



AGENDA ITEM NO.
C-11

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: December 16, 2014

Date: November 21, 2014

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Phillip R. Crandall, Director *George for PCrandall*
Department of Health and Human Services-Mental Health Branch

Subject: Appointments to the Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors appoint Marsha Mielke and Laurie Bissell-Ruggles to the Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board for three year terms.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:
Mental Health Fund

DISCUSSION:

The Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board is a requirement of Welfare and Institutions Code 5604, and was established per the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act of 1967. The County and the Department of Health and Human Services actively support the Behavioral Health Board. The Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board meets monthly and consists of 15 members. Meetings of the Behavioral Health Board are subject to the provisions of the Brown Act. Counties are encouraged to appoint individuals who have experience and knowledge of the mental health system. The Behavioral Health Board should reflect the diversity of the client population in the County. Fifty percent of the membership shall be consumers or the parent, spouse, sibling or adult children of consumers who are receiving or have received mental health services.

Prepared by Joe McManus, Mental Health Administration

CAO Approval *Amy Olsen*

REVIEW:	Auditor _____	County Counsel _____	Personnel _____	Risk Manager _____	Other _____
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TYPE OF ITEM:

Consent

Departmental

Public Hearing

Other _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor *Sundberg* Seconded by Supervisor *Fennell*

Ayes *Sundberg, Lovelace, Bohn, Fennell, Bass*

Nays _____

Abstain _____

Absent _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. _____

Meeting of: _____

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: *Dec. 16, 2014*

By: *Kathy Hayes*

Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

At the regular meeting of the Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board on November 20, 2014 the Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board unanimously approved forwarding the appointments of Marsha Mielke and Laurie Bissell-Ruggles to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact since Behavioral Health Board members volunteer their services.

By approving these appointments this supports the Board's Strategic Framework by fostering transparent, accessible, welcoming and user friendly services.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

No other agencies are involved.

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board could choose not to appoint Marsha Mielke and Laurie Bissell-Ruggles to the Behavioral Health Board however DHHS does not recommend this alternative.

ATTACHMENTS:

Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board applications for Marsha Mielke and Laurie Bissell-Ruggles.

APPLICATION TO SERVE ON
HUMBOLDT COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

1)Name: Marsha Mielke

2)Address: 150 Hammer Lane, Arcata, CA 95521

3)Email: mmielkereads@gmail.com

4)Telephone: 707-499-4050

5)Supervisory District: District 3

6)Occupation: Library Media Teacher

7)Category:

Consumer Family of Consumer TAY Other

8)Prior Advisory Board or Commission Experience Yes No

9)Personal References:

Name: Roger Macdonald Telephone: 925-354-2980

Name: Tim Ash Telephone: 707-826-0323

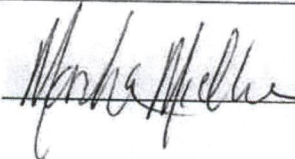
10)Please write a brief statement describing why you are interested in serving on the Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board:

As a caregiver and educator, I want to support better services for our community and help the community understand the behavioral health needs of our population. By serving on this board, I would be enabled to advocate for both those in need of services and those who are service providers. My life experience with family members, students, and clients as a health educator gives me a broad prospective. I have extensive experience on nonprofit committees and boards. I would be honored to have the opportunity to learn more and serve on this board. As a Access Humboldt member I am in the beginning stages of planning a documentary that would provide an opportunity for behavioral health consumers, caregivers and family members in Humboldt County to tell their story. I am also interested in raising awareness of behavioral health in our schools and fighting stigma

Current Date

8/27/14

Signature



Please send this application to:

ATTN. Joe McManus
Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board
720 Wood Street
Eureka, CA 95501

For Office Use Only: Date to BOS:

Approved

Not Approved

6/5/12

Humboldt County Mental Health
Administration

SEP 03 2014

Marsha Mielke
150 Hammer Lane
Arcata, CA 95521
707-499-4050
mmielkereads@gmail.com

August 27, 2014

Joe McManus
Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board
720 Wood St.
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Mr. McManus

Thank you for accepting the enclosed application to serve on the Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board.

I have carefully considered my commitment to this appointment and have been granted release time from my school in order to attend monthly meetings.

I plan to attend meetings as an observer and look forward to hearing back from the Board regarding future appointment.

Sincerely,



Marsha Mielke

APPLICATION TO SERVE ON
HUMBOLDT COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

Humboldt County Mental Health
Administration

OCT 07 2014

1)Name: Laurie Bissell-Ruggles

2)Address: 2643 Rio Vista Lane, Rio Dell, CA 95562

3)Email: sakisocky@sbcglobal.net

4)Telephone: (707)496-5633

5)Supervisory District: 1st District

6)Occupation: retired attorney, family outreach

7)Category:

Consumer Family of Consumer TAY Other

8)Prior Advisory Board or Commission Experience Yes No

9)Personal References:

Name: Marianne Pennekamp Telephone: 442-6212

Name: Kat Lowrance Telephone: (530)226-5129

10)Please write a brief statement describing why you are interested in serving on the
Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board:

Please see attached

Current Date

10/2/14

Signature

Laurie B. Ruggles

Please send this application to:

ATTN. Joe McManus
Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board
720 Wood Street
Eureka, CA 95501

For Office Use Only: Date to BOS:

Approved

Not Approved

Laurie Bissell-Ruggles, Application to Serve on Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board
10)

The path of raising a son with the dual diagnosis of mental illness and developmental delays is extremely complicated in that the causes, symptoms, and treatments are so intertwined yet often approached separately. If you think about it, it makes sense that a huge part of the disabled community suffers from mental health issues as well. The isolation, stigma, rejection, and frustration felt from the lack of social acceptance on top of impaired abilities could make anyone feel hopeless, then magnified when combined with mental illness.

