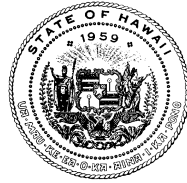


GM636

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mental Health & Substance Abuse, O'ahu Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHERYL GUZIKOWSKI, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

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

Current Referral: CPH



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

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0636
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Oahu Service Area Board,
Gubernatorial Nominee, CHERYL GUZIKOWSKI,
for a term to expire 6-30-21.

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date and Time: Friday, April 5, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

Room: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and confirmation
3 of Cheryl Guzikowski to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Oahu Service Area Board
4 (OSAB). Ms. Guzikowski fills the community member or non-provider of mental health services
5 segment of the board, pursuant to Chapter 334-11 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

6 Ms. Guzikowski is a pharmacist with the Queen's Development Corporation,
7 Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific. She received her doctor of pharmacy degree from Purdue
8 University and has worked as a pharmacist in Illinois and Hawaii since 2005. Ms. Guzikowski
9 has volunteered at the non-profit organization Hawaii Marine Animal Response, and more
10 recently at the Hawaii Homeless Healthcare Hui at the men's shelter clinic. She is very
11 passionate about working with the homeless population. One of Ms. Guzikowski's areas of focus
12 is decreasing stigma associated with mental health treatment. We believe Ms. Guzikowski's
13 knowledge and skills as well as her experience providing patients with medication education
14 makes her a valuable advocate for individuals who live with mental illness.

15 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of
16 Ms. Guzikowski to the OSAB. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Ms. Guzikowski's
17 behalf.

18 **Offered Amendments:** None.

I am writing in support of the nomination of Cheryl Guzikowski to the Mental Health & Substance Abuse, O'ahu Service Area Board. I have known Cheryl in both a professional and personal capacity since 2005.

Cheryl's experience as a pharmacist in community pharmacy has afforded her numerous opportunities to witness firsthand the impact mental health and substance abuse disorders have on our communities. Cheryl always puts her patients and community first. She has been successful in optimizing treatment regimens for patients by gaining trust and respect from both patients and other healthcare providers. In addition, she has worked on the frontlines in her pharmacies to do her part in fighting the opioid crisis and working to balance legitimate patient needs against potential inappropriate use situations.

Today we focus on collaboration and the vital role it plays in our country's healthcare system. While I completely agree with the importance of collaboration, what unfortunately happens sometimes is that the patient is left out or not heard, especially in the realm of mental health and substance abuse disorders. When this happens, no matter how much collaboration occurs, there isn't a successful outcome for the patient. This is where Cheryl stands out from her peers. She is knowledgeable, empathetic, and can effectively communicate with patients, their families, and other healthcare providers. Those collaborative efforts much more successful and her patients are engaged and willing to seek out and continue their treatments. They know they can rely on Cheryl to make sure they are taken care of.

On a personal note, Cheryl is someone I admire for her passion and willingness to fight for and make sure those whose voices aren't heard, are heard. Her volunteer efforts and now her job at the Joint Outreach Center for the Hawaii Homeless Healthcare Hui demonstrate her ongoing commitment to helping those that need it. The professional and personal qualities that Cheryl possesses are why I believe she would be an excellent addition to the board.

From: [Nancy Gallagher](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: GM636 Cheryl Guzikowski
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 4:08:40 AM

April 1st, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

I have known Dr. Cheryl Guzikowski for approximately 20 years. She is a personal friend. I find her a dedicated and loyal individual to her profession in Pharmacy. She is dedicated and committed to serving others. Truly patient centric. Working toward the betterment of others. She treats all with whom she works with with dignity and respect. In giving respect she earns respect. I've always known Dr. Guzikowski to work for and toward continuous improvement. She is a decisive woman. Always looking for ways to improve the quality of her service to others. She is thoughtful. She is accountable. She is willing to admit her mistakes and work diligently to correct them. Dr. Guzikowski is trustworthy. She is accessible. She is accountable in everything she does and to every one she encounters. She is a woman to get involved and take action. Dr. Guzikowski can and will make a difference.

