

GM752

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board Of Psychology, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHERRY SUTHERLAND-CHOY, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Report Title: Board Of Psychology

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR

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**PRESENTATION OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2016
Wednesday, April 13, 2016
9:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON **GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 752**, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO **THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **SHERRY SUTHERLAND-CHOY**, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2020.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message No. 752, nominating Ms. Sherry Sutherland-Choy for membership on the Board of Psychology ("Board") for a term to expire June 30, 2020.

Ms. Sutherland-Choy started out in crisis intervention 25 years ago in 1991 and worked her way up as a health professional, eventually earning advanced degrees in nursing and clinical psychology. She has experience working in various hospitals in

California and Hawaii. Ms. Sutherland-Choy began working as a registered nurse in Hawaii at Kahi Mohala Behavioral Healthcare in 1999, and most recently joined Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center in 2013, where she continues to work as a family nurse practitioner and clinical psychologist.

In addition, Ms. Sutherland-Choy is an adjunct instructor of psychopharmacology at the Hawaii School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University. She understands her responsibility to attend and prepare for the Board's monthly meetings.

Given Ms. Sutherland-Choy's education and professional experience, the Department believes that she is in a good position to positively contribute to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in support of Ms. Sutherland-Choy's nomination to the Board of Psychology.

From: [Scanlan, Sean W.](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Sherry Sutherland-Choy nomination
Date: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 2:48:06 PM

Aloha,

I am writing in support of Sherry Sutherland-Choy, Psy.D. for a position on the Board of Psychology. First, Sherry's CV is very impressive, as she is experienced and holds degrees and licenses in both Clinical Psychology and Nursing. I believe that her varied training and degrees offers a well-rounded perspective to the Board. Second, Sherry has a calm demeanor and is able to work well with others. She is professional, trustworthy, and, most importantly, has integrity. In sum, she has the experience and character of someone who should be on the Board of Psychology, and as a psychologist, we need people like her on the Board of Psychology. I hope she is selected.

Sean W. Scanlan, Ph.D.

Sean W. Scanlan, Ph.D

Program Dean

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**HAWAI'I SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY®**
AT ARGOSY UNIVERSITY

WAIANA'E COAST COMPREHENSIVE
HEALTH CENTER



From: Robert S.Y. Young, MD, Psychiatry
Chief of Behavioral Health, WCCHC

Stephen Bradley, MD
Chief Medical Officer, WCCHC

To: State of Hawaii, Board of Psychology

4/5/2016

Dear Honorable Sirs:

This letter is in support of recommending Dr. Sherry Sutherland-Choy, Psy.D, APRN-RX for the position as a member of the State of Hawaii Board of Psychology.

Dr Sutherland-Choy is a licensed Hawaii psychologist and a licensed Hawaii advance practice registered nurse. She is an esteemed member of our clinical staff at the Department of Behavioral Health at Waiana'e Coast Comprehensive Health Center, (WCCHC). Our Waiana'e community is a Federally designated as a medically underserved community comprised of 5 Native Hawaiian homesteads where Dr Sutherland-Choy tirelessly cares for behavioral health patients who are in dire need of care.

Dr. Sutherland-Choy began her career at WCCHC as a former student in our APA-accredited psychology training program which is a highly competitive program of exclusion. As a student Dr. Sutherland-Choy exceeded training expectations and was ultimately hired as a staff psychologist at WCCHC. Dr. Sutherland-Choy's character is impeccable, her dedication to others is renowned and her abilities as a duly-licensed doctor give her an immense ability to provide excellent patient care.

We have no doubt that Dr. Sutherland-Choy will be a highly valued member of the State of Hawaii Board of Psychology and again give her the highest recommendation for service without reservation.

Sincerely,

Robert S.Y. Young, MD
Chief of Behavioral Health Services, WCCHC

Stephen Bradley, MD
Chief Medical Officer, WCCHC



WAIANAЕ COAST COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER

www.wcchc.com

Kristy Sakai-Costigan, Psy.D.
Director of Training
Behavioral Health Department
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center
86-260 Farrington Highway
Waianae, Hawaii 96792

April 7, 2016

Hawaii State Senate
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in strongest support of Dr. Sherry Sutherland-Choy's nomination to the Hawaii Psychology Licensing Board. Dr. Sutherland-Choy is an excellent candidate with whom I have had the privilege of knowing as her Director of Training for her internship (September 2009- August 2010) and postdoctoral fellowship (September 2013-March 2015), and now as a colleague at Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC).

In terms of training received as an Intern and Postdoctoral Fellow at WCCHC, Dr. Sutherland-Choy received comprehensive training and experience in working with culturally diverse and medically underserved populations, many of whom had severe psychological and/or organic conditions and often have multiple traumatic experiences, challenges with substance abuse and/or dependence, and multiple psychosocial stressors, sometimes including homelessness. She gained experience in working with diverse presenting concerns and a wide range of diagnostic presentations. She engaged in psychological testing and wrote integrated reports, attended didactic trainings, and provided presentations for other students as well.

