



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Session Agenda Review Form

Meeting date: October 22, 2025 9:00am

Department: Health & Human Services

Title: Mental Health Advisory Committee Appointment

Management Update/Work Session Date: 9/30/2025 Audio/Visual aids ☐

Time Required: 5 Contact: Samantha Andress Phone: x4903

Requested Action: Appoint Sharma Owens to the Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) for a 4 year term ending June 30, 2029.

Issue, Description & Background: The MHAC is a group of knowledgeable and unique individuals who provide advocacy and leadership for the county by advising and making recommendations to the HHS Administrator and the Board of Commissioners.

Financial Impacts: None

Impacts to Department & External Agencies: None

List of attachments: Application, proposed roster, board order

Presenter: Phil Blea

Department Head Signature: Katrina Griffith Digitally signed by Katrina Griffith
Date: 2025.10.02 08:51:05 -07'00'



Advisory Board Application

Applicant's Name: **Sharma Owens**
Adv. Board: **Mental Health Advisory Committee**
City of Residence: **Salem**
Occupation: **Social Worker, Salem Keizer School District**
Application Rcd: **September 08, 2025**

The reason I am applying:

The reason I am applying for the Marion County Mental Health Advisory Committee is because I am deeply committed to improving access to mental health services and supports in our community. As a School Social Worker and Clinical Social Work Associate working toward my LCSW, I see firsthand the challenges that individuals and families face when navigating systems of care. I want to bring both my professional expertise and my lived investment as a community member to help shape policies, expand resources, and strengthen collaboration across Marion County. My goal is to ensure that individuals of all ages and backgrounds have the support they need to thrive.

More about my personal and professional interests:

My interest in applying is rooted in both my professional work and my personal commitment to community well-being. As a School Social Worker and Clinical Social Work Associate, I have seen the impact that accessible, effective mental health services can have on students, families, and neighborhoods. I am particularly interested in helping bridge the gaps between schools, community resources, and mental health providers so that individuals don't fall through the cracks. Personally, I care deeply about strengthening support networks in Marion County and ensuring that all voices, especially those from under-resourced and rural communities, are heard and represented in decision-making.

Tell us more about your community involvement:

Since 2018, I have served as a board member of the East Salem Suburban Neighborhood Association and have been the active chair for nearly two years. In this role, I have helped plan and hold the annual National Night Out event for the past four years, fostering community connection and engagement. I have also organized and hosted several neighborhood events, including community clothing exchanges, movie nights, and resource fairs, all designed to bring people together and provide meaningful support to families. These experiences have strengthened my commitment to building a connected, inclusive, and resourceful community.



Advisory Board Application

Previous board service at Marion County:

N/A

Qualifications and Skills:

I have an MSW and am a CSWA working towards my LCSW.

More about yourself and why you are applying:

I have lived in Marion County my entire life—50 years—and my roots here run deep, with my parents, brothers, children, and many other family members and friends also calling this community home. I am an active resident of East Salem, where I have served on the East Salem Suburban Neighborhood Association board since 2018 and as chair for the past two years. Professionally, I work as a School Social Worker in the Salem-Keizer School District and as a Clinical Social Work Associate in a private practice where I am working toward my LCSW. These roles have given me extensive experience in supporting mental health needs, connecting families with resources, and fostering collaboration between schools, homes, and community organizations. I am applying for this appointment because I believe my lifelong connection to Marion County, combined with my professional expertise and community involvement, positions me to make a meaningful contribution in ensuring our residents feel supported, connected, and empowered.

Signature

Agreement Statement:

I give my permission for the named references to be contacted, either verbally or in writing. All the information on this application is true to the best of my knowledge and I understand I am applying for a volunteer position with Marion County.

I understand that appointed members of a Marion County advisory board, commission, committee, or council are considered public officials under Oregon law. Marion County will provide orientation and more information upon appointment.



I Agree *

Marion County
Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC)
Roster 2025

	Member	Occupation	City	Joined	Term Expires
1	Dr. Leon Harrington	Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist	Mill City	2021	12/31/2025
2	Earlene Camarillo	Assistant Professor, Western University	Salem	2021	12/31/2025
3	Michael Mann	Executive Director Salem for All	Aumsville	2021	6/30/2029
4	Jackie Follis	CADC, QMHP-R	Salem	2023	12/31/2027
5	Christina McCollum	Behavioral Health Regional Strategist, PacificSource Community Solutions	Salem	2024	06/30/2028
6	Dean Howes	Beverage Director, Savoury Brands	Aumsville	2025	12/31/2028
7	Teresa Joslin	N/A- Retired	Salem	2025	12/31/2028
8	Karla Hunter	Jackman Wealth Management LLC	Salem	2025	12/31/2028
9	Maria Torres	N/A	Salem	2025	12/31/2028
10	Sharma Owens	Social Worker, Salem Keizer School District	Salem	2025	6/30/2029

Commissioner