



Candidate Statement

August 29, 2018

Dear Illinois Mental Health Policy and Advisory Council Members:

Upon hearing the complete title of the Council, my interest was immediately piqued and I was compelled to further investigate the duties and purposes of the Illinois Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council, therefore, it is with great pleasure that I submit this Candidate Statement. After reviewing the Council membership role description, it's clear that you're looking for an enthusiastic applicant that can be relied upon to fully engage with the role as well as provide valuable lived-in experience. Given these requirements, I believe I am the perfect candidate for the role.

I am a results-oriented college graduate (3.6 grade point average), BA Board of Trustees) from Western Illinois University in 2003. Currently, I am in pursuit of my Master's degree in Mental Health Counseling at Western Illinois University and I am currently maintaining a 3.8 grade point average. I've learned valuable professional skills such as advocacy, community outreach, and social services. In both my academic and professional life, I have been consistently praised as detail-oriented by my peers, supervisors, and professors. Whether working on professional projects, academic assignments, or extracurricular activities, I have demonstrated interpersonal, social, and organizational skills, which I hope to leverage into the IMHPAC Treasurer role in your Council.

In my 25 plus years of employment in human services, I have had the honor to serve as an Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drugs Prevention Specialist, an HIV/Aids Case Worker, a Domestic Violence Service Coordinator/Outreach Worker, a Public Aid Eligibility Assistant, and presently, I am employed as a Recovery Support Specialist with Robert Young Center's Community Support Program (CSP). Within the first year of service at CSP, I achieved two significant credentials: WRAP Facilitator and Certified Recovery Support Specialist.

Given my history as a human services helper, I feel that I would make a commendable Illinois Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council member. It would be an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to advocate for persons served, to serve the Illinois Division of Mental Health as well as for my professional development. I would like to thank you for your time and consideration to my becoming the IMHPAC Treasurer.

Sincerely,

Tracy Y. Hopkins

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