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## Profile

Jed

First Name

Diamond

Last Name

Full/Legal Name (if different than name provided above)

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

Postal Code

## Mailing Address (if Applicable)

Same

## Voter Registration Address (if different than street address or mailing address)

Same

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

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## Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Mental Health Treatment Act Citizens Oversight Committee: Submitted

Mental health citizens board

Which position, seat, or representational category would you prefer?

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## Availability to Attend Meetings

- ☒ Day Meetings
- ☒ Other (Please Specify Below)

As needed

Availability to Attend Meetings (Other)

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## Interests & Experiences

### Special Expertise, Experience, or Interest in This Area?

I've worked in the mental health field for more than 40 years. I have a Ph.D. in International Health (with a specialty in mental health) a Master's degree in Social Work and have personal and professional experience working with mentally ill people in Mendocino County. I've also worked for 17 years for the County Public Guardian's office doing evaluations on people who need evaluation and in-depth services. I know who the clients are that have been sent out of county, which is both expensive and not helpful to the people or their families. Finally, I've had a family member with mental health problems, so I know the issue from that perspective as well.

Upload a Resume

Upload Additional Supporting Documents

Upload Additional Supporting Documents

Upload Additional Supporting Documents

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## Certification

Please read the following statements and indicate your acceptance thereof.

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I hereby certify that I am a registered voter in the State of California, County of Mendocino, a citizen of the United States, and will be at least 18 years of age at the time of the next election. I am not imprisoned or on parole for the conviction of a felony. I certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the information on this application is true and correct. I understand that assuming this public responsibility could result in public knowledge of my background and/or qualifications, including financial interests. Applications will be kept on file for one year.

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☒ I Agree \*

## Why I support Measure B for Better Mental Health Services

My wife, Carlin, and I have lived in Mendocino County for more than 25 years now. We came because we wanted to get away from the stresses and strains of big-city living that we experienced in the San Francisco Bay area. We wanted to live in a smaller community where people knew their neighbors and where we could come together to solve problems that impact us all.

One of the major problems that all communities face is providing the best health care for its citizens. Fortunately, we have some of the best hospitals and health services that can be found anywhere I've lived. Unfortunately, our mental health services are inadequate.

I've been a mental health professional for nearly 50 years now. I've worked in hospitals, outpatient programs, and in private practice. What I've learned over the years is that a large percentage of people with general health problems, also have mental health problems. I've also learned that a large percentage of people with substance abuse problems also have mental health problems. Good mental health treatment solves a lot of our community health problems.

Passing Proposition B will greatly improve our mental health services, which will improve our community in many ways including the following:

- Improving the mental health of our citizens will improve the health of everyone. We all know people who have some form of mental health problem whether it's anxiety, depression, substance abuse, or overwhelming stress.
- Having facilities that can help people in mental health crisis will allow law enforcement staff and emergency room staff to devote their attention to providing other needed services for our community members.
- Passing measure B will save money. For 10 years now, I have worked for the County Public Guardian's office that helps evaluate people suffering from serious mental illness for Conservatorship. Presently, we sent people out of the county for long-term care. Not only is that bad for the patient and family, but it's extremely expensive. We will save money when we treat people locally.
- Treating mental illness as a law enforcement problem is both expensive and dangerous.

Sheriff Tom Allman, as well as other law enforcement staff, have done a tremendous job in responding to mental health crises. They have been there to help when no other services were available. But Sheriff Allman would be the first to tell you that trained law enforcement officers are not the best people to respond to mental health emergencies.

Measure B is a revised version of the 2016 initiative calling for a sales tax increase in order to fund mental health facilities and services in Mendocino County.

The 2016 measure lost by 176 votes. The new version will be on the ballot in November. I believe Measure B is a much better initiative than the previous one and deserves a positive vote. It will not only provide money for treatment facilities, but also for staff and training.

Also, the sales tax-created fund will be overseen by an 11-member community-based commission that will guide how the expected \$25 million in building funds and approximately \$1.7 million a year to pay for additional services, will be spent. This allows for continuous community input.

I can't think of any one thing that would improve the health of our community more than the passing of Measure B. I hope you learn about this important Measure, vote for it if you feel it will be helpful, and encourage your family and friends to consider voting as well.

Jed Diamond, Ph.D., Mendocino County Health-Care Provider.