Although I have not directly supervised Dr. Sutherland-Choy, throughout my interactions with her as a student, as well as a licensed Psychologist/APRN Rx at WCCHC, I have observed her to be extremely knowledgeable and comprehensive in her clinical interactions, and she demonstrates a genuine care for her patients. Supervisors have had exceptionally high praises for her clinical work, knowledge base, and her commitment to clinical care.

Given her unique training and certification as an APRN-Rx, in addition to being a Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Sutherland-Choy is extremely knowledgeable in psychopharmacology and the biological bases of mental illness and provides our interns training on these topics, and has been


providing this training since her postdoctoral fellowship year. Feedback from interns has consistently been outstanding. I was able to observe some of her seminars and they are indeed exemplary! She is extremely knowledgeable on the subject matter and presents the information in a way that is engaging and relevant to our interns, who are very fortunate to have this invaluable learning opportunity.

As current faculty at WCCHC, Dr. Sutherland-Choy also provides supervision to psychology interns and practicum students. Students have consistently provided excellent feedback about their experiences with Dr. Sutherland-Choy, frequently commenting about her substantial knowledge base, as well as their opportunities to further their understanding of pathology and treatment from a biological perspective. Our internship program is accredited by the American Psychological Association, and Dr. Sutherland-Choy has been an invaluable member of our internship selection team and was integral to our internship selection process this year. She also participates in our monthly Internship Training Committee Meetings where student matters, progress, and matriculation through the program are discussed. She demonstrates ethics, quality, and integrity in all aspects of her work.

On a personal note, Dr. Sutherland-Choy is an absolute pleasure to have as a colleague! She is exceptionally knowledgeable, bright, and kindhearted. She volunteers to help with additional responsibilities and is ethical and thorough in her interactions. She takes on more than what is expected and is insightful, self-aware, and produces high quality work. She is honest, extremely hardworking, and has a good sense of humor. She routinely consults and collaborates with others to provide the best quality of patient care and gets along well with staff, providers, and students. She is extremely supportive of and respected by our behavioral health team.

It has been a privilege to work with Dr. Sutherland-Choy. She is a valued part of our Behavioral Health team and training faculty. I give her my highest recommendation without reservation. Given her unique training as a Psychologist and APRN-Rx, she will be able to provide invaluable insights to the Psychology Licensing Board. Please feel free to contact me should you desire any additional information about this exceptional candidate.

Sincerely,



Kristy Sakai-Costigan, Psy.D.

Director of Training
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center
Phone: 808-697-3469
Email: ksakai@wcchc.com

Dr. Sherry Sutherland-Choy Responses
April 3, 2016

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

I would like to contribute to the practice of psychology in Hawaii by improving access and quality of care. I would also provide guidance on the necessary training and qualifications for psychologists to prescribe medications. I am licensed as both a psychologist and a prescribing nurse practitioner. I actively prescribe medications in my current dual position at Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center.

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

Understand and apply the current rules and regulations, evaluate proposed legislation from the perspective of both the consumer and the clinician, and seek to improve the regulatory scheme.

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

Promote ethical guidelines and training requirements to ensure that clinicians are safe, competent, and deliver a high standard of mental health care services.

- (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.

I have spent the majority of my professional life working in a variety of clinical settings from psychiatric hospitals and community mental health to performing psychopharmacology research and teaching doctoral students. My background as both a psychologist and family nurse practitioner has given me a solid clinical foundation. Working with the Waianae Coast community has provided me with insight into the complexity of social issues that impact mental health.

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

I hope to positively influence mental health policy. If psychologists were to obtain prescription authority, educational and training requirements would need to be reviewed and revised in order to produce safe and competent clinicians. In addition, if psychologists were to treat the persistently and severely mentally ill population with psychotropic medications, then we need to integrate psychosocial rehabilitation into our educational requirements. Prescribing psychotropic medications is not enough to restore functional capacity, improve quality of life, and reduce mortality rates in the persistently mentally ill.

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

I am a hard and conscientious worker, receptive to understanding multiple perspectives on issues, and motivated to do what is in the best interests of the consumer. Holding multiple perspectives makes me less susceptible to the pressures of group thinking or the momentum of one polarizing point of view.

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

I served as a board member for the Hawaii Nurses' Association and engaged in contract negotiations as a nurse representative. I believe this experience has helped me with conflict resolution and working collaboratively with others.

- (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 foresee conflicts of interest at this time. If a conflict of interest arose, I would disclose the nature of the conflict to the board, obtain a determination from the board that the conflict is genuine and, if so, recuse myself from any vote or deliberations.