

**Agenda**  
**Talent and Recruitment Committee**  
**West Olive Administration Building – Board Room and YouTube**  
**12220 Fillmore Street, West Olive, Michigan 49460**  
**September 19, 2023**  
**10:00 AM**

**Public Comment**

**Approval of Agenda**

**Consent Items:**

- I. Approval of the minutes from the [August 15, 2023](#), Talent and Recruitment Committee meeting.

**Agenda and Action Requests:**

- I. [Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board – Family Member](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination and forward to the Board of Commissioners the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

*\*Stephen Rockman  
Thomas (Tom) Bird  
Mark Stephenson  
Debra Deater  
Gabrielle Dunai  
Kelly Goetzinger  
Lorrie Hackney  
Laura LaMore  
Mandy Anderson  
Lori Sandusky  
Joseph Carmolli  
Lisa Ramsdell  
Beth Schaap  
Suzanne Katerberg*

and to select one (1) to fill one (1) Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board Family Member seat vacancy beginning August 9, 2023 and ending March 31, 2024.

**Committee Reports**

**Public Comment**

**Adjournment at Call of the Chairperson**

**Note: Public Comments on the day's business are to be limited to three (3) minutes.**

**TALENT & RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE**

**Proposed Minutes**

DATE: August 15, 2023  
TIME: 10:01 a.m.  
PLACE: Fillmore Street Complex  
PRESENT: Gretchen Cosby, Lucy Ebel, Doug Zylstra, Joe Moss, Roger Belknap, Kyle Terpstra (Zoom-Grandville, MI), and Allison Miedema (7)  
ABSENT: Jacob Bonnema, Rebekah Curran, Sylvia Rhodea (3)

SUBJECT: PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Elizabeth Brubaker-Holland Township
2. Cindy Spielmaker-Grand Haven Township
3. Karen Obits-Spring Lake
4. Rebecca Patrick-Allendale Township
5. Dan Zimmer-Port Sheldon Township
6. Teresa White-Robinson Township
7. David Morren-Allendale Township
8. David Barnosky-Port Sheldon Township
9. Don Dykstra-Georgetown Township

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

TR 23-032 Motion: To approve agenda.  
Moved by: Moss UNANIMOUS

TR 23-033 Motion: To add to the agenda a closed session discussion to review the reported recent hire of the Senior Executive Aide to the Administrator's office.  
Moved by: Zylstra

The motion failed due to no second.

SUBJECT: CONSENT ITEMS

TR 23-034 Motion: To approve the minutes from the June 20, 2023, Talent and Recruitment Committee meeting.  
Moved by: Belknap UNANIMOUS

SUBJECT: OTTAWA COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADVISORY BOARD –  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

TR 23-035 Motion: To place into nomination and forward to the Board of Commissioners the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

\*Brooke Karl  
Angie Barksdale

and to select one (1) to fill one (1) Community Corrections Advisory Board Workforce Investment seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2024.  
Moved by: Moss

Commissioner Cosby called to question motion TR 23-035.

Called to question passed by the following votes: Yeas: Gretchen Cosby, Joe Moss, Lucy Ebel, Roger Belknap, Allison Miedema. (5)

Nays: Doug Zylstra. (1)

Roll Call Votes for Motion TR 23-035:

Belknap-Karl	Cosby-Karl
Zylstra-Barksdale	Moss-Karl
Ebel-Karl	Miedema-Karl

With 5 votes, Brooke Karl will be the recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

SUBJECT: PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Rebecca Patrick-Allendale Township

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

# Action Request



**Committee:** Talent and Recruitment Committee

**Meeting Date:** 09/19/2023

**Requesting Department:** Administration

**Submitted By:** John Gibbs

**Agenda Item:** Ottawa County

**Suggested Motion:**

To place into nomination and forward to the Board of Commissioners the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

- \*Stephen Rockman
- Thomas (Tom) Bird
- Mark Stephenson
- Debra Deater
- Gabrielle Dunai
- Kelly Goetzinger
- Lorrie Hackney
- Laura LaMore
- Mandy Anderson
- Lori Sandusky
- Joseph Carmolli
- Lisa Ramsdell
- Beth Schaap
- Suzanne Katerberg

and to select one (1) to fill one (1) Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board Family Member seat vacancy beginning August 9, 2023 and ending March 31, 2024.

