



RESOLUTION

OF THE

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald Baird is a Family Practice Physician who received his Bachelor's degree from Dartmouth before attending Virginia Commonwealth University where he received his medical degree. He completed his Family Practice and Community Health residency as well as a Master of Science degree in Adult Education at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. He had the opportunity to go to the former Yugoslavia on a State Department Fellowship in 1972 and was present during the smallpox epidemic; and

WHEREAS, He moved to Humboldt in 1976 and was the lead partner of a 15,000 patient family medicine group practice in Fortuna before joining the Open Door Community Health Clinic system in 2014. Over the years, the scope of his practice has shifted from general community medicine to adult health care with a special focus on chronic pain, recognition and treatment of affective disorders and comprehensive management of chronic diseases. He has also worked as a consultant for several pharmaceutical companies on the diagnosis and treatment of refractory depression and bipolar disorder; and

WHEREAS, He has served as the Chief of Staff and Medical Director of Hospitalist Services at Redwood Memorial Hospital in Fortuna and was the medical director of a local nursing home. In 2012, he was appointed by the County Board of Supervisors to the role of Humboldt County Public Health Officer, retiring in January of 2020, with three separate call-backs to assist with the COVID response and health officer transitions. Dr. Baird has served on several healthcare organizations' boards and committees, providing his experience on quality assurance projects. He has also served as an expert witness on many legal cases. He was certified by the California State Department of Mental Health to perform clinical psychiatric reviews for state program patients; and

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WHEREAS, Dr Baird is still trying to retire but remains working on a part-time basis to meet the health care needs of his long-term patients, due to the critical shortage of medical providers in our rural community. When not at work, he and his wife Colleen enjoy traveling, with one of their amazing trips being to Antarctica earlier this year. He is an avid wine collector with an amazing cellar that he enjoys sharing with friends and family. He also enjoys photography, music, and the outdoors, unless it's helping his wife with yard work! Between them, he and his wife have 6 children in a variety of careers, including an aeronautical engineer, a nurse and a law enforcement officer. He is expecting his first grandchild in January; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Baird was honored as the Frederick K.M. Plessner Memorial Award winner by the California Medical Associations which recognizes the California physician who best exemplifies the ethics and practice of a rural county practitioner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes, honors, and expresses our gratitude for Dr. Baird's contribution to the Public Health of the community and acknowledges his recognition as the prestigious recipient of the Frederick K.M. Plessner Memorial Award.



DATED: December 6, 2022

Virginia Bass, Chair