

Manahuu (hello) Members of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board,

I am writing to you as a concerned member of our community, deeply invested in promoting and improving behavioral health services in our area. I want to express my appreciation for the important work you do in advising and guiding policies that impact the well-being of countless individuals and families. I feel I would be a great asset to the team as a BIPOC individual living in the community. Able to connect and relay information on a separate level. My experience has been working in various settings addressing mental health issues at Toiyabe Indian Health Project inc as an SUD counselor and an MFT inter while I finish my practicum from Pepperdine University. I sit on three different committees with the Bishop Paiute Tribe as a social services committee member, Pabanamanina Pow Wow committee member and a Miss Bishop Paiute Tribe committee member. This involvement has allowed me to see and witness the many disparities within the communities and has me wanting to continue to try and help be apart of that change.

As we continue to face challenges related to mental health and substance use disorders, I urge the Board to prioritize initiatives that expand access to care, possibly creating relationships with other counties so individuals with substance use disorders could access treatment with low barriers, support early intervention within schools, allowing students and youth to understand more about mental wellbeing and know the supports surrounding substance use disorders, and foster community awareness across all demographics—strengthening partnerships among local organizations like the Bishop Paiute Tribe Social Services department and Toiyabe, in addition to improving the mobile crisis units to better serve individuals in crisis.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to advancing behavioral health. I hope that, together, we can make meaningful connections to help our community.

Manahobuu (thank you),

Rosalind Jade Cardenas