Respectfully,

Nancy Gallagher MSW, LCSW
(847) 477-0139

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Irene Petruniak](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: GM636 Cheryl Guzikowski
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 11:07:26 AM

To whom it may concern:

My name is Irene Petruniak and I am a retired school teacher. It is with great pleasure that I will testify on behalf of Cheryl Guzikowski for her nomination to the Mental Health & Substance Abuse, O'ahu Service Area Board.

In 2008 I relocated to the downtown area of Chicago where I met Cheryl. She was employed at Osco Drug as a pharmacist. It was there that we established a professional relationship, and later, a social relationship as well.

At this time, I was the primary caregiver for my elderly mother. As I dealt with her condition (diabetes, high blood pressure, mild dementia, etc), I realized very quickly that Cheryl was going to become an integral part of my life. I was going to need quite a bit of guidance to deal with this situation. Cheryl not only educated me on all the medications I was administering, but also helped me to navigate issues with doctors.

Over time, I began to depend on Cheryl's expertise as it related to my own medical issues. And, over time, she gained my trust and that of my family members, always checking in with her prior to calling doctors or nurses. In fact, I continue to call her to this day for guidance and advice!!

Cheryl was an amazing advocate for all patients and clients. She was always compassionate and made time for everyone (even when she had three different people "On hold" while consulting at the counter!). I was always so amazed at her capacity to juggle clients, doctors, and, of course, insurance companies.

Cheryl is a wonderful listener and problem solver, with a touch of friendly humor. She is often able to lighten the moment with humor while keeping focus on a serious situation.

Having seen Cheryl 's commitment to helping people, along with her empathetic qualities for these people, I feel that she would be an excellent addition to the Mental Health & Substance Abuse, O'ahu Service Area Board. Cheryl is a team player who will work with various groups to seek and achieve mutual goals.

Thank you for your time.
Irene Petruniak
Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPhone

MARY C. MEIXNER, ESQ.

330 N. Jefferson Street #1108 • Chicago, Illinois 60661

April 3, 2019

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Office of Senator Rosalyn Baker
415 South Beretania St., 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Baker:

I am submitting written testimony in favor of nominating Ms. Cheryl Guzikowski as a member of the Mental Health & Substance Abuse, O'ahu Service Area Board.

I am an attorney licensed in the state of Illinois, and I work at a non-profit organization in a position that promotes legal services for military personnel, veterans, and their families. As a disclaimer, this written testimony only includes my own opinions and views, and it may not necessarily reflect my employer's views.

For over a decade, I have had both a personal and professional relationship with Ms. Guzikowski. In her profession as a pharmacist, Ms. Guzikowski has always stood out as a medical professional who has extraordinary "bedside manners," as she naturally demonstrates empathy and compassion to patients. At the same time, she provides the needed medical advice in layman's terms such that patients can easily understand their important or complex medical issues and responsibilities. From my personal relationship with Ms. Guzikowski, I can confirm that these professional skills are based on her extremely kind and caring personality. With this, along with her strongly developed professional skills, I confidently encourage Ms. Cheryl Guzikowski's nomination.

Through my legal profession, I am well aware that legal assistance issues involve four of the top 10 unmet needs of homeless veterans. With this, I am also aware that homeless individuals, as a whole, have a high need for medical assistance, including help with substance abuse and mental health. Not only is Ms. Guzikowski well educated about these medical challenges, but she also has the passion and enthusiasm to help find solutions to reduce these issues in Hawaii. She understands the difficulty of these matters, but she is ready to consider expanding or creating new initiatives, such as increasing collaborations between public and private health care providers and other social service organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. I humbly ask you to favor the nomination of Ms. Cheryl Guzikowski as a member of the Mental Health & Substance Abuse, O'ahu Service Area Board.

