

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT CONSIDERATION
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM

Please state below, the board or commission or general subject area in which you have an interest:
BOARD OR COMMISSION NAME: Advisory Council on Hereditary & Congenital Disorders

Application :		New Appointment		☒ Reappointment			
Name:		Michelle Walsh Smith					
Date of Birth:		01-17-1971		☒ US Citizen		☒ Registered Voter	
				MD resident since 2003			
Race:	White	Gender:	Female	(Ethnic/gender data is solely to assure diversity in representation)			
Home Address:		1304 Roundhill Road					
City:	Baltimore	State:	MD	Zip:	21218		
Resident County:		Baltimore City					
MD Legislative District:			MD Congressional District:			Council or Commission District:	
Occupation:		Architect					
Employer:		Curry Architects					
Work Address:		1 N. Haven Street Suiten 105					
City:	Baltimore	State:	MD	Zip:	21224		
Phones:	(Office):	410-321-4602		(Home):	410-808-3833		
	(Cell):	410-808-3833		(Fax):			
Email Address:		Thesmiths2006@gmail.com					
Sponsoring Organization (If Any):							
Have you ever been a party (plaintiff or petitioner/defendant or respondent) to any civil, criminal, juvenile or administrative proceeding?							
☒ No	Yes (Specify):						
Do you hold a Maryland license to practice a profession or trade?						Yes	☒ No
If yes, specify License type and #:							
Have you ever had a license to practice a profession or trade, whether held in Maryland or another state, revoked or suspended?							
☒ No	Yes (Specify):						
Are you a member, officer or director of any organization?						Yes	☒ No
Specify Organization or Activity:		The Birches: An Inclusive Community					
If so, are you engaged in any lobbying activities for that organization?							
						Yes	☒ No

Are you a paid lobbyist for any organization?				
If so, please specify the organization			Yes	☒ No
Do you hold, or have you held in the past, an elected or appointed office within Federal, State or local government, or a political party?			Yes	☒ No
Specify Office:				
Specify Dates:				
Have you filed all Federal and State tax returns that are now due or overdue and are all payments thereupon up to date?				
☒ Yes	No (Explain):			
Have Federal, State or local authorities ever instituted a lien or other collection procedures against you?				
☒ No	Yes (Explain):			
List the names, business addresses, and business telephone numbers of at least 2 individuals who are familiar with your professional qualifications and who have known you for more than the last five years:				
1. Jaime Fishman 6 Dorset Hill Court Owings Mills, MD 21117 443-562-6058 2. Nestor Zabala 1 N. Haven Street Suite 105 Baltimore, MD 21224 410-321-4602				
<u>Please briefly explain why you wish to serve on the Board/Commission/Council.</u> I am a focused, confident Parent of a Child with Multiple Congenital Disabilities, looking for an opportunity to expand and share knowledge as well as challenge my abilities. I am an energetic self-starter with strong verbal and written communication skills who is ready to expand her horizons in Special Needs Advocacy beyond my child and local community. The ACHCD provides me the opportunities for personal growth and community service I seek.				
<u>Please attach a resume</u> that includes information concerning your academic background, work experience and professional, political, and civic organization affiliations.				
<u>ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS:</u> None.				
I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information contained in and attached to this questionnaire is true, correct and complete. I understand and agree that I am required to notify the Office of the Governor in writing if any of the information contained in or attached to this questionnaire changes.				
Signature of applicant: <u> <i>Michelle Teoli</i> </u> Date: <u>05-09-23</u>				

Please return completed form to:
Michelle Teoli Morningred, Administrator
Maryland Department of Health
Office of Appointments and Executive Nominations
Email: michelle.morningred@maryland.gov
Phone: (667) 203-8985

Objective

Focused, confident
Parent of a Child with Multiple
Congenital Disabilities,
looking for an opportunity to
expand and share knowledge
as well as challenge abilities.
Energetic self-starter with
strong verbal and written
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ready to expand her horizons
in Special Needs Advocacy
beyond my child and local
community.

Michelle Walsh Smith

1304 roundhill road ▪ baltimore, md 21218

c: 410-808-3833 ▪ thesmiths2006@gmail.com

www.assemblyreqd.blogspot.com

Special Needs Volunteerism & Training

Parent of Nathaniel Vincent Smith –Ongoing, Daily Training

December 3, 2009 - Present

Our son, Nate, was born with three interstitial deletions on one of his Chromosome 1 copies. He was diagnosed at birth because of some dismorphic facial features. His deletions have caused several health and developmental related issues that we have been dealing with in varying degrees over the past 12 years. They are the following in order of how much they affect him:

- Hypoplasia of the Corpus Callosum – HCC is a brain malformation of the bundle of 190 million nerve fibers that join the left and right hemispheres of the brain. The Corpus Callosum is responsible for coordination of gross, fine and oral motor movements. It also aids the brain in interpreting what is going on around your body spatially, social interactions and helps with self-regulation. It acts as a bridge across the hemispheres. If the bridge is smaller, as in Nate's case, traffic gets a little backed up. People with callosal disorders tend to have normal intelligence, but slow processing speeds and social awkwardness. Incidence is estimated to be 1:4000.
- ADHD Inattentive
- Mild-Moderate Hearing Loss – Identified by EDHI newborn infant hearing screening at birth
- Facial Paresis – Mostly in the lower face, similar to Stickler or Moebius Syndromes
- Nystagmus and various vision problems that have resolved (Strabismus, Macular Hypoplasia, Tear Ducts)
- Epileptic activity during sleep and wakefulness similar to a person who has been diagnosed with epilepsy.