**Summary of Request:**

The Board of Commissioners makes appointments to the various Boards and Commissions of the County per Board Policy - Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

**Financial Information:**

Total Cost: \$0.00	General Fund Cost: \$0.00	Included in Budget:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
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If not included in budget, recommended funding source:

**Action is Related to an Activity Which Is:**     Mandated     Non-Mandated     New Activity

**Action is Related to Strategic Plan:**

**Goal:** Goal 1: To Maintain and Improve the Strong Financial Position of the County.

Goal 2: To Contribute to the Long-Term Economic, Social and Environmental Health of the County.

Goal 3: To Maintain and Enhance Communication with Citizens, Employees, and Other Stakeholders.

Goal 4: To Continually Improve the County's Organization and Services.

**Objective:** Goal 1, Objective 1: Maintain and improve current processes and implement new strategies to retain a balanced budget.

Goal 2, Objective 2: Consider initiatives that contribute to the social health and sustainability of the County and its' residents.

Goal 3, Objective 4: Evaluate communication with other key stakeholders.

Goal 4, Objective 4: Examine opportunities for increased cooperation and collaboration with local government and other partners.

**Administration:**     Recommended     Not Recommended     Without Recommendation

County Administrator:

Committee/Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date:

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**Summary of Request Continued:**

Pursuant to County policy, the Board of Commissioners has constitutional and statutory responsibility for making appointments to a variety of boards and commissions. The Board of Commissioners assigns the task of reviewing the applications to the Talent and Recruitment Committee, which has an established subcommittee to review and interview applicants and make recommendations on appointments. The names of all applicants and Talent and Recruitment Committee recommendations, if any, shall be submitted to the Board of Commissioners, which shall make the appointments.

# Stephen Rockman

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Family Member (BC)

## Education

**School:**

Thomas M Cooley

**Degree:**

JD

**School 2:**

Ferris State University

**Degree 2:**

BS

## Employment

**Current Employer:**

not employed

**Position:**

**Responsibilities:**

NA

**Previous Employer:**

Walgreens

**Position:**

Pharmacist

**Responsibilities:**

Filling prescriptions, providing customer service, and performing clinical duties such as immunizations and medication therapy management.

**Eligibility & Other Considerations**

**Residency Length:**

7 Years

**Family members employed at Ottawa County or other govt:**

false

**Experience:**

**Attendance Policy:**

true

**Why do you want to be considered for this appointment?**

Have and raised son with Autism, past experience as attorney analyzing and explaining complicated issues and offering solutions.

**SEE ATTACHED LETTER BELOW:**



## **FROM MR. ROCKMAN:**

I have a son with autism who is a consumer of the CMH. I think I bring to this position relevant lifetime experiences. I have been an advocate for my son all his life, at home and at school. From training and implementation of in home Floor Time and ABA behavioral therapy, to IEP advocacy in public school, home schooling, teaching functional living and social skills, and just hanging out together.

Consumers of the CMH, like my son, have a Individual Plan of Service. It's a contract for your child's life in the community created through the process of Person Centered Planning.

I think parents play a vital role in the creation of a IPOS through the PCP because they know their child better than anyone else. In fact, parents of children labeled IDD are the child's guardians, making parents indispensable to the creation of the IPOS.

I recognize the importance of recipient rights, but that must come with the recognition that a child with DD lacks the maturity and judgment to make major life decisions. Often times they have the maturity of a young child. Again, here the involvement of the parents who know their child better than anyone making their input into the PCP process critical. At CMH meetings, we have to listen closely to the parents.

However, often times parents will not know how or what services and supports to request that meet their child's individual needs, putting them and their child at a serious disadvantage. This is frustrating for parents. I also think we can help make the process easier. For parents confronting CMH services for the first time, finding services and supports for your child can be quite daunting. Particularly if you suddenly find yourself in a crisis and do not have the peace of mind and luxury of time to find out.

I think it is vitally important for us in the CMH to clearly and fully guide parents to the creation of SMART IPOS. To partner with them to candidly show and explain all the available housing and personal services and supports their child can apply to receive to help create that individualized SMART IPOS. That is, Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time limited. In other words, accountable for achieving a better life for your child.

