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Respondent
19 Anonymous

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About the Supplemental Questions for the Council on Homelessness Membership Application

The following questions will be used by the Council on Homelessness' Nominating Panel to identify diverse applicants that can contribute unique expertise and perspectives to the Council. Answers to these questions will be evaluated in relation to the experience and qualifications desired for available member seats. Please carefully consider how your personal experiences, professional experiences, and values will contribute meaningfully to the Council on Homelessness' and the Contra Costa County Homeless Continuum of Care's efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Please note, there are two required elements of the Council on Homelessness application, these "Supplemental Questions" and the County Application. Once you submit this application, you will get an response that will include the link to the County Application. You must submit the County application by 5 pm Friday, September 30, 2022 to be considered.

REMINDER: To be considered for the Council, you must complete BOTH components of the application.

Please note, this form can be filled out as a Word document and emailed to Council on Homelessness CChomelesscouncil@cchealth.org by the deadline or submitted via this online form.

Supplemental Questions

1. Which vacant Council on Homelessness seat are you applying for? *

- Affordable Housing Developer Representative
- Behavioral Health Representative
- City Government Representative
- Educational and Vocational Services Representative
- Emergency Solutions Grant Representative
- Health Care Representative
- Homeless Service Provider Representative
- Lived Experience Advisor (must have lived experience of homelessness)
- Veterans Administration Representative
- Workforce Development Representative
- Youth Representative (must be between the ages of 18-24)

More options for Responses

2. Please briefly describe any special skills, relationships, or resources you would bring to this specific seat. If applicable, please describe any experiences that demonstrate a past professional or personal commitment to addressing and alleviating homelessness within the topic or field related to the vacant seat. (400 word maximum) *

Serving on the Council as the Behavioral Health chair the past two years has only strengthened my commitment to working toward housing for all residents of Contra Costa County. I am a licensed clinical psychologist and the clinic program manager for the Hume Center's FSP and Outpatient programs in West Contra Costa County. My work with people that experience chronic, severe mental illness has given me awareness of how mental health issues impact a person's ability to maintain housing. Without adequate housing it is difficult for a person to address their mental health symptoms, effectively. We all need stability and safety to begin a healing process and achieve a state of wellbeing. My interest in addressing homelessness and housing insecurity began back in the 1990's when I was Administrative Director for Habitat for Humanity in Orange County, CA. During that period in my life, our non-profit group was able to build 48 condominiums and 5 homes for families. Following the families after they moved into their new homes was a study in how stable housing brings a space to grow from. Many families improved their education and work prospects once housed. I see the same now in the behavioral health world. With case management and therapy support secure housing improves mental health and allows growth in other areas of life. They are free from the pressure of daily survival on the street or the insecurity of couch surfing. I would like to continue to contribute to decreasing homeless in Contra Costa County by remaining on the Council for Homelessness for another two years.

3. Please identify your personal connections with homelessness by selecting one of the options below: *

- I am a person currently experiencing homelessness and living in a shelter or location not meant for human habitation (e.g., in a tent).
- I am a person who experienced homelessness within the past 5 years but is currently housed.
- I am a person who experienced homelessness more than 5 years ago but is currently housed.
- I am a family member of someone who has experienced homelessness
- I am none of the above but still invested in addressing homelessness in Contra Costa County.
- I would prefer not to respond

4. Individuals experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County come from diverse backgrounds (in terms of abilities, ages, sexual and gender identities, immigration statuses, and racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds). Please describe your approach and experience working with and in diverse populations. (400 words maximum) *

As a psychologist and program manager I engaged daily with a diverse population of clients and staff members. My approach is to own my cultural identity as a white woman with the privilege that has given me in American society. I also navigate the power differential that can be present in my work as a psychologist. It is my job to educate myself and be open to the rich diversity that is present in the many different intersections of race, gender, sexual orientation, housing and socio-economic status, and cultural backgrounds. Letting each person have space to be seen and have a voice in our community is important. For people from minority or marginalized groups, it is my goal to give them the space to present their lived experience and viewpoint and not assume I know what that is. I strive to create a safe community where everyone can be their authentic self.