Governor's Council on Hereditary and Congenital Disorders – Voting Member

2016 - Present

The primary task of the State Advisory council on Hereditary and Congenital Disorders is to educate itself and advise the State about disorders that could be added to the Newborn Screening tests provided by the State of Maryland.

- Review new diagnosis methods and treatments for congenital and hereditary disorders in order to make recommendations to the State for inclusion into the Newborn Screening process.
- Continually reevaluate the State's diagnosis methods for disorders already within Maryland's newborn Screening program for effectiveness and to align with best practices around the United States.
- Educate the public and stakeholders to further their understanding of these rare conditions and how they are diagnosed and treated.

Families as Faculty Educator

2016 - 2019

Parents Place of Maryland facilitates the Families as Faculty Program training experience that offers pediatric residents, medical students, public health students and other related allied professional trainees an opportunity to learn from families. In the comfort and relaxed atmosphere of their homes, families can tell their story, talk candidly about the special challenges they face and reflect openly and honestly on their experiences with health care professionals.

- Parents discuss with groups of 2-3 students every 1-2 months how living with a Special Needs child affects daily life and relationships with the medical community and support services.
- Share experiences and our medical story to offer perspective to these future care providers.
- 5 Core Values and Skills are promoted to students: Good Communication, Building Collaborative Relationships, Identify and Promote Family Strengths, Respecting Beliefs regarding Health and well-being and lastly, Showing Compassion.

Special Education LEADers Training

Winter/Spring 2016

Parents Place of Maryland hosts this free, comprehensive leadership training for parents to become informed and active in Special Education advocacy for their child and others. Knowledge needed to be involved at the state and local levels is also shared. Mandatory attendance for (5)7 hour sessions and 20 hours of volunteer service within 9 months of the training is expected of all attendees who are chosen by application. Session topics included:

- Understanding Tests and Measurements, Smart IEP Goals, Effective Advocacy
- Least Restrictive Environments, IEP Development & 504 Plans
- Discipline under IDEA, Dispute Resolution Options & How to Work with Community Agencies/Policy Makers

Medical Home

Maryland Parent Connections – Parent Mentor

March 2012 – May 2015

Parents Place of Maryland holds the grant which funds this support program for parents of children who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing. Parent mentors are trained in how to provide an unbiased ear to parents who request guidance. Each mentor was given an area of the State of Maryland to plan events and contact with parents was assigned based on individual match-ups between the family's support needs and the mentor's experiences.

- Planned and Presented Parent workshops: Tricks and Treats, Inclusive Holidays, Family Play Date
- Built and helped manage Maryland Parent Connections Facebook Page

Maryland School for the Deaf – PTCA President

2014/2015 School Year

President of the Parents, Teachers and Counselors Association

- Created, authored and distributed a quarterly newsletter to all families and staff
- Planned and Implemented a Winter Arts and Crafts Fair with over 50 vendors, silent auction and ASL seminars
- Created materials and goodies for Staff Appreciation Week
- Advertized and sold fund raising materials such as clothing and magnets

Learning Opportunities

National Organization for Disorders of the Corpus Callosum Conference

June 26 - July 1, 2016

National conference held bi-annually for people with Corpus Callosal Disorders and the people who love them. Many presentations on therapies, research, education, outcomes and support available.

Social Thinking Conference

May 13, 2016

Conference explaining Michelle-Garcia-Winner's Social Thinking program for all ages of children with social learning deficits. Programs are available for all ages such as: Incredible Flexible You, SuperFlex, Unthinkables/Thinkables, Social Detective

- How Common Core is dependent on Social Thinking skills
- Social Thinking is NOT following a script, it is teaching skills on how one assesses and properly responds to various social, school and work situations

2016 Maryland EHDI Conference

May 12, 2016

Updates on the efficacy of the states program as well as lectures on topics related to early intervention and education for children who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing. This year's topics and speakers:

- Autism and Other Disabilities in Deaf Children – Christine Szymanski, PhD
- After Identification: Creating a Medical Home – Debbie Badawi, MD

SECAC of Baltimore City Meetings

2015/2016

Meeting attendee and Voting Member.