I also think we should have the attitude of an independent facilitator objectively helping parents create SMART IPOS that meet the individual needs of their child.

I see the IPOS as parallel to the special education IEP. Both contain a baseline, goals and objectives, supplemental and related services. I was my son's primary IEP advocate in public school. I was very involved in the IEP planning meetings that was like the PCP process. The IEP law was in itself rather complicated. But, at least I could turn to Wright's law for guidance. It gave me a road-map. I have a legal background that gave me research, writing, and advocacy skills, I would be interested in helping to develop a Wrightslaw style guide for parents at the CMH.

With Wrightslaw as a guide, I always advocated for SMART IEPs. I drafted the goals and objectives. Most times we negotiated accommodating terms, other times mine were adopted more or less just as presented. I always submitted a parent Input to describe the FAPE we hoped to achieve. Like a Parent Input, the IPOS should be a reflection of what the parent and their child hope to achieve. At that time, I wanted him to be taught basic academic, vocational, and communications skills.

Parents know the kind of environment their child will best fit into. Their likes and dislikes. How their sensory needs are best met. How their health and physical fitness should be maintained. And they

worry about what will happen to their child when they die. A frightening image is their child in a chemical straight jacket sitting in a room all day watching TV and eating into obesity.

I shared my resume. I think I have had a meaningful employment and behavior intervention experience. I retired a bit earlier than planned. It is a long story.

I was a pharmacy manager, pharmacy district supervisor, a civil practice attorney, and I guess, a autism behavioral therapist. In my professions I was in the business of providing personal services. Both required collecting facts, identifying issues, applying the applicable protocols or rules, analytical thinking, reaching a solution, and providing consultation. Both also required managing challenges, identifying priorities, multi-tasking, and delivering service.

I am aware that we are faced with a problem in Ottawa County finding housing and staffing for CMH consumers. That explains why I live 40 minutes away from our son's new home. I hope that on this Committee I can be part of the solution to this problem. I bring problem solving skills to the table and an empathy for the consumers we serve because my son is one of those consumers.

I hope that in this seat I can continue to be an advocate for my son and other families going through their own life journeys to help to give their children an opportunity to thrive.

# **Suzanne Marie Katerberg**

**Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board**

**Seat: Family Member (BC)**

## **Education**

**School:**

Grand Valley State University

**Degree:**

Bachelors

**School 2:**

Grand Rapids Community College

**Degree 2:**

Associates Degree in Business Administration

## **Employment**

**Current Employer:**

Resilience: Advocates for Ending Violence

**Position:**

Crisis and Supportive Services Coordinator

**Responsibilities:**

Hire, train, supervise case manager/advocates including a legal advocate and sexual assault specialist, coordinate staffing for the 24 hour helpline, recruit and train volunteers and interns for helpline and sexual assault advocacy; develop policy and practices that align with best-practices for service delivery; participate in the Ottawa County High Risk Team; LAADSV, and Human Trafficking Committee.

**Previous Employer:**

YWCA West Central Michigan

**Position:**

Crisis Advocate/Volunteer Coordinator/Training Coordinator

**Responsibilities:**

Meet with individuals experiencing domestic or sexual violence; work with law enforcement, courts and others to improve victim engagement; hire/train/supervise 35 volunteer advocates in the Sexual assault Program; Develop and coordinate 19 modules of training in accordance with the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence standards.

## Eligibility & Other Considerations

**Residency Length:**

50 Years

**Family members employed at Ottawa County or other govt:**

false

**Experience:**

I have not served on government boards but have served on several non-profit boards and currently serve on my condo association board of directors. I have also served on the board of the West Leonard Business Association and worked with the local chamber of commerce.

**Attendance Policy:**

true

**Why do you want to be considered for this appointment?**

I have been married for 41 years to a spouse with significant mental health issues. I currently manage his medications and work closely with his Doctor to keep him in remission as much as possible. The last 20 years he has been on disability but previous to that he was a successful business owner and worker. I understand the issues families face when someone they love has limitations and the stress that this can bring. I also went from a stay at home mom to a full time worker to support our family while also going to college to obtain my degree.

