

Howard County Board of Health Testimony

Emily Greenberger, LCSW-C

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Good Evening County Council Members and thank you for allowing me to testify this evening for your votes for approval of my appointment to serve on the Howard County Board of Health. My name is Emily Greenberger and I am Licensed Clinical Social Worker and co-owner of Collaborative Counseling Center, a multi-disciplinary outpatient mental health center serving children, adolescents and adults in Howard County. I am resident of Howard County and my three children attend Howard County Public Schools.

In the almost 20 years that I have been a social worker, I have served in various behavioral health settings including both public and private schools, psychiatric hospitals, community mental health centers and intensive outpatient programs. My clinical work has always been dedicated to improving the social and emotional health of children, adolescents and families. I have always had a macro or communal approach to my clinical work. Over the many years of working in schools and communities, I have remained passionate about service by providing schools and other organizations educational support through my various presentations on mental health.

In my work at Collaborative Counseling Center these past 7 years, and my school based counseling jobs, I have made a multitude of strong professional connections with community and school based mental health providers, teachers and administrators. I have sat with hundreds of Howard County children and families, listening to their stories and providing them individual, group and family treatment.

I would like to share the catalyst for my decision to serve on the Board of Health if approved, so that I work in accordance with you, the County Council, to “ensure the health and safety of those in Howard County.” Around the time of midterms for HCPSS, our community lost the precious life of another teenage just before exams. After this tragic loss, I felt the need to take a more active role in a tangible way, one that has a broader reach, where I could use my clinical experience in behavioral health to positively impact the lives of those living in Howard County, one of THE best places to live in the United States.

I reached out to a family friend, Mr. Ken Ulman, and I asked him the best pathway to serve on the Board of Health, the esteemed organization of medical professionals who have their pulse on every aspect of our community’s health matters. I found myself actively and relentlessly pursuing this position with the office of County Executive Calvin Ball, resulting in our County Executive approving my nomination to serve. Here I am tonight asking the esteemed members of the county council, if you will allow me to be active participant in the overall improvement of the behavioral health of Howard County residents by allowing me to sit on the Board of Health.

If elected to the Board, I promise to positively promote the behavioral health of all those living in Howard County. I feel that I bring to this position two decades of clinical work, combined with knowledge of this community from both a professional and personal perspective. I will focus on strengthening the relationship between HCPSS and the Board of Health to foster ongoing and improved mental health awareness, education and programming for our county’s young people. Together we can reduce the stigma of mental illness while increasing individual’s access to mental health services and ultimately saving lives! Thank you, Council Members, for your consideration of my appointment to the Board of Health.