SECAC of Baltimore County Meetings

2015/2016

Meeting attendance and 1 hour presentations on the following topics:

- ADHD: Intervention Strategies for home and School (May 12, 2016) – Tanya Hope, PhD
- Behavior Management at Home (April 14, 2016) – Tanya Hope, PhD

CCBC Children's Developmental Class & Parent Workshops Saturday Mornings Spring and Fall 2016

Children play for 1.5 hours while parents connect and learn. The parent class session topics were:

- Baltimore County Resources and Support, Introduction to Social Thinking, Social Thinking and Common Core

Communication Competency Conference August 8, 2015

MSDE conference on how communication competency must be achieved before instruction and assessment can happen in children with moderate to severe disabilities.

- Using Communication Boards – One School's program developed to be used across all subjects.

2015 Maryland EHDI Conference May 14, 2015

Updates on the efficacy of the states program as well as lectures on topics related to early intervention and education for children who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing. 2015 topics and speakers:

- Hard-of-Hearing Children: Still Forgotten?-Mary Pat Moeller, PhD, Director of the Center for childhood Deafness at Boys Town National Research Hospital
- CMV and the Impact on EDHI programs – Karl White, PhD, Director of NCHAM
- Outcomes for Children with Cochlear Implants – Howard M Francis M.D. Johns Hopkins University
- Parental Experiences with Maryland EDHI – Stephanie Nagle, Ph.D, Towson University

2014 Maryland EHDI Conference May 15, 2014

Updates on the efficacy of the states program as well as lectures on topics related to early intervention and education for children who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing. 2014 topics and speakers:

- Language Learning of Children who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing-Christine Yoshinaga-Itano, PhD.
- Maryland hearing Aid Loan Bank update – Kathleen Heck, Ph.D, MSDE
- Joint Committee on Infant Hearing: Components and Implementation-Beth Benedict Ph.D, ASDC

Family Learning Weekend November 16-17, 2013

One day conference Sponsored by PPMD, MSD, CBSS and Maryland Parent Connections. Presentations on the following topics:

- Child First Campaign, Creating a Vision for your Child, Advocacy Skills and Children, Educational Excellence, & Understanding Special Education Evaluations

Language Literacy and Deaf Children: Research to Practice Conference September 21, 2013

One day Conference sponsored by Parents Place of Maryland, Connections Beyond Sight and Sound, Maryland School for the Deaf and Maryland Parent Connections. Presentations on the following topics:

- Research to Practice, Writing Strategies for Parents, Reading Strategies
- Visual Language and Visual Learning-The research and Transitional Products – Dr. Melissa Herzig
- Using Technology with your Kids, Assessments-Is your child Making Progress?

Family Learning Weekend June 21-23, 2013

"Dance of partnership: Why Do My Feet Hurt?": Forming Collaborative Parent-Professional Relationships presented by Janice Fialka, LMSW, ACSW. Conference Sponsored by PPMD, MSD, CBSS and MSDE.

- Feature Presenter: Janice Fialka, LMSW, ACSW with contributions by her husband, Rich Feldman, and children, Emma and Micha Feldman

2013 National EHDI Meeting / Conference April 14-16, 2013

Attended conference as a Maryland Parent sponsored by Maryland DHMH. Keynote Speaker was Laura Ann Petitto, a researcher from Gallaudet University on Visual Language and the Bilingual Brain. Breakout presentations attended:

- Connecting Families with Deaf Adults & State Deaf Mentor programs
- Marketing, Messaging and Media
- Implementing a Communication Plan w/ Part C
- Genetics and CMV Screenings: Minnesota Test Program
- Usher Syndrome

Maryland School for the Deaf – Family Education Department

2010-2015

MSD's Family Education Department offers families of children within the program a weekly ASL class and a weekly topical discussion class. Nate attended MSD from Age 9 months to Age 2 for two days a week, Every morning from age 2 until age 4.5, and full days for Pre-Kindergarten. I attended almost all of the parent classes on Mondays and Fridays of the years while Nate was attending.

- Many, many presentations on various topics pertaining to Deaf Education, Deaf Culture, Understanding Hearing Loss, Advocacy Strategies, Grief and Family Involvement

National Organization for Disorders of the Corpus Callosum Conference July 30-August 1, 2010

National conference held bi-annually for people with Corpus Callosal Disorders and the people who love them. Many presentations on therapies, research, education, outcomes and support available.

Education**University of Minnesota – Bachelor of Architecture**

1990 to 1995

- College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
- 1993 CALA Accreditation Committee
- Alpha Chi Omega Sorority – Rush, Scholarship, Philanthropy and Education Chair

University of Michigan – College of Engineering - Aerospace Engineering

1989 to 1990

- Air Force ROTC

Other Experience

- Currently employed full time at Curry Architects as a Project Architect/Manager
- American Sign Language III Course Certificate – HASA (November 12, 2013)
- Computer/Graphics Knowledge: MSOffice, PowerPoint, Publisher, Excel, Photoshop, Blogger
- Personal Blog: www.assemblyreqd.blogspot.com