# **Beth Ellen Schaap**

**Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board**

**Seat: Family Member (BC)**

## **Education**

**School:**

Michigan State University

**Degree:**

BS Medical Technology

**School 2:**

Fremont Public High School

**Degree 2:**

college prep

## **Employment**

**Current Employer:**

Holland Hospital

**Position:**

Medical Laboratory Scientist

**Responsibilities:**

I perform laboratory testing on body fluids, tissues, and cultures. Maintenance and quality control of laboratory instruments is core to testing I interact with other Hospital professionals to provide the best possible patient care.

**Previous Employer:**

N/A

**Position:**

N/A

**Responsibilities:**

N/A

## Eligibility & Other Considerations

**Residency Length:**

40 Years

**Family members employed at Ottawa County or other govt:**

true

My brother Phil Deur was on the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners until 2018. For the past 4 years he has been on the Joint Zoning Board of Appeals which is a collaboration between the City of Fremont and the Dayton & Sheridan Townships. He is also on the Wage Compensation committee for the City of Fremont. My brother Jan Deur was a Trustee for Fruitland Township for 10 years. He now is involved in nonprofit and for-profit boards service.

**Experience:**

I have not served on any government boards. I was very involved in volunteering for school activities when my sons were in school. I was the booster representative for the soccer program at Grand Haven High School. I have been active in a Mental Health Support group.

**Attendance Policy:**

true

**Why do you want to be considered for this appointment?**

Most of my life, I was oblivious to the mental health arena. About 6 years ago I was rudely awakened by a mental health crisis in my family. I quickly saw the difficulty in navigating through the mental health care process. The saddest thing I learned was how the stigma of Mental illness was a strong deterrent to mental health care. Today, I try to do whatever I can to eliminate stigma. With this appointment, I hope to learn what we are doing to service the community. I hope that my personal experiences will shed some light to direct decisions made to help our community.

# **Lori Ann Sandusky**

**Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board**

**Seat: Family Member (BC)**

## **Education**

**School:**

WMU

**Degree:**

BA of Business, Accounting

**School 2:**

NA

**Degree 2:**

NA

## **Employment**

**Current Employer:**

Flavour Speciality Ingredients Inc. ( FSI is a company of Exponent Private Equity LLP)

**Position:**

Vice President, Commercial (Americas)

**Responsibilities:**

-Responsible for \$35M in sales and 8 direct reports -Responsible for meeting growth targets, margin requirements and new business through M&A -Sit on executive committee, representing the regional sales & manufacturing operations

**Previous Employer:**

IFF

**Position:**

VP of Sales, NOAM

**Responsibilities:**

-Responsible for \$26M in sales and 3 direct reports -Responsible for meeting growth & margin targets.

## Eligibility & Other Considerations

**Residency Length:**

53 Years

**Family members employed at Ottawa County or other govt:**

false

**Experience:**

I have no previous experience of serving on a board but know how business is run and know the difference between a Government entity & Private sector. This is critical in understanding how government is funded and understanding a government may have some limits on how and who they spend funds on.

**Attendance Policy:**

true

**Why do you want to be considered for this appointment?**

My husband and I took care of my brother-in-law when he was a teen and diagnosis as bi-polar. I was his care giver and controlled his funds during these 1st years. Then my husband & I adopted and even though our first adoption was a kinship adoption, there was loss and attachment issues we were dealing with. When our 1st 3 children were 8-10 years old we decided to Foster/adopt through MARE and MI foster care system. Our daughter has severe emotional impairment and we had work together with the schools, therapists, justice system to give her the best chance. This last year has been very difficult, and we had to stop school and work because she could not do daily life. So, why I want to be considered for appointment is because: 1) we understand and worked well with school systems and are familiar with need, 2) we understand what services are available for mental health in Ottawa county and 3) I have empathy as a parent who has gone through needed to get help with their child



# Joseph Carmolli

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Family Member (BC)

## Education

**School:**

University of Vermont

**Degree:**

BA Sociology

**School 2:**

Capella University

**Degree 2:**

MS Clinical Mental Health (in progress)

## Employment

**Current Employer:**

Momentum Center

**Position:**

Educator

**Responsibilities:**

Present "coping skills" programming at area high schools (SL Alt, GH Central Alt, Holland HS). Engage in recreational and educational activities with adults with mental illness, disabilities, and addictions. Help members navigate disability benefits and everyday obstacles.

