

Joining the Board of Directors

Community Health Center of Snohomish County (CHC) is looking for interested individuals to join our Board of Directors and use their skills and talents to help us fulfill our mission which is to provide our diverse community with access to high quality, affordable, primary health care.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What does the Board of Directors do?

The Board is responsible for setting strategic direction and policy for the organization. The Board is also responsible for oversight of CHC's finances and ensuring that CHC is managed in a fiscally responsible manner.

Who is on the Board?

The Board is made up of patients and members of the community who volunteer their time to support the organization's mission. Board members represent cross sections of the diverse community served by CHC. Most Board members do not have a medical background.

How many people are on the Board?

The number of Board members can vary from year to year, with a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 17 members. Each Board member serves a term of three years.

How much time does it take to be on the Board?

The full Board of Directors meets once a month for approximately 2 hours. Each Board member is also expected to participate on a working committee of the Board. Depending on its charge, a working committee may meet anywhere from monthly to quarterly to once or twice a year.

I would like to join, but may have trouble with childcare and transportation expenses related to attending Board meetings. Can you help?

CHC can provide reimbursement to Board members for minor expenses including babysitting and travel expenses.

Can I be held responsible if the Board makes a bad decision?

No. CHC carries insurance that protects Board members from personal liability for serving on the Board.

Will I receive training?

Yes. CHC provides an orientation for new Board members. You will also be paired with an experienced Board member who will be available to answer your questions and help orient you to your role and responsibilities as a member of the Board. CHC also provides numerous opportunities and pays for Board members to attend Board training and educational conferences at local, regional and national meetings held throughout the year.

I am a patient of CHC. Does joining the Board allow me a discount or the ability to get appointments quicker?

No. Board members do not receive special or favorable treatment of any kind.

I know many people who work at CHC. As a Board member, will I get to work with some of my friends who work there?

No. The Board is responsible for setting strategic direction and policy. The operation of CHC is the responsibility of the Executive Director. As a Board member, you will not interact directly with staff and must be very aware of any conflicts of interest. You must not allow any personal relationships with CHC employees affect the decisions you make as a Board member. Board members must excuse themselves from votes where there are conflicts of interest.

Before applying, ask yourself these questions.

- Do I believe in CHC's mission?
- Am I willing to share my personal experiences with the health care system in order to help the Board better understand the needs of our community and CHC patients?
- Am I willing to commit the necessary time?
- Am I interested in talking to others about CHC and the work it does for the community?
- Can I place the organization's purposes and interests above my own professional and personal interests when making decisions as a Board member?

If you answer **YES** to *all* of these questions, let us know. We'd love to talk to you about joining our Board.

Comments from a past Board member

"I have gotten a great deal of personal satisfaction from working on the Board of Directors for the past several years. Seeing and hearing of the tremendous amount of good accomplished by CHC and knowing I have had a part in the organization's success is a good feeling. I am a part of a team. What I offer, from my experience, is important and I'm heard. It is hard work but I certainly have gained as much as I have given."

Please contact:

For more information on becoming a member of our Board of Directors, please contact Michelle Morford at mmorford@chcsno.org or 425-789-3701.