

Letter of Interest MCHCD

Healthful Greetings,
to the Honorable Mendocino Coast Health Care District Board:
Paul Garza, Jr., Paul Katzeff, Susan Savage, and Sara Spring.

Please consider this letter notification of interest towards board vacancy appointment.

Firstly I would like to **thank** the current board members for your time and great efforts given to support the health of our community; a work that often goes without praise. I have attended MCHCD meetings in person and remotely on a consistent basis, so can attest to the struggles and accomplishments. I have also recently attended the majority of the districts outreach meetings with the public and have heard many of the ideas and challenges voiced by our community. I believe there is still much work to be done to understand what local resources are available and what voids could be filled in the health care landscape. It is important to have a full spectrum audit followed by a all hands on deck approach to solutions.

Since moving to the District Region (Cleone) full-time in 2008 I have been involved and community-minded, taking part in local governance meetings and often collaborating with diverse interests to engender practical solutions. Examples of this include my work with the Marine Life Protection Act, where I championed Native Tribal and local fishery interests, while helping to develop wildlife protected areas. I also helped to negotiate the historical retention of the Dry Shed out on the Old Mill Site that remains the largest building on our coast. More recently I was a member of Fort Bragg City Council Citizens Commission, that despite highly charged and very contentious meetings, were able to agree unanimously on very positive recommendations to address, preserve, and celebrate local history/culture. The City Council is now in the process of implementing these recommendations with continued input from the community. I have learned and practice that with respectful understanding, diverse view points are often complementary and can be synthesized into collaborative solutions.

My expertise is in Public Health, graduating in 2015 with a Masters of Science in Global Health. Although my training had a global perspective, I focused and interned specifically on the Mendocino Coast discovering and developing plans to enhance our communities medical and economic systems. I also have experience in organizing conferences and participating on a diverse international board, demonstrating outreach collaboration.

I know there is much to do in order to continue the board in the direction of finding sound footing and strengthening the relationships and elements that need to be maintained, yet I think we all would like to see expansion of healthcare and wellness opportunities to support our community. Relationships such as the Board has with Adventist Health and Mendocino Coast Healthcare Foundation are important and should be strengthened further along with other relevant institutions and partners. Having shorter waits for appointments for example, by increasing the number of local practitioners. There is an unfortunate trend of rural areas losing their local hospitals. Our community should not take having a functioning hospital for granted, yet this success needs to be built on. I would like to see illustrated what is currently available as a whole to support high-quality sustainable healthcare and to also know where the gaps to be filled are; for the board to articulate a **new strategic plan** and initiate with realistic timeline goals.

If selected, I would also work to increase **transparency** and **public involvement**. Surveys, presentations beyond regular board meetings, and other community events are some examples that could be considered. Earning a BS in Herbal Sciences in 2008 shows my interest also in evidence based Traditional, Complementary, and Integrative Medicine (TCI), which use is significant and continues to increase in our community; TCI could also be considered as part of any overall board strategic planning.

Finally, I would be honored to be considered for the appointment because of a heartfelt commitment to advocating for the agency and health resilience opportunities for all that live within the healthcare district. I commit to working to strengthen and improve healthcare on the Mendocino Coast. I know as a person with disability, how important access to the proper provider is during times of desperation and physical challenge.

I have the ability to envision and build a better tomorrow, yet also come with an open mind and ready to listen. **Together**, we can succeed in fulfilling the vision, purpose, and mission of the Mendocino Coast Healthcare District!

I look forward to future meetings and conversations.

Essentially,

Gabriel Quinn Maroney, MScGH

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April 17th, 2024

Gabriel Quinn Maroney

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Education:

- *MS Global Health (National University of Natural Medicine) 2015
- *Certificate in Natural History (College of the Redwoods)
- *BS Herbal Sciences (Bastyr University) 2008

Qualifications & Skillset Focus Areas:

Uniquely trained and experienced in public health and collaborative health systems that allows for a synthesis towards practical solutions.

- *Public Health Information Campaigns *Natural Product Development
- *Global Health Security *Medical Ecology *Herbal Medicine
- *Bio-regional Economic Development *Historical Preservation
- *Botanical Research *Ecosystem Preservation *Community Outreach
- *Biostatistics *Traditional World Medicine Fieldwork Study

Professional Experience:

My professional experiences has been curtailed for the last twenty years due to a motor vehicle accident that left me with a disabling spine injury. Before that event I worked many typical jobs such as fast food (Boston Market), retail (Boarders Bookstore), and industrial production (Codeline Water Filtration) to name a few. I have dedicated my time and efforts, as I am able, towards the local development of an economy that supports our communities health and wellness. There is a known gap of representation in political positions for those with disabilities, and so I would be honored if selected. It could be that I might need some accommodations to be able to serve our community on the Board of Directors.