



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: December 3, 2013

Prepared By/Phone Number: Melissa Velasquez, Judge's Office, x49555

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO APPOINT LISA BLACKWELL TO THE SUSTAINABLE FOOD POLICY BOARD TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF ROB BOROWSKI, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2015. (JUDGE BISCOE)

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

Ms. Blackwell will be replacing and filling the unexpired term of Rob Borowski as our appointee to the Sustainable Food Policy Board. See attached resume.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommend approval.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

n/a

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

n/a

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

n/a

LISA BLACKWELL
Austin, Texas 78723

July 24, 2013

Juanita Jackson

Travis County Health & Human Services and Veterans Services Via Email: Juanita.jackson@co.travis.tx.us
502 E. Highland Mall Blvd.
Austin, TX 78752

Re: Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board

Dear Ms. Jackson:

I am writing to express my interest in the position as Sustainable Food Board member, as I believe I would be a pivotal addition to the Board.

I have a great deal of experience in sustainable food. Before starting my Masters in Public Health, I chose to volunteer as a community advocate for the Sustainable Food Center and continue to do so, familiarizing myself with the structure and goals of the sustainable food community. My experience as a volunteer and my subsequent graduate work has prepared me to effectively communicate issues on health and sustainability to our community. Additionally, I have worked as a Research Assistant to Dr. Evans at the Michael and Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living in her Food Systems study, which has given me perspective on some of our local food deserts and challenges of those experiencing poverty.

Buying local produce and supporting local agriculture has been my passion for many years. I was an early adopter of Community Sustained Agriculture (CSA) memberships because I have always believed local produce is fresher, with nutrients your body needs for that season. I participate in Farm to Work and volunteer with local farms like Green Gate so that I can see my food in its natural state. I am not only a participant, but also an evangelist of buying local, sustainable food, constantly showing off my farm fresh veggies and teaching friends new recipes.

I have also worked as a policy analyst and a policy intern and am familiar with the processes of gathering information, formulating proposals, and implementing policies.

I look forward to speaking with you soon. I can be reached by email or telephone at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Lisa Blackwell
Enclosure - Resume

PROFILE

Highly effective Public Health Professional with four years experience in academic research, advocacy, and community health.

EDUCATION

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston 2012

Master of Public Health

Thesis: *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: A Policy Analysis of Restricting Foods of Minimum Nutritional Value*

Member: Global Health Organization, Student Epidemic Intelligence Society, Austin Regional Campus Student Organization

University of Texas at Austin 2007

Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology

Major: Health Promotion and Fitness, Minor: Business Administration

Member: Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society, Phi Beta Chi Professional Women's Fraternity, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERIENCE

Patient Conversation Media, inc, Austin, Texas 2013

Health New Reporter

- Find relevant journal articles of interest to doctors, pharmacists and patients.
- Write positive, actionable articles about medical research at a level appropriate for consumers.

Health and Human Services Commission, Austin, Texas 2013

Policy Analyst (PS V)

- Bill analysis on legislation impacting Medicaid, CHIP or the Affordable Care Act
- Analysis, strategy and development of policy changes to CHIP and Medicaid required by the Affordable Care Act.

University of Texas School of Public Health/Michael and Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living, Austin, Texas 2012

Research Assistant

- Surveyed participants in English and Spanish. Data entry and analysis using SPSS.
- Developed material and protocols for study examining the relationship between household food purchase behaviors and consumption of nutrient dense foods.

Mental Health America of Texas, Austin, Texas 2012

Public Policy Summer Intern

- Prepared legislative summary and forecast of upcoming issues for the 83rd Legislative Session, including Affordable Care Act, privatization of state hospitals, and the 1115 Medicaid Waiver.
- Attended legislative committee hearings and provided analysis on impacts for stakeholders.
- Collaborated with other advocacy groups to monitor and reported on mental health issues.
- Reviewed and edited policy briefs and position statements for publication to assure clarity and consistency.

Texas Department of State Health Services: Breast and Cervical Cancer Services, Austin, Texas 2011 – 2012

Healthcare Quality Analysis Intern

- Prepared and presented empirical data on breast and cervical cancer, program successes, and recommended improvements.
- Analyzed health screening data received from providers in Med-IT data management system, collecting and processing data, reports and financial information according to CDC grant data requirements.
- Utilized Tableau, an analytics software to identify trends and areas of high need.
- Created heat maps, charts and tables. Prepared statistical reports to be utilized in departmental presentations.
- Served on review board for family planning program, using scoring tool to rate RFP applications.

Institute for Field Research Expeditions, Atenas, Costa Rica 2011

Community Health Intern

- Evaluated health promotion campaign and prepared data-driven reports for implementation of future programs.
- Conducted a community health needs assessment to identify issues specific to the target population.
- Collaborated with medical providers, schools and community center to host community health fair on several identified health concerns.
- Performed outreach to gather community input on current health programs and ascertain service gaps and unaddressed issues.

St. David's Medical Center, Austin, Texas

2009

Office Coordinator, Cardiac Rehab Fitness Center

- Researched and implemented new billing system for center from conception to completion.
- Assisted with development of community classes, support group meetings, and banquets.
- Represented St. David's Medical Center at corporate health fairs and community events.
- Prepared membership status reports, Fitness Center charges reports and other statistical reports monthly.
- Coordinated and supervised volunteer staff, and trained university interns and PRN staff in office procedures.

MediFit/Well at Dell, Round Rock, Texas

2007-2008

US and Global Wellness Coordinator

- Researched and planned Dell's countrywide tobacco-free campus policy: analyzed best practices and evidenced based policies, forecast potential weaknesses, and created policy detailing enforcement and determining roles.
- Developed nutritional program, including defining "Better for You" for the policy, building a highly visible, easy-to-understand program at 14 onsite cafes.
- Developed two year strategic plan including metrics to monitor performance. Collaborated with 13 health vendors for seamless messaging.
- Directed 35 onsite health screenings in 8 weeks: developed marketing strategy and material, planned logistics, and managed operations at locations around the country. Realized 47% increase in annual participation from prior year.
- Coordinated Dell local sponsorship of the Komen Race for the Cure. Encouraged participation among employees, forming the largest corporate team with 564 members. Prepared communication pieces, ordered t-shirts, made corporate tent arrangements, coordinated on-site packet distribution and sign-up booths.
- Collaborated on a pedometer program designed to drive employees into stratified health programs. Resulted in 586% increase in Health Risk Assessment completions from prior year.

ACTIVITIES and COMMUNITY SERVICE

SafePlace, Austin, Texas

Certified Hospital Advocate:

2011-2012

Support sexual assault survivors at the hospital with information and advocacy.

Community Advocate and Crisis Hotline Advocate:

2001-2002

Assisted clients in crisis situations, providing support and referrals; represented SafePlace at community events.

Sustainable Food Center, Austin, Texas

2010-2011

Community Advocate: Represented Sustainable Food Center at health fairs and community events.

Division of Housing and Food Service, University of Texas, Austin, Texas

2010

Volunteer Assistant: Created materials for Employee Wellness Program.

AWARDS

UTSPH Public Health Traineeship

2011, 2012

Michael A. Menkins Endowed Presidential Scholarship

2007

Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship

2005

SKILLS

Language: English – Native, Spanish – Novice

Software: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, LiveMeeting, Project, Publisher, STATA, SPSS, Tableau, Salesforce, Adobe

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Community Health Worker – Texas Department of State Health Services

Group 1 Biomedical Researcher and Key Personnel Certification – CITI

BLS/First Aid for Healthcare Providers – American Heart Association

Certified Personal Trainer – American Council on Exercise (expired)