Respectively,

Mary Meixner

From: [Amy Herbranson](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: GM636 Cheryl Guzikowski Public Testimony
Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2019 11:58:58 PM

Aloha,

My name is Amy Herbranson, and I am resident of Hawaii, currently living in Honolulu. I am happy to submit public testimony in full support of Cheryl Guzikowski as a member of the Mental Health & Substance Abuse, O'ahu Service Area Board.

Cheryl's characteristics and past work experiences demonstrate why I feel she is an excellent candidate for this board.

I would describe Cheryl is a very compassionate, intelligent, and open-minded individual. She shows compassion by caring for *everyone*; from her family and friends, to her fellow community members she serves at the Hawaii Homeless Healthcare Hui, to even animals in which she spends some time volunteering with endangered species programs. She has great empathy, and is always concerned for the well-being of others.

As a pharmacist, Cheryl has worked through countless complex drug-related issues regularly, working alongside the patient and the other healthcare team members to find working solutions to problems. She will always put the health of the patient first in these instances, aware of the current opiate and substance abuse crisis and finding ways to minimize this risk for her patients. As clinical coordinator at the Hawaii Homeless Healthcare Hui, she works regularly with patients suffering with mental health and substance abuse issues.

Without hesitation I publicly recommend Cheryl Guzikowski for member of the Mental Health & Substance Abuse, O'ahu Service Area Board and feel confident she will be a great addition to the team.

Mahalo, and for any questions please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email as listed below.

Sincerely,

Amy Herbranson

--

Amy Herbranson
(218) 205-7568
amy.herbranson@gmail.com

MARY C. MEIXNER, ESQ.

330 N. Jefferson Street #1108 • Chicago, Illinois 60661

April 3, 2019

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Office of Senator Rosalyn Baker
415 South Beretania St., 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Baker:

I am submitting written testimony in favor of nominating Ms. Cheryl Guzikowski as a member of the Mental Health & Substance Abuse, O'ahu Service Area Board.

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Through my legal profession, I am well aware that legal assistance issues involve four of the top 10 unmet needs of homeless veterans. With this, I am also aware that homeless individuals, as a whole, have a high need for medical assistance, including help with substance abuse and mental health. Not only is Ms. Guzikowski well educated about these medical challenges, but she also has the passion and enthusiasm to help find solutions to reduce these issues in Hawaii. She understands the difficulty of these matters, but she is ready to consider expanding or creating new initiatives, such as increasing collaborations between public and private health care providers and other social service organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. I humbly ask you to favor the nomination of Ms. Cheryl Guzikowski as a member of the Mental Health & Substance Abuse, O'ahu Service Area Board.

Respectively,

Mary Meixner

From: [Candace](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: GM636 Cheryl Guzikowski
Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2019 5:09:13 PM

It is my honor to write on behalf of Cheryl Guzikowski, who is a childhood friend from Portage, Indiana. Cheryl is unique for many reasons. She is extremely compassionate. If someone is in need of help or care, she will stop whatever she's doing. One time we were on Lake Shore Drive and witnessed a car accident while we were out walking. She immediately ran to the passengers, called 9-1-1 and offered care. Another time we were at a restaurant and a man started choking and she did the Heimlich maneuver to save his life! This is the kind of person she is. She is always alert and helpful.

My own mother suffers from depression and drug addiction. Cheryl has shown great empathy toward me and my family while we struggled to find ways to support my mother. Her knowledge of drugs and the human body has been a huge resource to me and my family. While she was at Purdue University, she was a dedicated student, and as usual, sought leadership roles. She has always been a leader in every community she lives. She has a drive to make communities better and I have no doubt she will strive to make Hawaii a better place for its people.

