

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the
Regents
April 17, 2014

ACTION REQUEST

SUBJECT: University of Michigan Health System (UMHS)
Appointment to the Board of Directors of the Washtenaw Community
Health Organization, (WCHO)

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

BACKGROUND:

In 2000, the University of Michigan Board of Regents and the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners jointly created the Washtenaw Community Health Organization (WCHO) under the Urban Cooperation Act as a means to promote and achieve better coordination/integration of specialty mental health services/supports with general medical care for individuals with serious mental illness, co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse, primary addiction disorders and/or developmental disabilities. Each entity is responsible for appointing six members to the WCHO Board of Directors.

The WCHO, in association with its clinical partner, Community Support and Treatment (CSTS), retained its legacy mission, commitment and legal responsibility for persons within Washtenaw County with serious mental illness, co-occurring conditions, developmental disabilities and/or substance use disorders. The WCHO's organizational connection with the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) provides WCHO/CSTS opportunities to establish primary care linkages for consumers, to coordinate physical/mental health care provisions, to engage in collaborative medical management arrangements, and to develop electronic health information exchange capabilities.

The WCHO strives to contribute to all of the Health System's goals and objectives and to be a resource for education and research to all schools within the University. The WCHO is a clinical placement site for third year psychiatric residents. Family practice residents rotate through an integrated healthcare site and child psychiatry fellows are placed in integrated healthcare sites and at the public community mental health center. Students from the Schools of Social Work and Nursing also receive field training at the mental health center. Additionally, the WCHO partners extensively with researchers from across the University of Michigan campus, serving as the clinical site for a number of clinical practices and outcomes.

Proposed appointments to WCHO for the Term: April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2017:

Martha Bloom has worked in the nonprofit sector for 15 years and is now retired. Her application to serve a third three-year-term on the Washtenaw Community Health Organization is a result of her commitment to serve the community. In her first two terms, she has attended Board meetings regularly, served on the Finance Committee and participated fully in discussion and actions of the Board. Martha is a secondary consumer of WCHO services and has represented the University of Michigan on the WCHO Board for the past six years. We are pleased that she remains engaged and interested in continuing her appointment.

Caroline Richardson, M.D., is Associate Professor of the University of Michigan Department of Family Medicine and a health services researcher at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center. On April 1, 2014, Dr. Richardson will become the medical director of the University of Michigan Ypsilanti Health Center where many of WCHO clients receive primary care. This will facilitate communication and coordination with medical services for the community that WCHO serves.

I recommend that the Regents approve the appointments of the above named individuals to the Board of Directors of the Washtenaw Community Health Organization for the term April 1, 2014 -March 31, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ora Pescovitz", written over a horizontal line.

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs
and Chief Executive Officer, UMHS