**Previous Employer:**

Ottawa Area Intermediate School District

**Position:**

Instructor, Culinary Arts

**Responsibilities:**

Create and deliver relevant lesson plans in accredited MI technical education standards to secondary students from Ottawa county. Create and provide accommodations to students with special needs as indicated on Individualized Education Plan, through teaming with sending school counselors and special needs educators.

## Eligibility & Other Considerations

**Residency Length:**

25 Years

**Family members employed at Ottawa County or other govt:**

false

**Experience:**

Board Member/ President of Central Park Players (70-year-established non-profit community theatre in Grand Haven)

**Attendance Policy:**

true

**Why do you want to be considered for this appointment?**

I wish to serve the county in advocating for mental health funding and helping to oversee dispersement.

# **Lisa Ramsdell**

**Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board**

**Seat: Family Member (BC)**

## **Education**

**School:**

Holland Christian High School

**Degree:**

Diploma

**School 2:**

Bradley University

**Degree 2:**

BFA

## **Employment**

**Current Employer:**

Keller Williams Harbortown

**Position:**

REALTOR

**Responsibilities:**

Expert in market analysis, pricing strategies, and negotiation, ensuring optimal outcomes for clients. Proficient in marketing, leveraging digital platforms and traditional methods to attract buyers and sellers. Exceptional communication and interpersonal skills, fostering strong client relationships built on trust and professionalism. Committed to staying updated on industry trends and regulations. Dedicated to delivering unparalleled service, guiding clients through every step of the real estate process. Adept at problem-solving and adaptability in dynamic markets. Eager to drive results and exceed expectations.

**Previous Employer:**

ODL

**Position:**

Creative Services Design Supervisor

**Responsibilities:**

Lead the translation of marketing objectives into creative strategies. Through a team, lead creative idea generation and execution across all channels and branded initiatives.

## Eligibility & Other Considerations

**Residency Length:**

12 Years

**Family members employed at Ottawa County or other govt:**

false

**Experience:**

This would be my first board experience

**Attendance Policy:**

true

**Why do you want to be considered for this appointment?**

As a lifelong West Michigan resident, I will always bet on the resilience of West Michigan. Our community, when it rallies together for our collective good, is unstoppable. I believe in the vision of the Community Mental Health of Ottawa County department that it can enhance quality of life for all residents.

# **Laura Leigh LaMore**

**Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board**

**Seat: Family Member (BC)**

## **Education**

**School:**

Wayne State University

**Degree:**

Masters Degree

**School 2:**

Grand Valley State University

**Degree 2:**

Masters Degree

## **Employment**

**Current Employer:**

(Retired) Grand Rapids Public Schools

**Position:**

Executive Director for Special Education, Early Intervention Services, and Section 504

**Responsibilities:**

Responsible for providing educational and organizational leadership for staff, students, colleagues and families; Developing and maintaining a budget; Completing State and Federal Reporting requirements; Problem resolving; Providing oversight of programs and services; Providing leadership for staff; Articulating, developing and promoting innovations in instructional practices; Mentoring aspiring administrators; Program and service development and implementation; Cultivating relationships with families; Acting as a conduit for change.

**Previous Employer:**

Allegan Area Educational Service Agency (AAESA)

**Position:**

ISD Director

**Responsibilities:**

Responsible for providing educational and organizational leadership for staff, students, colleagues and families; Developing and maintaining a budget; Completing State and Federal Reporting requirements; Problem resolving; Providing oversight of programs and services; Providing leadership for staff; Articulating, developing and promoting innovations in instructional practices; Mentoring aspiring administrators; Program and service development and implementation; Cultivating relationships with families; Acting as a conduit for change.

## Eligibility & Other Considerations

**Residency Length:**

14 Years

**Family members employed at Ottawa County or other govt:**

false

**Experience:**

Chairperson for the Special Education Advisory Committee for SoM (1995-1998) Board Member/President of Michigan Council for Exceptional Children (2010-2020)

**Attendance Policy:**

true

**Why do you want to be considered for this appointment?**

As a parent of an adult with a significant disability, I have learned how to navigate and access services for him over the years. Living in Ottawa County for the last 14 years, and having recently retired (2021), I am now familiar and ready to act in a more dedicated capacity for others. I believe my experience as a long time educator as well as my dedication to service determination for my son give me important qualifications to be of service to the county.

