

Four named to Macomb County Community Mental Health board

One newcomer, three current members to serve 3-year term



Macomb County Commissioner Antoinette Wallace, shown speaking at a board meeting, has been reappointed to the Macomb Community Mental Health Board of Directors. MACOMB DAILY PHOTO

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PUBLISHED: March 28, 2023 at 8:07 a.m. | UPDATED: March 29, 2023 at 9:43 a.m.

A military veteran who is active in the community is the lone new member of four people recently named to the Macomb County Community Mental Health Board of Directors.

Newcomer Wayne Connor was appointed and Nick Ciaramitaro, Antoinette Wallace and Selena Schmidt were reappointed to three year terms on the 12-member Macomb CMH board. Their terms being April 1.

The foursome was elected by the county Board of Commissioners at its March 16 meeting among 15 applicants to the board after 19 people applied to the board last year. Interest in leadership posts in the organization has risen over the past few years.

Each year, four board posts are filled for three-year terms.



Wayne Conner

Macomb County CMH provides mental health, substance abuse and developmental disability treatment services for adults and children. Most of its clients are on Medicaid, but also CMH serves those with private insurance and no insurance. Its Crisis Center offers support 24 hours a day, seven days a week by phone.

Connor, a Ray Township resident, is a Vietnam veteran, 22-year member of the Air National Guard at Selfridge ANG in Harrison Township and former member of the county Veterans Affairs Committee who said he would like to help address the heightened rate of suicides by veterans and in the military in recent years.

“I’m really concerned about the military, the 10 suicides a day, and now it’s up to 45 veterans a day committing suicide,” he told the board at a March 9 committee meeting. “I know there are services out there and we have to find them for the veterans; we have to help them.”

A member of the Romeo Community Schools Board of Education, he said the rise in teen suicides also need to be tackled.



Nick Ciaramituro

He also is on the Selfridge Family Readiness organization and Ray Township Library Board.

He works as a production clerk for Ford Motor Co.

Conner finished just ahead of Julia Mohan, a Macomb Township outpatient therapist, in a 7-5 vote in the third round of voting among the field of candidates.

Wallace, a Warren resident, has been a county Board of Commissioners' representative on the CMH board since January 2021 after her first election to the county board in November 2020.

She said her past two years-plus experience will help her increase her contributions.

"I am now more knowledgeable of the ins and outs of the mental health system and how I can assist more and help my community in their lack of knowledge of the system and programs," she wrote on her application.

Wallace is a real estate agent.

Ciaramitaro, a Roseville resident and former state representative, has been on the board for 12 years.



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Selena Schmidt

"He has been a good representative on the board," board Chairman Don Brown said at the March 9 meeting.

Ciaramitaro served in the House of Representatives for 20 years ending in 1999 and was the Roseville city clerk in 1978-79.

Schmidt, a Shelby Township resident, has been on the board for six years. She is vice president of behavioral health for Ascension Health, overseeing clinical operations.

She said she cares for patients from Macomb CMH on a daily basis and can provide "insight and guidance on what consumers are facing."

"I am the mother of a child that is a success story due to the services he has received over his life from MCCMH," she said on her application.

She is a board member at Disability Rights Michigan and was a member of Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness with the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The Macomb CMH board is chaired by Phil Kraft, a county commissioner from Chesterfield Township.