Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association

☆ 2010 Elections ☆

Candidates for At-Large Positions

Name: Tracey Gantt

MWPHA Member: ☐ New ☑ 1-3 yrs. ☐ 4-6 yrs. ☐ 7+ yrs.

Previous MWPHA Committee or Event Participation:

None

Please describe why you are interested in serving on the MWPHA Governing Council:

I have continuously had an interest in actively participating but did not have the time to commit. I have a significant interest in HIV efforts specifically in the DC area and believe that I have a lot to offer by serving on a council.

Please describe the leadership qualities or skills you would bring to the Governing Council.

My belief is that I would bring to the council leadership qualities that include program coordination, program development, grant writing and HIV expertise in the community.

What office or committee would be of interest to you?

Health Disparities and HIV/AIDS

Brief Bio

Tracey M. Gantt, RN, MSN is the Outpatient Clinical Nurse Specialist for the Ryan White Part C EIS program at the Washington Hospital Center and MedStar Health Research Institute. She is also an assistant professor of nursing at a local university.

She earned a Master's of Science in Nursing with a focus in Community/Public Health Nursing and Nursing Education, from The Catholic University of America. She has extensive work experience working with vulnerable populations throughout the city, specifically with HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Gantt's work experience incorporates clinical, academic and administrative responsibilities. Her knowledge of organizational program development, curriculum development and grant writing have garnered her program numerous funding opportunities. Her external involvement includes membership in the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care and Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society.

Name: Julie Ost

MWPHA Member: ☑ New ☐ 1-3 yrs. ☐ 4-6 yrs. ☐ 7+ yrs.

Previous MWPHA Committee or Event Participation:

Social Service or Social Change, on January 23rd, 2010

Please describe why you are interested in serving on the MWPHA Governing Council:

I am interested to engage a collaborative public health organization, local to the DC community, in a way to share my skills and learn from colleagues. As a new member, as well as recent alumna of GWU, I am aware of the initiatives of MWPHA. I would like to serve in a leadership capacity with an organization whose mission parallels its work, in an authentic and proactive role to share power and resources in the community.

Please describe the leadership qualities or skills you would bring to the Governing Council.

As an anti-racist public health professional, I would like to share with other leaders and advocates to improve health outcomes or improve bridging resources in Washington DC metro area. I have outreach experience with the most vulnerable communities, and the experience that we achieve great goals working as a collective. My skills and interest to learn from my colleagues uniquely positions me to serve as a mentor and mentee on the Governing Council.

What office or committee would be of interest to you?

Annual Conference, Health Disparities & HIV/AIDS

Brief Bio

Julie C. Ost, MPH, CHES, is a white queer woman currently working in the area of cancer disparities across ethnic and language barriers at George Washington University in Washington, DC. She actively volunteers with a New Jersey anti-racist initiative called the Alliance for Racial and Social Justice (ARSJ), and continues to pursue social justice issues with health advocacy and resource-building of under-served subpopulations in the local DC area as well. Ms. Ost's specific populations of interest include: youth of color, homeless, Spanish-speaking, deaf, substance users, sex workers, GLBTQI individuals, those with HIV/AIDS or chronic hepatitis, and domestic violence survivors. In that capacity, Ms. Ost serves on the Board of Directors of Helping Individual Prostitutes Survive (HIPS) as well as of the Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington DC (DC-HBI). In addition, Ms. Ost is working on publishing research regarding National, State and Local Viral Hepatitis Surveillance in the United States, as well as supporting existing initiatives to promote screening, testing and treatment of Hepatitis B in high-risk communities of color. One of Ms. Ost's interests within MWPHA-specific projects is to collaborate with other local activists on health disparities, HIV/AIDs housing issues and with the annual conference to draw more local groups to contribute.

Name: Sarah Jackson

MWPHA Member: ☐ New ☑ 1-3 yrs. ☐ 4-6 yrs. ☐ 7+ yrs.