# **Lorrie R Hackney**

**Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board**

**Seat: Family Member (BC)**

## **Education**

**School:**

Holland High School

**Degree:**

Diploma

**School 2:**

Davenport College

**Degree 2:**

Associate in Science Degree in Administrative Services

## **Employment**

**Current Employer:**

LoLa's Fabulous Finds

**Position:**

Proprietor

**Responsibilities:**

Owner, buyer, and operator of an antique and vintage business. I purchase, research, and resell items at an antique mall.

**Previous Employer:**

Ottawa County Mental Health

**Position:**

Various - Retired

**Responsibilities:**

I worked at Ottawa County Mental Health over 30 years in various positions and departments. I assisted senior management with training new employees; administrator for on-line learning system; identify problems and implement new procedures; assist in coordinating and setting up trainings; train consumer aides; coordinate with community agencies; participate on committees and general administrative duties.

## Eligibility & Other Considerations

**Residency Length:**

15+ Years

**Family members employed at Ottawa County or other govt:**

false

**Experience:**

I was the PTO Board President at Jefferson Elementary applying for grants and presentations to organizations. I served as the Fund Raiser Coordinator for the West Side PTO Board. I also served on the Project Charlie board that provided education to elementary students. I was a member on the Challenge of Children Conference board for several years while working at Mental Health.

**Attendance Policy:**

true

**Why do you want to be considered for this appointment?**

Through my education, work experience, and a daughter with developmental delays, I am passionate about ensuring a strong system for the Mental Health Community.



# **Mandy Anderson**

**Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board**

**Seat: Family Member (BC)**

## **Education**

**School:**

Madonna University

**Degree:**

BA, Journalism & Public Relations

**School 2:**

Lee M. Thurston High School

**Degree 2:**

Diploma

## **Employment**

**Current Employer:**

Lake Effect Kitchen

**Position:**

owner/operator

**Responsibilities:**

Marketing, customer service, web development, billing, bookkeeping

**Previous Employer:**

Edustaff

**Position:**

substitute teacher

**Responsibilities:**

taught preschool through 12th grade

## Eligibility & Other Considerations

**Residency Length:**

23 Years

**Family members employed at Ottawa County or other govt:**

false

**Experience:**

I have been a member of the board of Autism Support of West Shore and of Eat Well Do Good, Inc.

**Attendance Policy:**

true

**Why do you want to be considered for this appointment?**

I am the mother of a young adult son who receives services through CMHOC. I see the challenges and opportunities for our loved ones within this system, and want to help ensure that services are available to help my son and others like him to live full, self-determined lives in our wonderful community.

# **Kelly Goetzinger**

**Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board**

**Seat: Family Member (BC)**

## **Education**

**School:**

Michigan State University

**Degree:**

Bachelor of Arts - Major in Sociology

**School 2:**

N/A

**Degree 2:**

N/A

## **Employment**

**Current Employer:**

Priority Health

**Position:**

Senior Provider Contracting Specialist

**Responsibilities:**

Leads tactically by helping junior staff add relationship equity to their negotiating tool set, while helping junior staff prepare for successful contract discussions. Leads administratively by managing internal communications as it relates to the contracting process and tracking success while driving key projects. Gathers market and competitive intelligence through secondary sources as it relates to providers and health care policy to increase knowledge providing leverage for the department to use in contract negotiations.

**Previous Employer:**

Community Mental Health of Ottawa County

**Position:**

Program Coordinator, Contractual Services and Training

**Responsibilities:**

Provides oversight and supervision of the agency's Contact Manager and CMH Mental Health Trainer. The essential functions of this position include but are not limited to: Works in cooperation with the agency's Contract Manager to oversee the Provider Network Council of the agency. Develops, publishes plan requirements, and assures daily operations are completed in the areas of responsibility. Participates in regional training groups and Statewide Training Guidelines Workgroup (STGW) to develop and standardize region and side wide training. Maintains constructive relationships and builds partnerships with other human service providers.

## Eligibility & Other Considerations

**Residency Length:**

12 Years

**Family members employed at Ottawa County or other govt:**

false

**Experience:**

During my years at CMHOC I attended the monthly board meetings to present CMH contracts for approval, as well as observing the board sessions in order to be informed on all CMH business in order to be transparent and a good partner with our contracted organizations. While working for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, I frequently attended the county board meetings to present my findings and reports as an analyst for Children's Protective Services and Foster Care.

