

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**  
**AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Community and Human Development

**AGENDA DATE:** June 10, 2008

**CONTACT PERSON/PHONE:** Bill Lilly 541-4241

**DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:** Appointment of two members to the El Paso MHMR Center Board of Trustees. Position No. 1 is designated as a position for a member who is a consumer of the types of services the community mental health and mental retardation center funds or who are family member of a consumer. Position No. 2 is an at-large position. Both appointments are to fill terms ending December 31, 2009.

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:** In 2001, the City, the County and the Hospital District entered into an Interlocal Agreement to re-create the El Paso Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center. Each entity has three appointments to the Board of Trustees. The City has two vacancies. James Herendeen, Ph.D., has been a long time City appointee, but he is not eligible to be reappointed for another term. The second position has been vacant due to the resignation of the appointee who moved out of town.

The Interlocal Agreement requires a specific process for the taking of applications and the making of the appointments by the City Council. Pursuant to the Agreement, the City's Community Center Screening Committee obtained the applications on file with the MHMR Center Office and interviewed the applicants. The Committee determined which applicants would qualify for each position and ranked the applicants within those categories. The Committee makes the following recommendations to the City Council:

Position No. 1:

1. Virginia Alonso
2. Eric Willard

Position No. 2:

1. Sandra R. Lloyd, Ph.D.
2. Laurence D. Sears, M.Ed.

A summary of the applicants' backgrounds is attached separately and the applications are on file in the Community and Human Development Department.

The Interlocal Agreement provides that the Council must make their selection from the recommendations submitted by the Screening Committee, or determine that an appointment cannot be made from the list(s), in which case the Screening Committee would seek new applications from members of the public and start the process over.

The Interlocal Agreement establishes additional criteria for the selection of the board members. All board members and their spouses cannot own or control any interest in a business entity or

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08 JUL -2 PM 2:02

The Interlocal Agreement establishes additional criteria for the selection of the board members. All board members and their spouses cannot own or control any interest in a business entity or organization that will receive funds from the Center. Additionally, they cannot work for or receive goods or funds from such an organization in an amount greater than 10% of its funding, unless the board member is a consumer of MH/MR services. By law, the Board members must be qualified voters in El Paso County and residents of El Paso County. State law also requires that the Board appointments must reflect the ethnic and geographic diversity of the service area, which is El Paso County.

For the Council's information, the third City appointee to the Board, currently serving a term through December 31, 2008, is Xavier Bañales.

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:**

**Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?** The last appointments to this Board were made by the Council on October 17, 2006.

**AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

**BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:**

Enter appropriate comments or N/A

\*\*\*\*\*REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION\*\*\*\*\*

**LEGAL:** (if required) \_\_\_\_\_ **FINANCE:** (if required) \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)

*Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager*

**APPROVED FOR AGENDA:**

**CITY MANAGER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

CITY CLERK DEPT.  
09 JUN -2 PM 2:03

## SUMMARY OF THE BACKGROUNDS OF THE APPLICANTS

**Position No. 1.** Virginia Alonso and Eric Willard are eligible for appointment to the trustee position designated in the Interlocal Agreement as “family members of consumers” of the “types of services the community mental health and mental retardations center funds.”

1. Virginia Alonso is currently employed as a county extension agent. She holds bachelors and masters degrees and has previously worked as a child protection caseworker and in the fields of education and food services, and has operated her own restaurant business. She has performed some volunteer services within the community during the 11 years she has lived in El Paso.

When asked what talents or experience she can contribute to the Board, Ms. Alonso referenced her business experience, educational background, and life experiences regarding a family member.

2. Eric Willard has been employed in the El Paso County Public Defender’s Office for the past year. He is chief of the mental health unit within that office. Prior to that, he practiced law in both New Mexico and Texas. He holds bachelors and juris doctor degrees. He has performed volunteer services within other communities he has lived in.

When asked what talents or experience he can contribute to the Board, Mr. Willard referenced his work in which he annually represents over two hundred clients who have been diagnosed with various mental health disorders or suffer mental retardation, and life experiences regarding a family member.

**Position No. 2.** Sandra R. Lloyd, Ph.D. and Laurence D. Sears, M.Ed. are eligible for appointment to the “at-large” trustee position.

1. Sandra R. Lloyd, Ph.D., is a retired UTEP professor. She holds bachelors, two masters and doctorate degrees. Her last position at UTEP was as the department chair, Educational Psychology and Special Services. She moved to El Paso 17 years ago when she was offered employment at UTEP. She currently performs volunteer services within the community.

When asked what talents or experience she can contribute to the Board, Dr. Lloyd referenced her “wide knowledge of issues for consumers and professionals in the field.”

2. Laurence D. Sears, M.Ed., is currently employed with the El Paso Community College and is an adjunct instructor of psychology. He holds bachelors and masters degrees. He is a long time El Paso resident who has performed volunteer work in the community and served on a number of boards including the Board of Health and the Library Board.

When asked what talents or experience he can contribute to the Board, Mr. Sears referenced his “training as a mental health professional and public school and college technology experience.”

CITY CLERK DEPT.  
08 JUN -2 PM 2:03