

Profile

Michelle  
First Name

Rich  
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)

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

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Mental Health Treatment Act Citizens Oversight Committee: Submitted

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

Availability to Attend Meetings

- ☒ Night Meetings
- ☒ Day Meetings

Availability to Attend Meetings (Other)

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## Interests & Experiences

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

I am particularly interested in mental service availability for children and families and the long term impact of adverse childhood experience on community health outcomes. My son was adopted from foster care and continues to receive behavioral health services. Additionally, my mother is seriously mentally ill, so I have experienced first hand the affects this has on a family.

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 \***

# Michelle L. Rich

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December 17, 2017

Board of Supervisors  
Mendocino County  
501 Low Gap Road  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Supervisors:

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the “Mental Health Treatment Act” Citizens Oversight Committee. I was thrilled when Measure B passed, not only for the benefit that the funding will provide for improving mental health services for the county as a whole, but also for my family on a very personal level.

My husband and I have served as foster parents, adopting our son from foster care in 2016. I am eager to help shape the future of mental health services largely because I want to make sure that my son will have the kind of help he will need throughout his life due the trauma he faced at such a young age. My son is not alone in his need for behavioral health services. Looking at rates of substantiated child abuse and neglect, adults with adverse childhood experiences, and adults experiencing mental distress, I am convinced that more quality, accessible behavioral health services would make a significant difference in the health and wellbeing of communities across Mendocino County.

In addition to being a parent of a child with mental health challenges, I am also the daughter of a mother with serious mental illness. Since the early 90’s my mother has had over 100 hospitalizations for diagnoses including Multiple Personality Disorder, Borderline Personality Disorder, and Bipolar Disorder. I understand how heartbreaking it is when a family member has to leave and seek services elsewhere and how dangerous it can be when a person does not have access to proper mental health services and is instead sent to an unsecured ER bed, or a jail cell. I know that we can do better for these families.

I also have professional skills that would benefit the Oversight Committee. My work since arriving in Mendocino County in 2013 has consistently been to build community and create lasting resources for the future through the Healthy Mendocino Project and through my work with grant and scholarship programs through the Community Foundation of Mendocino County. I am currently the Senior Program Officer at the Community Foundation and am serving as the Healthy Mendocino Steering Committee Chairperson. I have worked with organizations and volunteers across the county on a wide spectrum of grant projects in diverse areas such as education, arts, community health, historical preservation, environment and economic development. I am currently in Leadership Mendocino Class XXV, which is deepening my connections and understanding of issues across the county.

Prior to coming to California, I assisted with the development of a \$10 million combined Head Start, Family Resource Center, and Food Bank in Coos Bay, Oregon. This project used a complex arrangement of funding including a Community Development Block Grant, USDA Rural Development Loan and New Market Tax Credits. Through my education I have developed a solid

## Michelle L. Rich

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base of writing skills as well as research and analytic capacity. My professional experience has rounded out this foundation with public speaking, meeting facilitation, grant writing, as well as strong technical abilities.

My attached resume provides more details about my education and work history. I would be happy to provide any other information you may need. I look forward to bringing my experience and enthusiasm to the “Mental Health Treatment Act” Citizens Oversight Committee and hope to have the opportunity to contribute to making a lasting difference in Mendocino County. Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,

Michelle Rich

# Michelle L. Rich

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Experienced facilitator, project manager, and strategic analyst
- Strong problem solving, organizational, and research capabilities
- Exceptional written and interpersonal communication skills

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- Senior Program Officer:** Community Foundation of Mendocino County 2017-Present
- Oversaw non-competitive and competitive grant, and scholarship programs, totalling more than \$800,000
  - Developed relationships with donor advisors
  - Worked with key community partners in developing new Women's Legacy Fund
  - Provided mentoring and training to new Program Officer
  - Assisted with grant-making for fire relief efforts
- Program Officer:** Community Foundation of Mendocino County 2014-2017
- Managed a portfolio of competitive grant and scholarship programs, totalling more than \$400,000
  - Maintained relationships with over 50 volunteers from across Mendocino County
  - Engaged school counselors and provided presentations on college financing
  - Implemented new grant management software
  - Assessed grant programs and developed new competitive grant processes
  - Worked with board and committees to ensure programs were conducted in a fair, transparent, and professional manner and that Community Foundation Strategic Plan goals for programs were met
- Healthy Mendocino Coordinator:** North Coast Opportunities 2014
- Performed local website maintenance and content development for HealthyMendocino.org
  - Formed partnerships to begin work on a collaborative health needs assessment
  - Worked with Healthy Mendocino Steering Committee
- Data and Research VISTA:** FIRST5 Mendocino 2013-2014  
Ukiah, California
- Performed local website maintenance and content development for HealthyMendocino.org
  - Used iCarol software to update 2-1-1 resource database
  - Gave presentations and trainings on how to use HealthyMendocino.org and 2-1-1 Mendocino resources
  - Wrote weekly column in *Ukiah Daily Journal*
  - Provided meeting support by taking minutes, distributing agendas
  - Conducted community outreach activities at festivals and community events
  - Participated in collaborative groups such as *Moving Forward Mendocino*
- Demonstration Coordinator:** Davis Food Co-op 2012 – 2013  
Davis, California
- Trained and supervised volunteers
  - Planned and implemented in-store demonstrations
  - Managed demonstration accounting and reports

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## **Development Team Coordinator:** Oregon Coast Community Action

Coos Bay, Oregon

2009 – 2012

- Researched and wrote grants, bringing in more than \$1.9 million
- Coordinated \$10 million community facilities project using funding from Community Development Block Grant, USDA Rural Development Loan, private foundations, and New Market Tax Credits
- Wrote annual reports, press releases, grant reports, and other documents
- Assisted CEO with strategic development planning and budgeting; supervised employees
- Facilitated meetings; planned and executed events

## **Acquisitions Manager:** Inkwater Press

Portland, Oregon

2008 – 2009

- Reviewed manuscripts for potential liability and suitability for publication
- Documented submissions and author services procedures

## **English Graduate Student Organization Coordinator:** PSU English Department

Portland, Oregon

2007 – 2008

- Planned and implemented professional development workshops and student events
- Recruited and coordinated student volunteers to support events and activities
- Maintained budget; increased profits from annual book sale; coordinated merger with larger organization

## **OTHER EXPERIENCE**

**Foster Parent:** Redwood Community Services

2014-Present

**Classroom Volunteer and PTA Member:** Yokayo Elementary

2017-Present

**Steering Committee Member:** Healthy Mendocino

2014-Present

**Leadership Mendocino Class XXV:** North Coast Opportunities

Present

**Inaugural Member:** Active 20-30 Club of Ukiah # 78

2013-2014

## **EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION**

**Master of Arts:** English, Portland State University – Portland, Oregon

**Bachelor of Arts:** Linguistics, Western Washington University – Bellingham, Washington

**TESOL Certificate:** Western Washington University – Bellingham, Washington

**Permaculture Design Certificate:** Oregon State University – Corvallis, Oregon

## **ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

**Grant Writing:** The Grantsmanship Center – Chico, California

**Group Facilitation:** Facilitating in Chaotic Times – Ukiah, California

**Resource Specialist Training:** Alliance for Information and Referral Systems – web-based

**Community Development Block Grant Administration:** Business Oregon Infrastructure

Finance Authority – Salem, Oregon

**Women's Alpine Backpacking Leadership Course:** Outward Bound – Montana

## **REFERENCES**

Available upon request