My son, now 18, grew up with multiple developmental disabilities, some of which with therapy we could work through, such as motor skills, and stuttering, but others he needs to adapt his life around. He has Asperger Syndrome, which is a high-functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis, resulting in difficulty understanding social norms, impaired organizational skills, and the tendency to focus obsessively on something (physical or mental). Yet he is brilliant, very empathetic, and creative. His brain literally processes information differently.

He has generally been treated as a freak by his peers, and during second grade the mental illness symptoms began to appear. In second grade he wanted to be dead, so I dropped my law practice so that I could home school my son through a charter school. At 11 years old, he was diagnosed with major depression and anxiety. At 12 years old, he attempted suicide.

The lack of information and support for families in this situation took us down a lot of unnecessary, painful and damaging paths. We bungled our way through educational, medical, and mental health services. We acquired a lot of insight in the process, although in an achingly isolated way. He currently attends HSU, and through his own growth and insight seems to be taking charge of his life.

My passion is to help other families access the information, the support, and the voice to interact with service providers and the community in ways that help others understand their family member's needs. Family insight can also be the most influential support to other families, especially in coping with the everyday challenges.

Over the last few years, I have focused both my work and volunteer efforts on working with special needs children and their families. Through the Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board, I hope to contribute as a parent, and find ways to access more families to educate, support, and advocate for their children. I currently am one of only a handful of strictly family members of the Humboldt BRIDGES/Children's System of Care central team, and part of the Family Driven committee. Although my focus is children, I am also experienced and passionate about broader mental health issues.

Thank you for your consideration. I have included a copy of my resume for additional perspective of my background.

Laurie Bissell-Ruggles
2643 Rio Vista Lane
Rio Dell, CA 95562
(707) 496-5633
sakisocky@sbcglobal.net

Education:

University of San Diego
1980 Graduate, *magna cum laude*
Bachelor of Arts History/Environmental Studies
Honors – Ahmanson Scholarship Award, Dean's list all semesters,
Departmental Honors – History 1980, San Diego Institute of History Award of Merit 1980
School of Law, University of California, Davis
J.D. May 1987, Member of California Bar Association 1988-2000
Student Lawyers for the Arts, Chairperson 1985-1987
Martin Luther King Memorial Sculpture Committee, Chairperson, 1986-1987
U.S. District Court, Eastern District, legal extern, Honorable Judge Milton L. Schwartz, 1986

Experience by Category

Legal

1988-1991 In-house Attorney, Relativity Records/CBS/Sony, New York, NY
Domestic and international licensing, royalties, contract compliance
1991-2000 sole practitioner, Sonoma and Humboldt, CA
Mainly representing music industry clients, but also non-profit organizations, and some estate planning

Non-Profit Organizations

As a lawyer:

Worked for non-profits on such issues such a board of director conflicts, dissolution, and grant compliance

As staff:

Director of Sonoma Ecology Center's Community Agriculture Project, (1993-1994)
Initial planning , writing and obtaining grant for start-up funds, negotiating use of city property for agricultural park, recruiting and coordinating volunteers, accounting, etc.
Curatorial Registrar of the San Diego Historical Society (1980-1983)
Research, writing, accessioning, recordkeeping, preservation of artifacts for three museums, as well as fundraising and educational activities
Volunteer work - Bouverie Audubon Preserve docent, Santa Rosa Bird Rescue, Kenwood Wildlife Rescue, and Sonoma Valley Ecology Center

Disabilities/Education

Family Outreach, Rowell Family Empowerment Northern California, February 2014 to present
Quality Assessment Project, California State Council on Developmental Disabilities,
September, 2014 to present

Interview Regional Center consumers, as well as others who know and care about them, to obtain data regarding the quality of services received from the Regional Center for national database

Behavioral Skills Guide, Starfish Hero, September 2012 to September 2014

Under direction of Behavior Specialist, work with special needs children to learn behavioral and life skills using methods such as ABA and DTT

Special Circumstances Instructional Aide, Ferndale Elementary School, 2011-2012

1:1 work with autistic teenage student on academic, behavioral, and life skills, participate in IEPs, coordinate with parents

Home schooled 1:1 my special needs son from 2nd - 8th grade Mattole Valley Charter School, coordinated with school on curriculum, IEPs, and all aspects of his education, participated in occupational, psychological, and speech therapies, continued to participate in managing his special needs through high school.

He currently attends Humboldt State University and self-advocates.

National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) Family-to-Family workshop

Member of Council of Parents, Attorneys, and Advocates, Inc. 2012 to present

Member of Humboldt BRIDGES/Children's System of Care, Family-Driven Committee, 2014

The Arts

Music

Legal work for artists and record companies, including royalty calculations and disputes, contract negotiations, compliance, marketing, publishing, licensing

Retail – managed Ruggles Music store in Sonoma (1993- 1999)

Wholesale – Valley Records, Woodland CA (1987-1988)

Art

Chaired student group, Student Lawyers for the Arts, including fundraising and commission of a sculpture of Martin Luther King Jr. for the school

Himovitz/Salomon Gallery, Sacramento (1985 & 1986)

sales and promotion of artwork

Solo exhibit of my art at "Quel Fromage", San Diego, 1983 and 1986

Agriculture

Director of Sonoma Ecology Center's Community Agriculture Project (see above)

Organic farming from 1993 to present, at times selling produce at Sonoma or Humboldt County farmers markets, and grocery stores

Publication: "San Diego Cemeteries: A Brief Guide", The Journal of San Diego History (Fall, 1982)