When I would visit her at the Jewel pharmacy, people were clearly comfortable with her and often the line for consultations was long because people just love talking to her and she is a wealth of information. But even more importantly, she knows when she needs to learn more and does her homework to learn and understand more. I think this is what makes her so valuable. She has always had a diverse group of friends because she genuinely enjoys learning from others and she refrains from judging others before asking questions and getting to know him or her. She is ultimately an optimist who believes people can change for the better with the right kind of community and connection. She will be an exceptional addition to any mental health team. We miss her in Chicago so much but hope she can make a difference among all of you in Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Candace McGuffey

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Landis Lum](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: GM636
Date: Thursday, April 4, 2019 11:51:17 AM

I am writing this in support of the election of Cheryl Guzikowski to the Mental Health & Substance Abuse, O'ahu Service Area Board. I am a Family Medicine Physician, previously employed (24 years) at Kaiser Permanente in their Kailua Clinic, and now work primarily with the homeless and underserved at clinics at IHS and in Chinatown. I had a regular medical column from 2000 to 2010 in the Honolulu Advertiser, and have taught JABSOM medical students for many years. I still preceptor student MD's, RN's, & PA's.

I feel Cheryl would be an outstanding resource for your board. She currently works as our clinic manager, but does much more in that she also assists with medication management (she is a pharmacist), social services (helping the homeless find shelter and personal PCP health care providers), triage (of often inebriated, intoxicated, or psychotic patients), and clinical tasks (getting vital signs, assisting with wound care). It was serendipity that she happened to wander into our "hole in the wall" Chinatown clinic while attending First Night street celebrations with a friend about 8 pm. We gave her a brief orientation of our services, and she asked to be a volunteer, eventually to be promoted to full employment. Her organizational skills are superb, and she comes up with creative solutions to problems. She is friendly, and relates well to both colleagues and staff, but can be stern when necessary with unruly patients. She has a deep passion for addressing the needs of the homeless. The homeless have a very high prevalence of both drug abuse and mental problems (schizophrenia, bipolar, depression, suicidal ideation), and her first line experience with these issues would be invaluable to have for anyone contemplating membership on your board. She is competent, resourceful, responsible, and intelligent, and would be an asset to your board. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Landis Lum MD

Karin Riedel
PO Box 492961
Keaau, HI 96749
808-217-5481
karinr@alohailhawaii.org

April 3, 2019

Please accept my letter of recommendation to be submitted as testimony
in support of **Pauline Aughe's** nomination for service on the
Disability and Communication Access Board
– **GM644** -

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to recommend that Pauline Aughe's membership on the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) be renewed for another term.

As an Independent Living Specialist with Aloha Independent Living Hawaii and Squeaky Wheels Hawai'i Admin, I had the pleasure of working alongside Pauline on numerous disability-related projects throughout the years of me moving to the Big Island in 2010.

Pauline's outreach to the community is exceptional. With her confident, articulate, and professional speaking and writing abilities and persuasive negotiation skills, she is a well-respected and honorable public advocate of persons with disability beyond her own community. Her focus on accessibility for and inclusion of people with disabilities on platforms like the Hawaii Disability Legislative Forum, Disability Rights Hawaii (DRH), Squeaky Wheels Hawai'i, Able Hawai'i Artist (AHA), Assistive Technology Resource Center (ATRC) and social media have been contributing to an increased public awareness and considerable improvements of disability-related issues here on the Big Island of Hawai'i.

With her sincere ability to actively listen to others, Pauline is always willing to provide advice and recommendation and never hesitates to assist reliably when being asked. Despite any challenges, she stays solution-oriented while keeping a positive demeanor.

I whole-heartedly recommend Pauline for membership on the DCAB Board. With her keen set of skills and far-reaching experience she is an invaluable asset to any organization.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

Karin A. Riedel

GM-636

Submitted on: 4/5/2019 1:32:14 AM

Testimony for CPH on 4/5/2019 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristin Dryer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have known Cheryl Guzikowski for over 10 years. She is a caring person who enjoys helping people. As a medical professional she has been aware of the opioid crisis for some time and has worked towards making a difference on the front lines. She is passionate about making healthcare, and particularly treatment for mental health disorders, available to everyone. This Board would be a great opportunity for her to help others.