Previous MWPHA Committee or Event Participation:

I am currently a MWPHA Governing Council member. For the holiday open house I staffed the front desk to check people in as they arrived, made name badges, and answered questions about MWPHA and the open house.

Currently I am working with the nominations committee to recruit candidates for the 2010-2013 term. I have posted the opportunity on listservs and websites, and will be creating an online voting tool.

Please describe why you are interested in serving on the MWPHA Governing Council:

I'm interested in continuing to serve on the Governing Council because I believe in the mission of MWPHA and want to serve my community. It is also a great way to remain active in the public health community of DC.

Please describe the leadership qualities or skills you would bring to the Governing Council.

During my tenure on the Governing Council I have explored a few different committees and found that the skills I bring to the Council are administrative. I've also been able to use knowledge from my previous jobs to help the nominations committee, such as websites to post the call for nominations.

What office or committee would be of interest to you?

I have been serving on the nominations committee and would like to continue to work with the Administrative Committees.

Brief Bio

I grew up in the DC area and returned after college in 2003. Since then I have had a variety of public health experience in the District. In 2005, I worked for Whitman-Walker Clinic in the Volunteer Resources Department. I have also volunteered as an interviewer with the SHARE study and as a HIV counselor and tester at the Gay Men's Health and Wellness Clinic. In 2007 I worked with the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS), collecting information on sexual and drug risk behaviors known to be connected with HIV infection. I also spent seven months at the DC Department of Health working on viral hepatitis surveillance. In 2008, I graduated with an MPH and currently employed with the EMMES Corporation as a Data Manager for the H1N1 vaccine clinical trials. This is my first year serving on the Governing Council and would like to continue for another term.

Name: Pankti Pathak

MWPHA Member: ☑ New ☐ 1-3 yrs. ☐ 4-6 yrs. ☐ 7+ yrs.

Previous MWPHA Committee or Event Participation:
None

Please describe why you are interested in serving on the MWPHA Governing Council:
I have been working my entire life serving the healthcare needs of the general public.
By serving as a member of the MWPHA governing council, I will be provided with a vehicle that will allow for me to have a greater set of resources in making a change in healthcare needs of the public.

Please describe the leadership qualities or skills you would bring to the Governing Council.
I will bring strong communication skills and a vast knowledge and experiences in different aspects of healthcare to the Governing Council. In order to work on healthcare issues effecting the people of the Washington metropolitan area these types of skills are pivotal to bring across the change needed.

What office or committee would be of interest to you?
I am interested in the Health Disparities and HIV/AIDS committee.

Brief Bio

Pankti Pathak is currently an MPH student, at The George Washington University, concentrating in Epidemiology. Before starting graduate school she worked as a Healthcare Consultant, at CSC Consulting, implementing progressive strategies aimed towards the improvement of hospitals' supply chains. Prior to CSC, she was part of an adolescent health team at Mount Sinai's Adolescent Health Center. Working alongside an interdisciplinary team of healthcare practitioners she worked as a health educator, formulating personalized healthcare plans for the teens of the community.

Name: Katherine Patterson

MWPHA Member: ☑ ☐ 1-3 yrs. ☐ 4-6 yrs. ☐ 7+ yrs.

Previous MWPHA Committee or Event Participation:

MWPHA Mixer Social Event 2008
MWPHA Holiday Open House 2009

Please describe why you are interested in serving on the MWPHA Governing Council:

- Interested in working with public health professionals that are working to promote environmental health issues specifically related to women's health.
- The mission and vision of the Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association is a good fit with my background and professional and personal interests.
- Serving on the MWPHA Governing Council would allow me the opportunity to broaden my public health

Please describe the leadership qualities or skills you would bring to the Governing Council.
The following leadership qualities I feel make me an excellent candidate for the Governing Council:

