

GM682

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mental Health And Substance Abuse, O'ahu Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, TRENNA SYKES-HEBERT, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Report Title: Mental Health And Substance Abuse, O'ahu Service Area Board

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 GM682
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse,
Oahu Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, TRENNA SYKES-HEBERT, for a term
to expire 6-30-2019.

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: March 24, 2016, 9:00 a.m. Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the nomination and
3 confirmation of Trenna Sykes-Hebert to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Oahu Service
4 Area Board (OSAB) for her first term. Ms. Sykes-Hebert fills the community member segment
5 of the board, pursuant to Chapter 334-11 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

6 Ms. Sykes-Hebert is a strong advocate for the homeless population and has worked with
7 homeless individuals since the early 70's. She has worked in the Next Step Shelter in Hawaii
8 primarily with chronically fragile individuals, and she currently works in the City and County
9 Transitional Housing Homeless Shelter for Working Families. Ms. Sykes-Hebert states that she
10 has a passion and gift for working with homeless individuals and has found creative ways in
11 helping some of them to get back into the workforce. She is also very comfortable working with
12 individuals living with severe and persistent mental illness and finds that having a listening ear
13 goes a long way with this population. Ms. Sykes-Hebert wants to participate on the OSAB to
14 work towards stopping the criminalization of homelessness and the stigma of living with mental
15 illness.

- 1 The DOH requests your favorable consideration in confirming Ms. Trena Sykes-Hebert.
- 2 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Ms. Sykes-Hebert's behalf.
- 3 **Offered Amendments:** None.



Community Health Outreach Work

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 226
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone (808) 853-3292 • Fax (808) 853-3274

March 15, 2015

TO: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
FROM: Heather Lusk, Executive Director, CHOW Project
RE: Strong Support for Trenna Sykes-Hebert GM 682

Dear Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing you in support of Trenna Sykes-Hebert. She has been a long time colleague whom I have supported and watched her growth in working with various agencies throughout the state. She was an intern with the CHOW Project and I was very impressed with her work as it relates to substance abuse and mental health.

For over 20 years the CHOW Project has been working improve the lives of men women and families experiencing homelessness who also may be touched by addiction. The CHOW Project is dedicated to serving individuals, families, and communities adversely affected by drug use, through a participant-centered harm reduction approach. CHOW works to reduce drug related harms such as but not limited to HIV, hepatitis B/C and overdose.

Ms. Sykes-Hebert is a hard worker and extraordinarily passionate about advocating and serving communities especially individuals who are homeless, medically fragile, substance abusers and the mentally ill. She is able to work with a diverse set of clientele and easily built rapport with clients and fellow service providers within the community. Her integrity and work ethics have proven that she is reliable, dedicated and a team player.

I would recommend her to be selected as a part of a board as I believe she would prove to be an invaluable asset. She is also very dependable, often going above the call of duty and sacrificing personal time to ensure tasks are complete and the community is being served, therefore I believe Ms. Sykes-Hebert will have no issue fulfilling all the requirements, obligations and duties as a board member.

Sincerely,

Heather Lusk
Executive Director
CHOW Project



A Non-Profit Human Service Agency

Main Office Location

33 South King Street, Suite 300 * Honolulu, HI 96813-4323
Telephone (808) 521-4531 * Fax (808) 521-4538

Honolulu Community Action Program, Inc.

**2015 - 2016
Board Officers**

Garrick L.H. Goo, Esq.
Chair
Pauni Nagaseu-Escue
Vice Chair
Rep. Isaac W. Choy
Secretary/Treasurer

**2015 - 2016
Board Members**

Resident Sector

Tricia Hornback
Head Start Policy Council
Kiani Cockett
Central District
Juliana Moeufu-Kaleopa
Central District
Pauni Nagaseu-Escue
Kalihi-Palama District
Rebecca Allen
Leahi District
Justin Pequeno
Leeeward District
Renee Kiaha-Pakele
Windward District

Public Sector

Terrence Aratani, Esq.
Office of Senator
Brian T. Tanguuchi
Rep. Isaac W. Choy
Mayor's Representative
Mark L. Forman
Office of Senator Suzanne
Chun Oakland
Frank Lopez
Governor's Representative
Colleen Minami
Office of Representative
Marcus Oshiro
Blake Oshiro
Office of Representative
Calvin Soy

Private Sector

Garrick L.H. Goo
Attorney at Law
Phyllis Ida
P-3 Windward Grant
Samuel Moku
Hawaii Pacific University
Judy Hirashima
Hawaiian Electric Company
Alan Shinn
Coalition for a Drug-Free
Hawaii
William Shiroma
Bank of Hawaii
Kevin A. Souza, Esq.
Hawaii State Judiciary
Elmer Kuni
Native Hawaiian Chamber
of Commerce

Robert N.E. Piper, Esq., MBA
Executive Director

HEAD START OFFICES:

- DILLINGHAM
Tel: (808) 847-2400
 - KUNIA
Tel: (808) 621-5099
 - KUNIA (HARC)
Tel: (808) 200-7690
- DISTRICT CENTERS**

March 16, 2016

Re: Sykes, Treena

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Ms. Treena Sykes. She has been a long-time colleague and friend and I have supported and watched her growth in working with community agencies.

Ms. Sykes is a hard worker and passionate about advocating and serving communities, particularly in areas of impoverishment. She is able to work with diverse clientele and builds rapport with clients and fellow colleagues easily. Her integrity and work ethics are excellent and she is very reliable and a team player.

