

GM575

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTOPHER ROCCHIO, for a term to expire 06-30-2017.

Report Title: State Council on Mental Health

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony SUPPORTING GM575
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health,
Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTOPHER ROCCHIO, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: March 1, 2016, 9:30 a.m. Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and confirmation
3 of Christopher Rocchio to the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH) for his first term.
4 Mr. Rocchio fills the mandated SCMH membership position of the families of adults with
5 serious mental illness or families of children with serious emotional disturbances, pursuant to
6 Chapter 334-10 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and Federal Law, P.L. 102-321, Section 1914(c).

7 Mr. Rocchio is a licensed clinical social worker and certified substance abuse counselor.
8 He has thirteen years of experience in the field of social work and is uniquely qualified to be a
9 member of the SCMH having worked for both the Child and Adolescent Mental Health and the
10 Adult Mental Health Divisions in various capacities. His experience in mental health services
11 research, program evaluation, care coordination programs for adults with serious mental illness,
12 and direct practice managing community based case management will translate to the Council in
13 an exemplary manner.

14 We are fortunate to have an individual of Mr. Rocchio's caliber join the SCMH and look
15 forward to his expertise and passion in advocating for individuals living with mental illness. We

- 1 respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of Mr.
- 2 Christopher Rocchio to the SCMH.
- 3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on his behalf.
- 4 **Offered Amendments:** None.

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?
 - a. I am committed to advancing and protecting the rights of children with serious emotional disturbances (SED), adults with serious mental illness (SMI), and adults with co-occurring SMI and substance use disorders (SUD).
 - b. As a family member to loved ones with SMI and SUD, I can appreciate the challenges and opportunities families face when supporting loved ones in different stages of recovery.
- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?
 - a. Offer recommendations and guidance to the State Mental Health Authority (SMHA) in developing and implementing publicly-funded mental health services.
 - b. Monitor, review, and evaluate publicly-funded mental health services, including initiatives funded by the federal mental health block grant.
 - c. Monitor the SMHA for compliance to various HRS and HAR.
- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?
 - a. All mental health consumers should have access to quality- and data-driven, outcomes-oriented, evidence-based, and promising practices in behavioral health that are recovery-focused, resiliency-oriented, trauma-informed, culturally-relevant, and holistic. I firmly believe that asking critical questions and providing honest feedback to receptive and reflective stakeholders (i.e., SMHA representatives) helps protect mental health consumers from potentially exploitive and paternalistic practices.
- (4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.
 - a. My diverse professional experiences as a clinician, educator, evaluator, and consultant have helped me understand the complexities and challenges facing the SMHA. Please refer to my CV. As outlined in my CV, I am knowledgeable of various evidence-based practices, recovery-oriented services, and implementation science.
 - b. My personal experiences supporting family members in different stages of recovery have helped me appreciate the challenges of being a family member to loved ones in different stages of recovery.
- (5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?
 - a. Increased transparency from the SMHA to the public regarding services and outcomes.
 - b. Increased efforts to include mental health consumers with designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating publicly funded mental health services.
- (6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

- a. My mentors have helped me develop an orientation that assesses for and identifies strengths in people with SMI or SMI and SUD. I am strengths-oriented.
 - b. I am introspective and reflective. I employ a healthy degree of skepticism in all practices used to treat and support people in recovery from SMI or SMI or SUD.
 - c. I am committed to cultural competency and firmly believe in employing cultural humility when working with diverse groups.
- (7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.
- a. In my previous position with the State, I worked across different divisions within the BHA on various initiatives. Please refer to my CV.
- (8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?
- a. No