



Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Enclosure 2g
February 27, 2014

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TO: Members of the Rhode Island Board of Education
FROM: Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner 
RE: **Appointment of Nominee - RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees**

It is with great pleasure that I recommend for your approval the following nominee to fill a current vacancy on the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees:

- **Danielle Loughlin**

RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the appointment of Danielle Loughlin to serve on the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees, as presented.

Candidate for Board of Trustees at State-Operated Schools

Danielle Loughlin, RI School for the Deaf

1. Background:

What led you to be interested in serving on the Board of Trustees?

I am Deaf and went through a variety of experiences within my educational career, some good, and some bad. As a result, Deaf Education has always been of interest to me and I believe in making sure Deaf children have access to the same opportunities and quality education as hearing children. I believe a positive school experience gives a Deaf child the tools they need to succeed in life. Serving on the Board of Trustees would allow me to be a part of making that happen at the Rhode Island School for the Deaf. I have been looking for a way to give back to the Deaf community and I feel this would be a good fit for my expertise.

2. Qualifications:

What qualities and strengths from your background and experience will you bring to the Board if you are chosen to serve?

I hold a MSW (Master of Social Work) degree in clinical social work from Boston College. My specialty is working with Deaf children, with a focus on those with emotional, behavioral, and similar challenges. I have over a decade of experience in a variety of settings – residential, academic, outpatient, home-based, and hospital. I believe in addressing the entire system a child lives in, and school is a large component of that, especially for a Deaf child. I have been an advocate for Deaf children and I feel I can bring that skillset to the Board of Trustees to ensure that the school runs in such a way that leads to the success of every child that attends.

3. Goals:

Is there any particular area or initiative that you would like to focus on as a new member of the Board of Trustees?

I would love to see the school expand to offer services beyond just a quality education. Deaf children don't have as much access to activities that are linguistically accessible to them and often have few Deaf role models to look up to in their everyday life. I would be interested in raising funds to start a mentorship or Big Brother/Big Sister-type program at the school. Too often I see what happens when a child leaves the school building at the end of the school day and goes home to an environment they can't participate in. Increasing extracurricular opportunities and providing a more well-rounded experience to the children would give them an even stronger foundation to build confidence upon.

Danielle Loughlin, MSW, LCSW

Danielle, who has been Deaf since early childhood, received her BS in psychology from Bridgewater State University in 2006 and her Masters in Social Work from Boston College with a concentration in Children, Youth & Families in 2009.

She holds a LCSW in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island. A lifelong New England resident, she specializes in Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing services, with experience in both inpatient and outpatient settings, residential settings, and educational settings for children.

Danielle has a clinical focus on working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing children. Currently, Danielle works as a Clinical Supervisor for Perspectives in the Youth & Family Services program where she provides in-home therapeutic services to families with at least one Deaf family member.

Danielle Loughlin, MSW, LCSW

EDUCATION

Boston College

Massachusetts

Master of Social Work, Clinical – Children, Youth & Families

May 2009

Chestnut Hill,

Bridgewater State College

Bridgewater, Massachusetts

Bachelor of Science, Psychology

May 2006

SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Perspectives Corporation

North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Clinical Supervisor

April 2012 - present

- Developed individualized therapeutic treatment plans for Deaf children who also present with other behavioral, emotional, neurological, or linguistic challenges
- Provide supervision (including in the home) of all behavior specialists providing treatment for children on my caseload
- Develop a variety of therapeutic lessons and materials to be used in treatment
- Collaborate with families, schools, and other treatment providers to ensure maximum success for both child and parent
- Teach ASL classes to employees and community members using the *ASL At Work* curriculum developed by The National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology

Advocates Inc

Framingham, Massachusetts

Psychiatric Emergency Services Clinician

March 2012- present

- Provides emergency assessment in the community of Deaf individuals who were presenting with a behavioral and/or mental health crisis.
- Conducts all assessments in client's native language – American Sign Language
- Makes appropriate referrals for client based on severity of situation
- Completes all needed paperwork for insurance companies, state regulations, and agency.

Outpatient Clinician

November 2012

March 2012 –

- Provided outpatient therapy for Deaf individuals in ASL on a Fee For Service basis

Clinical Program Manager

September 2010

Dec 2009 –

- Provided clinical support to 4-6 Deaf developmentally disabled adults in their residence.

- Advocated for and provided all necessary community linguistic accommodations for the clients.
- Brought a program struggling to comply with DDS mandates into near-complete compliance with the support of the Assistant Director.
- Maintained and completed all administrative documentation as well as Department of Developmental Services documentation, including Individual Service Plans, budget, payroll, and clinical client data, staff schedules, among others.
- Directly supervised a staff of 7-10 direct care workers.

Westborough State Hospital

Westborough, Massachusetts

Graduate Social Work Intern

September 2008 – May 2009

- Provided individual and group psychotherapy.
- Developed and implemented individualized patient treatment plans.
- Provided case management services.
- Maintained hospital documentation in accordance with Department of Mental Health policy.

The Learning Center for the Deaf

Framingham, Massachusetts

Graduate Social Work Intern

September 2007 – May 2008

- Provided small-group activity-based psychotherapy.
- Conducted individual therapy under supervision.
- Provided support for students within the milieu.
- Participated as part of a larger clinical treatment team to determine course of treatment for students.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Partners Interpreting

Attleboro, Massachusetts

Consultant

September 2010 - present

- Consulted on social media strategies and outreach to Deaf community.
- Performed outreach Public Relations work at various Deaf community events.

R.E.A.D.S Collaborative

Middleboro, Massachusetts

Assistant Teacher

April 2006 – May 2007

- Developed and implemented behavioral plans for students with behavioral, cognitive, and emotional challenges.
- Promoted growth of alternative communication strategies for lower-functioning students.
- Provided academic teaching and support.

South Shore Mental Health

Quincy, Massachusetts

Relief Direct Care Staff

2003– 2004

- Provided support for adults with mental illness and mental retardation in order for clients to acquire independent living skills.

L I C E N S U R E & A F F I L I A T I O N S

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in the State of Massachusetts

Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) in the State of Rhode Island

National Association of Social Work Member

Massachusetts Association of the Deaf Member

Rhode Island Association of the Deaf Member

S P E C I A L I Z E D S K I L L S

Fluent in ASL

Trained in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Competent in Microsoft Office Suite, HCSIS, Meditech, and Solara software

Experienced in HTML, basic webdesign, and all aspects of social media technology