**Attendance Policy:**

true

**Why do you want to be considered for this appointment?**

I have continuously held positions throughout my professional career in public service and even now in the private sector serve as an agent for assuring the members of our community are receiving the best health care available through Priority Health. My passion is to help people lead fulfilling lives and to assist them in doing that through the great services our state, county, and local businesses provide. I also have a personal connection to mental health as I have several family members that have been diagnosed with a mental health disability. I have close relationships with them and have good knowledge about their experiences.

# **Gabrielle T Dunai**

**Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board**

**Seat: Family Member (BC)**

## **Education**

**School:**

Aquinas College

**Degree:**

Early Childhood Education/Elementary Language Arts

**School 2:**

Grand Valley State University

**Degree 2:**

Masters in Social Work

## **Employment**

**Current Employer:**

Vibrant Futures

**Position:**

Education Specialist/ Certified Parent Educator

**Responsibilities:**

Home visitor for high-risk families with 2 or more risk factors. Risk factors included intimate partner violence, child abuse or neglect, poverty, housing instability, parent incarceration, child welfare involvement, recent immigration or refugee status and parent physical/ mental health issues. Recruited parents and families with children from prenatal through five (5) years of age for participation in program services coordinated by the district, constituent districts and other partners in the countywide community resource network.

**Previous Employer:**

Bright Beginnings

**Position:**

Certified Parent Educator

**Responsibilities:**

Home visitor for high-risk families with 2 or more risk factors. Risk factors included intimate partner violence, child abuse or neglect, poverty, housing instability, parent incarceration, child welfare involvement, recent immigration or refugee status and parent physical/ mental health issues. Recruited parents and families with children from prenatal through five (5) years of age for participation in program services coordinated by the district, constituent districts and other partners in the countywide community resource network.

## Eligibility & Other Considerations

**Residency Length:**

22 years Years

**Family members employed at Ottawa County or other govt:**

false

**Experience:**

I have over 5 years of active involvement in community organizations that service vulnerable populations in West Michigan. I am currently an active member with Resilience's Survivor Advisory Council along with being a voting member of the Lakeshore Alliance Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. I am also a member of the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children and the National Association for Young Children. In 2023 I also created my employer's (Vibrant Futures) first parent advisory board. I currently facilitate parent advisory board meetings along with acting as a parent liaison between parent participants and the agency.

**Attendance Policy:**

true

**Why do you want to be considered for this appointment?**

Through my work in human services, I have witnessed the barriers my families have encountered when trying to obtain services for their family members. I also have multiple family members with mental health conditions and have firsthand experiences with navigating the CMH systems in both Ottawa and Kent County along with awareness of the dynamics surrounding mental health. I feel that the knowledge and experiences would bring beneficial insight to the meetings and the board.

# **Thomas Bird**

**Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board**

**Seat: Family Member (BC)**

## **Education**

**School:**

N/A

**Degree:**

N/A

**School 2:**

N/A

**Degree 2:**

N/A

## **Employment**

**Current Employer:**

Retired

**Position:**

Owner

**Responsibilities:**

Extensive experience in forming and operating many companies involved in telecommunications and the service sector. Most recently owned and operated a business building and operating car washes throughout the state of Michigan, which was recently sold.

**Previous Employer:**

Ottawa County Road Commission

**Position:**

Commissioner

**Responsibilities:**

Appointed for full 12 year terms. Served as Board Chair for 4 years.

## Eligibility & Other Considerations

**Residency Length:**

26 Years

**Family members employed at Ottawa County or other govt:**

false

**Experience:**

12 years as OCRC Commissioner. 12 years as member is Macatawa Area Coordinating Council representing the OCRC. Served as Treasurer, Exec Committee member, and currently as Chair of the Policy Committee. Previous Board service on school board and several NPO?s.

**Attendance Policy:**

true

**Why do you want to be considered for this appointment?**

As a parent/guardian of a 52 yr old child with Intellectual/developmental disabilities who has received Medicaid services for 26 years from OCCMH, I am fully aware of the critical services that the CMH agency provides to Ottawa County consumers. My wife, Rita Bird, previously served on the CMH Board for 14 years, and I am intimately familiar with MDHHS operations and regulations of the CMH system of service delivery. Together with her, I was active in participating with legislative lobbying concerning proposed legislation and funding for this agency, along with active participation with CMHA committees and the Regional Entity.