5. Please describe your affiliations with organizations or agencies who serve various homeless subpopulations such as: persons with chronic substance abuse issues, persons with serious mental illness, persons experiencing chronic homelessness, persons with HIV/AIDS, veterans, families with children, unaccompanied youth, victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and seniors. (400 word maximum) *

At the Hume Center West's FSP and Outpatient programs, I manage a caseload of clients that experience schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar I & II, and major depression. Almost all clients have some level of PTSD. Maybe about 80% have substance use issues - either current or in remission. Our treatment team is made up of psychologists and case managers. Each client has a case manager and a clinician. This allows us to treat the whole person and all aspects of their life. This wrap around approach has been successful in allowing many clients to stabilize and gain coping skills that improve their wellbeing and social engagement. Our population is adults age 18 and above. I have experience with treating clients with chronic homelessness, aging issues, medical challenges, HIV/AIDS, victims of abuse, trauma, domestic violence, chronic drug use, and mental health stigma. Our population expresses the diversity of West Contra Costa County with African American, Latinx, and Lao and Thai Asian community members.

6. If applicable, please describe your affiliations with any government and community-based organizations that are not currently represented on the Council on Homelessness. For a full list of current Council on Homelessness members, please see here: <https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/council.php#Members> . (400 word maximum) *

My employer, Portia Bell Hume Behavioral Health & Training Center, is a community mental health agency and a non-profit organization with offices in Richmond, Concord, Pittsburg, Fremont, and Pleasanton.

7. Using your personal experiences and/or professional experiences, please describe up to three (3) ways you would encourage the Contra Costa Continuum of Care to address or set priorities for addressing homelessness. Feel free to draw from current events and other sources of information. (400 word maximum) *

Providing social services and case management support to individuals and families coming out of homelessness is a great aid to encouraging success in maintaining permanent housing. Identifying factors such as mental health and physical health issues that may be contributing to a loss of housing. Identifying systemic economic factors in the bay area that make finding housing or re-housing people difficult. More money and subsidies need to be made available for people to pay rent in communities where they have been priced out of the rental market.

8. Please state how many Continuum of Care (CoC), Council on Homelessness (CoH), or Youth Advisory Council (YAC) meetings you have previously attended. *

- 3 or more meetings
- 1-2 meetings
- 0 meetings

9. Please provide up to three (3) recommendations or thoughts you had from CoC, CoH, or YAC meetings. If you have not attended a CoC, CoH, or YAC meetings, please briefly describe any recent relevant participation in similar meetings and your recommendations or thoughts. (400 word maximum) *

It has been convenient to meet on zoom. It would be nice to get together in person once a month when everyone feels it is safe. I appreciate the great work done by council staff, Homebase, and our leadership in preparing for our meetings. The agenda is very clear and the meetings encourage participation. I have really liked the focus on diversity through a committee focus on that topic; so more around making sure important voices in our homeless community are heard will be great.

10. The Council is committed to the Housing First approach (meaning no barriers or requirements as a prerequisite to housing, including sobriety, religious affiliation, or other structure not required for housing) and has established this Guiding Principle: *Homelessness is first a housing issue, and necessary supports and services are critical to help people remain housed. Our system must be nimble and flexible enough to respond through the shared responsibility, accountability, and transparency of the community.* Are you in support of the Housing First approach and Guiding Principle described above? *

- Yes
- No

11. Please identify the level of commitment you can provide to the Council on Homelessness by selecting one of the options below: *

- I can be available for **2 or more meetings per month**, including the standing monthly COH meeting the first Thursday of every month from 1pm to 3pm.
- I can be available **only for the standing monthly COH meeting** the first Thursday of every month from 1pm to 3pm.
- I am **not available** for the standing monthly COH meeting, **but can make other meetings 2 or more times** per month.
- I am **not available** for the standing monthly COH meeting and **may not be able to make other meetings** more than once per month.