I would recommend her to be selected as part of a board as I believe she would provide clear and concise input to whichever area she will be contributing to. Ms. Sykes is also very dependable and her attendance to mandatory board meetings I do not foresee as a challenge or problem.

Please feel free to contact me if you require addition information or have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Kainani M Kahunanui
Lead Case Manager
Kumuhonua Transitional Living Center
91-1096 Yorktown Place
P.O. Box 75547
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707
(808) 682-5494x 106
(808) 682-5495 facsimile
kainanik@hcapweb.org

• CENTRAL O'AHU
Tel: (808) 488-6834

• KALIHI-PALAMA
Tel: (808) 847-0804

• LEAHI
Tel: (808) 732-7755

• LEEWARD
Tel: (808) 696-4261

• WINDWARD
Tel: (808) 239-5754

Lambert Lum
1118 Pua Lane #313
Honolulu, HI 96817
lum.lambert@gmail.com
(808) 754-3853

March 18, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a personal letter of recommendation for Ms. Tenna Herbert-Sykes. Over the past four years I have worked with her both as her supervisor at Waikiki Health and more recently as a colleague at her current employer.

Since then I have come to know her both on a professional and personal level. Tenna played a key role in ensuring the overall success of our homeless clients. She possesses exceptional written and verbal communication skills.

Aside from Case Management and Housing Services for our homeless clients, Tenna was responsible for coordinating various in-house programs at the shelter. She has also created various training guides and resources which are still being used today.

I have witnessed her progression through the ranks from a Shelter Worker to a Housing Specialist to her current role today. She demonstrates initiative, learns quickly and most of all possesses a positive attitude. She is also well respected by her fellow co workers, patients and clients alike.

I am confident that she will be a great benefit to any organization. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 754-3853.

Sincerely,

Lambert Lum



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

March 17, 2016

RE: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Board, Oahu Area

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing you in unqualified support of Trenna Sykes-Hebert for the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Board (Oahu Area). In my capacity working with HIV, hepatitis, and harm reduction within the Department of Health, Trenna has demonstrated extensive community experience and strong commitment to public health which would serve the Board well.

As the Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator for the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH), I have collaborated with Trenna many times to ensure that at-risk persons received appropriate health and social services. Trenna is extraordinarily passionate about serving at-risk communities, especially those who are homeless, medically fragile, using substance, and have mental health issues. Her strong work ethic, adaptability, and non-judgemental attitude have served her well to not only successfully engage with a diverse set of clientele, but also to established rapport fellow service providers. She is also a great communicator and team player, making her adept at coordinating services and fostering collaborative opportunities.

Given her ongoing experience working with person affected or living with mental health and/or substance use issues, Trenna is uniquely positioned to provide timely and relevant feedback during the Board's decision-making or advisory processes. Trenna's organizational skills and strong work ethic will also be invaluable to ensure the efficient use of the Board's time and resources. **Therefore, I strongly recommend Trenna to be selected as a part of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Board for Oahu.**

Mahalo for your consideration!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thaddeus Pham", written over a circular stamp.

Thaddeus Pham
Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator
Hawaii State Department of Health
3627 Kilauea Avenue, Suite 305
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
Thaddeus.pham@doh.hawaii.gov

Trenna Sykes-Hebert
808-292-4715

(1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

I would like to become a member of the Mental Health And Substance Abuse, O'ahu Service Area Board to expand my experiences as well as have the honor of serving the community in which utilizes mental health and substance abuse services both patients and providers.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

I believe the roles and responsibilities of a board member are: to always act in good faith which is displayed by honesty and integrity to the duties and obligations, to act in the best interest of the board and to exercise good judgment and common sense

(3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

I have been extremely successful in navigating thru the variety of housing, mental health, substance abuse and other social services throughout the state. I have written resource guides for all affordable housing for the entire state of Hawaii, as well as a substance abuse guide for the island of Oahu. With my working knowledge of resources available, I feel I can appropriately and effectively advocate for individuals and services providers.

(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.

As previously stated I have written several resource guides, and have been actively engaging service provider's state wide to establish a collaborative and efficient working relationships to serve my community in an expeditious manner. I also believe my experience at a younger age representing the Honolulu District to the Hawaii State Student Council at the age of 14, has prepared me in the working process of the legislative process.

(5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I hope to accomplish a better understanding of what the communities needs are, with the goal of improving access to mental health and substance abuse services whilst fighting against the stigma in which mental health and substance abuse issues commonly come with.

(6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

Objectivity, Passion and Interest in the Mental Health and Substance Abuse field, and my strong desire for stewardship to others. I believe these qualities will benefit the board because I am able to make decisions and choices based on the information provided, and not my own opinion. I understand the importance of the role in that it is not a self-serving position but a position that services the community. I also genuinely love working within the mental health and substance abuse community. I have found it most rewarding working with individuals that are labeled to have serious and persistent mental illness and co-occurring disorders, which have gone thru service provider after service provider because they are difficult. I find it a challenge in which allows me to think outside the box, use my creativity and problem solving skills.

(7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

I was a board member for a small 501-3C in which was working with the C&C of Honolulu to build a handicapped accessible dog park, now known as the Ala Wai K-9 Playground association. I also have had extensive experience with the state legislature and Board of Education at a young age in adulating for my peers. In addition, I have been working within the social services sector for the past 4 years and have established many relationships not only on Oahu but state wide.

(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?

I do not see any conflicts in which may arise for my position. I have already spoken to my current employer who fully supports my desires to participate on this board. I am also enrolled at UH-West Oahu and have excellent time management skills in my ability to balance work, school, volunteer and personal life.