health/Health Systems and Policy

Degree Awarded?

Yes No

College/ University B

Name of College Attended

Brown University

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Bachelors Degree/Anthropology

Degree Awarded?

Yes No

College/ University C

Name of College Attended

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Degree Awarded?

Yes No

Other Trainings & Occupational Licenses**Other Training A**

Certificate Awarded for Training?

Yes No

Other Training B

Certificate Awarded for Training?

Yes No

Occupational Licenses Completed:

Qualifications and Volunteer Experience

Please explain why you would like to serve on this particular board, committee, or commission.

My interest in serving on the Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa comes from both my desire to engage on the board as a representative of my employer, John Muir Health, and also from my own individual interests. As a representative of John Muir Health I am interested in joining the Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa because of the critical role this board plays in promoting health and wellbeing our community. More specifically, as one of the largest employers in Contra Costa, ensuring our community cultivates a robust healthcare workforce is an important strategic priority for our organization as well as other healthcare entities across the county. Being able to provide real time feedback on not only the current needs, but to help forecast the future needs in the healthcare workforce will ensure our community is prepared to respond to the healthcare needs of Contra Costa's residents. Additionally, beyond immediate healthcare workforce issues, at John Muir Health we provide care to one in four individuals living in Contra Costa. Economic stability acts as a key social determinant of health, meaning that the work conducted by the Workforce Development Board helps to promote health and wellness for all members of our community, including many of our patients. In addition to my interest in joining this board as a representative of John Muir Health, I am excited by the possibility of joining this board as a result of my own specific interest in cultivating opportunities for professional development. During my time at the Washington State Department of Health I created a comprehensive program for student engagement consisting of resources for informational interviews, a more comprehensive approach to internships, and ultimately, a summer speaker series program for current interns. Similarly, when I was at Kaiser Permanente, I participated in multiple mentorship programs, including providing summer-long mentorship for specific interns. Finally outside of my professional roles, I have frequently participated in alumni panels for the University of Washington's MPH program where I've spoken about job search skills for graduating students. To me, participation on the Workforce Development Board would allow me to marry this ongoing passion with the more robust infrastructure and scope that the Workforce Development Board provides.

Describe your qualifications for this appointment. (NOTE: you may also include a copy of your resume with this application)

During my initial conversation with the leadership team at the Workforce Development Board, they shared that some of the qualities they were seeking in board members including individuals who brought deep subject matter expertise in key industry areas, who were collaborative, thoughtful and willing to engage meaningfully in group conversations, and individuals who would represent the board in the community and help extend the reach of the work that the board conducts. I believe I bring many of these qualities to bear. As someone who has worked in healthcare systems for many years I have a strong understanding of the healthcare workforce needs. I would be able to act as a resource for the board for example, should they receive the federal American Rescue Plan Good Jobs Challenge grant and in instances where I would not be able to provide the level of detail needed to effectively advise the board I would be able to reach out to other stakeholders within the healthcare sphere to gather more information as needed. Beyond subject area expertise, I have over the course of my career worked frequently in large teams on long term strategic initiatives. My understanding of this type of work process would allow me to be an active collaborator and meaningfully engage in strategic conversations to help inform the larger initiatives the board conducts. Finally, I have a strong background in community engagement and would look forward to participating in events hosted by the workforce development board as well as identifying potential partnerships and educational opportunities in the community.

Upload a Resume

Would you like to be considered for appointment to other advisory bodies for which you may be qualified?

Yes No

Do you have any obligations that might affect your attendance at scheduled meetings?

Yes No

If Yes, please explain:

Are you currently or have you ever been appointed to a Contra Costa County advisory board?

Yes No

If Yes, please list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you are currently serving:

If Yes, please also list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you have previously served:

List any volunteer or community experience, including any advisory boards on which you have served.

While I have not specifically had the experience of serving as a board member previously, I believe that I bring a strong background that would allow me to be an effective member of this community. For example, I have participated in volunteer opportunities such as with the Pierce County United Way where I assisted in conducting reviews of submitted grant applications. Similarly, I have acted on leadership teams within professional communities. While at Kaiser Permanente I was on the Oakland Leadership team for the genKP employee resource group. Currently at John Muir Health I serve as a taskforce member of our Gender Equity employee resource group.

Conflict of Interest and Certification

Do you have a familial or financial relationship with a member of the Board of Supervisors? (Please refer to the relationships listed under the "Important Information" section below or Resolution No. 2021/234)

Yes No

If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

Do you have any financial relationships with the County such as grants, contracts, or other economic relationships?

Yes No

If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I CERTIFY that the statements made by me in this application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith. I acknowledge and understand that all information in this application is publicly accessible. I understand that misstatements and/or omissions of material fact may cause forfeiture of my rights to serve on a board, committee, or commission in Contra Costa County.

I Agree

Important Information

1. This application and any attachments you provide to it is a public document and is subject to the California Public Records Act (CA Government Code §6250-6270).
2. All members of appointed bodies are required to take the advisory body training provided by Contra Costa County.
3. Members of certain boards, commissions, and committees may be required to: (1) file a Statement of Economic Interest Form also known as a Form 700, and (2) complete the State Ethics Training Course as required by AB 1234.
4. Meetings may be held in various locations and some locations may not be accessible by public transportation.
5. Meeting dates and times are subject to change and may occur up to two (2) days per month.
6. Some boards, committees, or commissions may assign members to subcommittees or work groups which may require an additional commitment of time.
7. As indicated in Board Resolution 2021/234, a person will not be eligible for appointment if he/she is related to a Board of Supervisors' member in any of the following relationships:
 - (1) Mother, father, son, and daughter;
 - (2) Brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, grandson, and granddaughter;
 - (3) Husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepson, and stepdaughter;
 - (4) Registered domestic partner, pursuant to California Family Code section 297;
 - (5) The relatives, as defined in 1 and 2 above, for a registered domestic partner;
 - (6) Any person with whom a Board Member shares a financial interest as defined in the Political Reform Act (Gov't Code §87103, Financial Interest), such as a business partner or business associate.