1. **HIV/Prevention Leadership**
   - Successfully managed a four-year cooperative agreement for Sisters and Daughters of Sheba, a HIV Prevention program for African American women and teen girls collaboratively with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
   - Provided leadership in grant preparation and developed short and long-term plans for the Sisters and Daughters of Sheba.
   - Created effective partnerships with external constituents for Sisters and Daughters of Sheba
2. **Communication (oral and written)**
   - Chosen to present significant research and program findings at the National CDC HIV Prevention Conference: "Interventions targeting internal self-talk about HIV risk increase women's confidence in practicing safer sex
   - Moderator: "2009 National Women's Health Panel OWH
3. **Program Development**
   - Developed and implemented the CDC approved "Sisters Together: Move More, More Eat Better" Weight Loss Program for African American women
4. **Organization Development**
   - Successfully secured $10,000 in contracts with the Michigan Department of Human Services
   - Achieved a 50% increase in program and workshop participation
5. **Team Leadership**
   - Responsible for leading division staff and community groups in the development of a comprehensive plan for preventing obesity in Michigan citizens
   - Lead Consultant for Michigan's CDC approved obesity initiative "Sisters Together: Move More, Eat Better" Weight Loss Program targeting African American women
   - HHS Healthy Weight Taskforce

- HRSA 2010 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Guidance Workgroup
- HRSA's Office of Women's Health Coordinating Council

What office or committee would be of interest to you?

1. Healthy Weight/Obesity
2. Women, Children and Youth
3. Membership

Brief Bio

Public Health Analyst and Health Educator with 10 + years of public health experience in private industry and government. Proficient in Health Education, Adolescent Sexual Health Education and HIV Prevention and Care. Skilled in providing direction, support and leadership for HIV Prevention and Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Demonstrated ability managing federal cooperative agreements and budgets, securing contracts and community partnerships to generate additional revenue. Blends strong verbal, written and interpersonal communication skills with creative methods for organization development.

Name: Christiana Metzger

MWPHA Member: ☐ New ☑ 1-3 yrs ☐ 4-6 yrs. ☐ 7+ yrs.

Previous MWPHA Committee or Event Participation:

I have been an active member since 2006 in outreach efforts in ward 8, round table discussions, proposals and housing efforts in the metro area, not only participating but taking an active lead in program initiatives. I took a leave of absence from the organization while pursuing a career opportunity in South Africa (late 2007) and upon my return (mid 2009) re-engaged in the organization's activities.

Please describe why you are interested in serving on the MWPHA Governing Council:

I believe MWPHA is a wonderful organization that truly operates on the grassroots level in mobilizing communities for better health outcomes. I would like to be more involved in the leadership and governance of this organization in efforts to continue and grow its current work.

Please describe the leadership qualities or skills you would bring to the Governing Council.

In leadership, my goal is to listen, be a collaborator and to utilize the strengths around me for healthier outcomes. I desire to ensure programs in which local communities understand, accept and are willing participants in the process.

What office or committee would be of interest to you?

I am open to co-chairing a MWPHA committee.

Brief Bio

Christiana B. Metzger is a graduate from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County where she earned a Master of Arts in Applied Sociology with a concentration in Health Disparities (2005). Metzger also obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Health Administration and Policy (2003) and a certificate in the Nonprofit Sector (2005) from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Metzger has served in various leadership roles in research and programming initiatives during undergraduate and graduate training. While recognizing vast disparities in health, Metzger continued to share her skills and passion as Data Manager for the National Minority AIDS Education Center and as Education and Training Program Officer for Diakonia AIDS Ministry in Soweto, South Africa over the last 5 years. Metzger conducted monitoring and programmatic efforts in reducing HIV rates among populations most affected by the virus.

Metzger is trained in social science research methodologies and has diverse computer and managerial experiences.

Metzger's intrigue with the complexities of HIV testing, prevention, and treatment motivate her daily. Her overall goal is to engage in collaborative efforts in effective preventative strategies to reduce the rates of HIV/AIDS especially communities most affected by the virus.