

Form Name: DuPage County Application Form for Appointment
Submission Time: June 5, 2024 3:00 pm
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IP Address: 75.63.4.123
Unique ID: [REDACTED]

Name of Board or Agency you are interested in appointment to DuPage County Board of Health

Previous Board Experience

Have you ever served on this Board or Agency before? Yes

If yes, how long? 3 years

Personal Information

Name Douglas Chang

Email [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]
Lisle, IL 60532-3395

Phone [REDACTED]

Upload resume (PDF or Word format) <https://dupagecounty-ktgfp.formstack.com/admin/download/file/16454553037>

Additional Information

Please explain why you wish to serve as an appointee and share any unique qualifications or experience you feel you would bring to this agency. Dear Chairwoman Conroy,

It has been a real honor to serve on the DuPage County Board of Health, and I hope to continue to serve on the Board. I have a deep commitment to the betterment of public health, a thorough understanding of local health issues and the ability to effectively collaborate with other Board members and staff. I grew up in Downers Grove and currently live and work in DuPage County as a dentist. During my time on the Board, I have been a part of the post-COVID pandemic recovery efforts, the launching of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, the vote for a new executive director and now the development of the Crisis Recovery Center. It's been an exciting time.

I have always seen value in community. Since graduating from dental school (17 years ago), I have been an active member of the Chicago Dental Society (CDS), the Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS) and the American Dental Association (ADA). From 2015-2020 I have served in leadership positions in our local component branch. For the last two years, I have had the honor of serving in elected leadership positions at the ISDS. The ISDS represents over 6000 dentists across the state. The few Board of Health meetings I have missed have been due to conflicting ISDS meetings in Springfield or for my advisory council meetings with the American Dental Association.

It has been within the organized dentistry arena that I have been able to effectively spread community health information and initiatives from the Board of Health to other dentists in DuPage County. I regularly meet with over 100 dentists in the DuPage area for our monthly local component meetings and as an officer of ISDS, I give regular reports and updates at these meetings. I also share a passion for improving Medicaid funding with my fellow Board member and practicing physician Daniel Perez M.D. I hope to be able to work closely with the Executive Director Adam Forker and the DuPage County Health Department lobbyist Chip Humes down in Springfield to help improve our Medicaid program. As you know Medicaid in Illinois has been severely underfunded for decades and the care of DuPage residents relying on Medicaid for their healthcare has suffered. I have already gotten Adam in touch with the ISDS lobbyist Lindsay Wagahoff and hope that our combined efforts will result in positive changes in the health of the public. I have learned that building relationships and collaborating toward a shared goal is the key to achieving success.

Speaking of building relations...the relationships I have developed on the Board of Health have been so meaningful to me. I enjoyed working with Karen Ayala before she retired and have gotten to know Adam Forker better since he assumed her position as Executive Director. I have found Adam to be very insightful and forward thinking. He is well versed in public health and has a good understanding of issues affecting the community. His director reports are thorough and easy to understand. I am happy to see that he follows in Karen's footsteps of developing positive public relations as well as developing strategic partners within the community to

assist in furthering public health efforts.

Penny has been an absolute pleasure to work with. She has been such a rock for me. There are always people you feel safe asking questions to because you know they have the answers and are always happy to be helpful. Penny is that person for me. She is so gracious and adds such great positivity to the room. She is very detail oriented, has exceptional organization skill and is very adept at handling just about anything the Board can throw at her.

I have also enjoyed working with President Sam Tornatore. He is such a terrific leader. Having served on many boards myself, I have come to appreciate good leadership and I admire Sam's proficiency in the role. Sam is level headed in times of adversity and is able to promote conversation within the Board by creating a comfortable space for the sharing of opinions and ideas. Simultaneously, Sam keeps discussion germane and has an aptitude for brevity which keeps us on time...for the most part. Sam handles business efficiently, has the highest consideration for others' opinions, and all the while, strictly follows the rules of order. His leadership of the Board of Health is truly admirable.

As we look to the future of DuPage County, I believe there are few things that are as exciting as the development of the Crisis Recovery Center. I am so happy to see that the importance of mental health is being recognized and that past stigmas about mental health are dissipating. My fellow Board member and licensed psychiatrist Nadeem Hussain M.D. has repeatedly stressed that mental health is paramount in the conversation of health and wellness as it involves emotional, psychological and social well-being. Adam's Executive Director reports have statistically shown that populations with strong mental health support are more likely to be more economically productive and more socially cohesive as well as having reduced crime rates and improved educational outcomes. I am so glad DuPage County is more than just acknowledging, but financially supporting mental health initiatives like the Crisis Recovery Center and the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Addressing the need for mental health services and prioritizing it in both individual and societal contexts is essential for cultivating a thriving, balanced community.

I believe in the importance and the direction of the DuPage County Health Department and I am well aware that the Board position plays as a vital role in advocating for health equity and promoting initiatives that positively impact the lives of DuPage County residents. I am excited for the future of DuPage County and would love to continue to be a driver towards the advancement and implementation of public health measures that benefit the community. I hope for the honor to continue to be a part of such important work and to serve our community with such wonderful, like-minded professionals.

Sincerely,

Douglas Chang D.D.S.

Are you a lobbyist registered with the State of Illinois? No

Are you an elected official? No

Are you currently employed or have an ownership interest in a company that conducts business with the government entity to which you are seeking an appointment? No

Do you have any relatives who are currently employed with the governmental entity to which you are seeking an appointment? No

Conviction Information

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense? No

Submit Application

Do you attest to the above? Yes