# **Mark Stephenson**

**Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board**

**Seat: Family Member (BC)**

## **Education**

**School:**

Calvin Theological Seminary

**Degree:**

M.Div.; Th.M.

**School 2:**

Calvin College

**Degree 2:**

B.A.

## **Employment**

**Current Employer:**

Retired from full time work, July 2022

**Position:**

Active Volunteer

**Responsibilities:**

Board President, Pathways to Promise, volunteering up to 30 hours per week helping this small, national non-profit assist faith communities in their ministry with people with mental health challenges; elder and council clerk, Intersection Ministries in Holland; assist green card holders in process of becoming US citizens; assist Afghan refugee family settle in west Michigan; teach Companionship workshop - a relational response to isolation and distress and supportive of healing and recovery through the community; train and teach Shorin Ryu Karate to children, youth, and adults at Fabiano's Karate.

**Previous Employer:**

Christian Reformed denomination

**Position:**

Director of Disability Concerns, Race Relations, Social Justice

**Responsibilities:**

supervising staff (sometimes as many as 11); strategic planning; casting vision for the ministries; writing reports on our work; discussing questions and concerns with constituents; fund raising, recruiting, training, and supporting disability advocates; teaching and training in various settings; publicly reporting on the work of the ministries to governing bodies

## Eligibility & Other Considerations

**Residency Length:**

54 Years

**Family members employed at Ottawa County or other govt:**

false

**Experience:**

Member of several church councils, 24 years Board member and President, Pathways to Promise, 17 years Chair, Guardian Advisory Council, Harbor House Ministries, 18 years Staff support, Christian Reformed Council of Delegates, 3 years Staff support, Christian Reformed Committee to Guide and Support Social Justice, 3 years Staff support, Christian Reformed Disability Concerns Advisory Committee, 16 years Committee member and chair, CRC Classis Holland Executive Team, 9 years President, South Olive Christian School Board, 2 years

**Attendance Policy:**

true

**Why do you want to be considered for this appointment?**

The number one reason is gratitude, and I want to give back in this direct way. I'm grateful to God, to the governments of Ottawa County, the state of Michigan, and the United States for the supports our 35-year-old daughter who lives joyfully with severe, multiple disabilities. In addition, the work of Community Mental Health is some of the most important work done by the County of Ottawa in supporting people with mental health challenges and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who tend to be pushed to the margins of society and need the supports of many of us in order to live flourishing lives.

# **Debra Deater**

**Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board**

**Seat: Family Member (BC)**

## **Education**

**School:**

South Haven High School

**Degree:**

General diploma

**School 2:**

**Degree 2:**

## **Employment**

**Current Employer:**

Goodwill Industries of West Michigan

**Position:**

Job Coach

**Responsibilities:**

I provide support for 2 adults with disabilities who have employment with Hope College. I know and understand what the grounds manager expects of the staff and I support them appropriately. Main responsibilities are picking up trash from all parking lots, 30+, cutting and pruning plants and bushes. Sweeping, hauling refuse, shoveling and salting snow.

**Previous Employer:**

The Shoreline Center

**Position:**

Registered Behavior Technician

**Responsibilities:**

Provided skilled aba goals and practices to BCBA standards and requirements.

## Eligibility & Other Considerations

**Residency Length:**

20 Years

**Family members employed at Ottawa County or other govt:**

false

**Experience:**

I do not have experience serving on other boards but what i do have is extensive experience in a wide variety of settings. I also have extensive knowledge of different disabilities or mental illness as well as the resulting behaviors of such diagnosis.

**Attendance Policy:**

true

**Why do you want to be considered for this appointment?**

Not only did I work for OCCMH for 12 years but I also have a son who receives services. I have advocated, cried, and bled for the people I serve. I started in this field before I was out of high school. I have always advocated and used my voice for the voiceless, but now i want to do more. There are many families crying for help or just don't know where to turn. Our CMH needs to continue being the beacon for so many individuals in our community. As an advocate, a parent and a friend I would like to continue helping bring more services and continuation of care for our loved ones.