Sarah Chodakewitz

Oakland, CA

Summary

Experienced health policy and communications professional with proven track record of launching initiatives, overseeing projects, and strategically planning and implementing health policy campaigns. I draw experience from across the health care delivery system, government agencies, and community level direct service. In professional roles I have been known as someone who skillfully builds bridges between teams, works well with limited direction, learns quickly and tackles challenging problems, and who can think 'outside-the-box' while still achieving excellent results.

Experience

Director, Government and Community Affairs at John Muir Health, Walnut Creek, CA (January 2021 - present)

- Provide organizational leadership in tracking state, local, and federal policy issues of importance to the organization. Provide guidance to leadership on key policy changes and advocacy opportunities.
- Participated in organizational Crisis Communications response team for the COVID-19 pandemic. Coordinated with mobile health clinic to conduct community outreach strategies.

Senior Public Advocacy Advisor at Kaiser Permanente, Oakland, CA (April 2018 - December 2022)

- Provided interim leadership for public advocacy function; managed a team consisting of two groups of vendors as well as two full time contract workers for approximately 1 year, represented the team at key strategic meetings, led change management with internal stakeholders.
- Provided program management for Kaiser Permanente's voluntary grassroots advocacy platform; oversaw 9 campaigns, 4,000 advocate actions, and 187% growth in participants. Routinely spoke publicly regarding the program and developed and moderated multiple webinars with up to 1,500 audience members.
- Co-led strategy development for the Government Relations Drug Pricing Policy Initiative; facilitated 2020 and 2021 strategic planning resulting in a multi-year work plan with multiple work streams, research grantees, and thought leadership activities.

Speechwriter and Health Policy Consultant at Washington State Department of Health, Tumwater, WA (September 2015 – September 2017)

- Provided direct staffing to Washington State Secretary of Health; developed talking points for 70+ speaking engagements, stakeholder meetings, and media relations events on a variety of complex and technical subjects;
- Provided project management for legislatively-mandated Patient Out-of-Pocket Costs Taskforce; facilitated weekly tactical meetings with DOH executive leaders (State Health Officer and Legislative Director), organized three full day stakeholder meetings to assess policy options; managed stakeholder communications, directed project budget, co-wrote final report submitted to the legislature;
- Coordinated cross-agency team for top legislative priority (Tobacco 21); managed policy research efforts, developed legislative testimony, participated as a member of the legislative team, responded to information requests from partner agencies and legislators, and represented the agency with external partners;
- Assisted in launch of new Center for Public Affairs and thrived in fast-paced environment (Office of the Secretary) with strong emphasis on leadership, independent judgment, and collaboration.

Assistant Director at Odegaard Writing & Research Center, University of Washington, Seattle, WA (June 2014 –July 2015);

- Hired, trained, mentored and provided leadership in an organization with 75+ employees;
- Launched and implemented key projects and initiatives, including new satellite location;
- Collaborated with external partners to form long-term partnership and secure funding source (\$14,753 grant);
- Co-writer for biennium budget proposal (\$419,000 annually).

Writing Consultant at Odegaard Writing & Research Center, University of Washington, Seattle, WA(September 2013 – June 2014)

- Assisted others in clarifying, developing and articulating their line of thought;
- Conducted 350+ writing sessions; developed history of repeat clients (higher than average rate of repeat use).

Executive and Internal Communications Internship at PATH, Seattle, WA (February 2015 – May 2015)

- Produced tracking system to assess alignment of executive team speaking engagements with strategic vision;
- Assessed strength of internal newsletters from user perspective and crafted recommendations for improvement.

Health Policy Intern at Washington State Health Care Authority, Olympia, WA (June 2014 – September 2014)

- Key editor and co-writer for \$65M State Innovation Model (SIM) Medicaid grant application;
- Produced draft design for Medicaid Accountable Communities of Health (ACHs) granting process;
- Finalized design of ACH grant process by facilitating collaborative meeting with agency policy leadership;
- Post-internship invited to become a member of the ACH pilot grant evaluator team.

Elder Care Advisor and Care Transition Facilitator at Somerville Cambridge Elder Services, Somerville, MA (July 2012 – June 2013)

- Facilitated clients enrollment in home and community-based Medicaid waiver (40+ clients);
- Participated in pilot program for Medicare/Medicaid dual eligible individuals to build connections between large hospital systems and home and community based services for Medicare Care Transition pilot project.

Nursing Home Transition Advocate at Boston Center for Independent Living, Boston, MA (August 2011 – July 2012)

- Worked with Medicaid enrolled population living in skilled nursing facilities and assisted in coordinating housing search and identifying social support services needed to transition back to community based living;
- Oversaw 300% increase in successful nursing home discharges, achieved through proactive identification of clients and building long-term, collaborative relationships with referring facilities;

Education

University of Washington, Seattle, Washington (June 2015)
MPH, Health Systems and Policy

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel (June 2011)
Fulbright Fellowship

Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island (May 2010)
BA in Cultural Anthropology