12. Which of the following geographic areas do you spend the most time in? *

- Far East Contra Costa County (for example: Discovery Bay, Bethel Island)
- East Contra Costa County (for example: Bay Point, Pittsburg, Antioch, Brentwood)
- Central Contra Costa County (for example: Martinez, Pleasant Hill, Concord, Walnut Creek)
- South Contra Costa County (for example: Alamo, Danville, San Ramon)
- West Contra Costa County (for example: El Cerrito, San Pablo, Richmond, Pinole, Hercules, Rodeo)
- I spend an equal amount of time in all five geographic areas listed above.

Demographic Information (Optional)

The Council aims to engage as broad a representation as possible of abilities, ages, sexual and gender identities, immigration statuses, and racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, and geographical representation within the County. Responses to the following questions are optional and will be considered in aggregate to ensure that we have recruited a diverse pool of applicants. The Nominating Panel will not review applicants' responses to the following questions.

13. What are your pronouns (for example: she/him/they/ze, etc.)?

14. What is your gender identity (for example: female/male/transgender/non-binary/gender non-conforming, etc.)?

15. What is your sexual orientation (for example: bisexual/straight/gay/pansexual, etc)?

16. What best describes your age? (Check one)

- Transition aged youth (18-24)
- Adult (25-61)
- Older adult (62+)

17. What best describes your race/ethnicity? (Pick as many as apply)

- African American/Black
- Arab/Middle Eastern
- Asian
- Caucasian/White
- East Indian/South Asian
- Latine/a/o/x
- Mixed Race
- Native American
- Pacific Islander
- South/Central American
- Choose not to answer
- Other

18. Is there any other information you would like to share, including anything that would help us understand how you would contribute to the diverse representation of people and experiences on the Council (for example: lived experience of homelessness, abilities, immigration status, ethnic background, or cultural background)?

Contact Information

19. Name *

20. Email *

21. Phone Number

Application Form

Profile

Margaret

First Name

A

Middle Initial

Schiltz

Last Name

[Redacted]

Home Address

Suite or Apt

Berkeley

City

CA

State

[Redacted]

Postal Code

[Redacted]

Primary Phone

[Redacted]

Email Address

[District Locator Tool](#)

Resident of Supervisorial District:

N/A - Out of County

Portia Bell Hume Behavioral
Health & Training Center

Employer

Clinic Programs Manager

Job Title

Length of Employment

10 years

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

Yes No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

1

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

10 years

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

Yes No

Board and Interest

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness: Submitted

Seat Name

Behavioral Health Seat

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?

Past 2 years starting 11/2020

Education

Select the option that applies to your high school education *

High School Diploma

College/ University A

Name of College Attended

University of Notre Dame, Indiana

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

B.A. Program of Liberal Studies

Degree Awarded?

Yes No

College/ University B

Name of College Attended

The Wright Institute, Berkeley CA

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

Doctor of Psychology/ PsyD

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:

PsyD License PSY28446

Qualifications and Volunteer Experience

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

I have served on the Council of Homelessness for the past 2 years as the Behavioral Health chair. It has been very rewarding. I would like to continue for another 2 years so that I can continue to give a voice in council meetings to behavioral health concerns as they relate to homelessness issues. More than half of the Contra Costa County homeless population experience mental health symptoms. Finding solutions that work with mental health and substance use issues is essential for re-housing community members in a manner that will be successful and long lasting. It is my hope to continue to contribute to working with the PATH Innovations committee on finding ways to reduce homelessness per Governor Newsom's directive and contribute to the Council on Homelessness in whatever way I can.

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

I work at the program manager for the Hume Center's FSP and Outpatient programs in West Contra Costa County. This experience coupled with my license as a clinical psychologist have given me firsthand experience with the homeless population in West Contra Costa County that experience chronic severe mental illness and substance use issues. I daily address housing concerns related to our clients. The Hume Center's FSPs in Contra Costa County have developed a housing subsidy program that has given me experience with bring clients out of a state of homelessness and into extended motel stays and then apartment living. With case management and psychotherapy support many clients are finding success.

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.

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.