

Application Form

Profile

Mariah
 Bruce
 First Name
 Middle Initial
 Last Name

Home Address
 Suite or Apt
 Richmond
 CA
 94806
 City
 State
 Postal Code

Primary Phone

Email Address

District Locator Tool

Resident of Supervisorial District:

☒ District 1

Contra Costa College
 Senior Workforce Manager
 Employer
 Job Title

Length of Employment

4 years

Do you work in Contra Costa County?

☒ Yes
 ☐ No

If Yes, in which District do you work?

1

How long have you lived or worked in Contra Costa County?

4 years

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

☐ Yes
 ☒ No

Board and Interest

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Transitional Community Advisory Board: Submitted

Seat Name

Have you ever attended a meeting of the advisory board for which you are applying?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, how many meetings have you attended?

The meetings don't commence until October

Education

Select the option that applies to your high school education *

☒ High School Diploma

College/ University A

Name of College Attended

Chabot College

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

AA/Liberal Studies/Business

Degree Awarded?

☒ Yes ☐ No

College/ University B

Name of College Attended

San Francisco State University

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

BS/Business Administration/Finance

Degree Awarded?

☒ Yes ☐ No

College/ University C

Name of College Attended

University of Phoenix

Degree Type / Course of Study / Major

MA/Education/Adult Education and Training and MBA/Project management and Human Resource

Mariah Bruce

Degree Awarded?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Other Trainings & Occupational Licenses

Other Training A

Ed.D in Educational Leadership In Progress at CSU, Sacramento

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Other Training B

Certificate Awarded for Training?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Occupational Licenses Completed:

Qualifications and Volunteer Experience

Please explain why you would like to serve on this particular board, committee, or commission.

My commitment to serving on the African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub TCAB stems from both lived experience and professional expertise that directly align with the Hub's mission of addressing the complex wellness needs of African American residents in Contra Costa County. As someone who experienced homelessness with my two young sons, I understand firsthand the intersection of housing instability, resource navigation, and the particular challenges facing African American families. This experience taught me that wellness cannot be separated from basic needs, and that effective support systems must address the whole person within their community context—principles that align with the Hub's holistic approach. In my current role as Senior Academic and Student Services Manager at Contra Costa College, where I manage the Rising Scholars program and collaborate heavily with our Basic Needs center, I work directly with formerly incarcerated individuals navigating reentry support and educational pathways. This experience has deepened my understanding of how trauma-informed, culturally responsive approaches can create transformative outcomes for African Americans facing systemic barriers. The Rising Scholars program demonstrates how wraparound support addressing housing, mental health, educational goals, and family stability creates sustainable pathways to wellness and success. My doctoral research on The Integration of Joy and Wellness in Leadership positions me to contribute a research-informed perspective on wellness approaches that center African American cultural strengths and community wisdom. This work examines how wellness functions not as individual self-care but as collective resistance strategy—a framework essential for developing Hub services that honor our community's resilience while addressing systemic challenges. Through my role as Board President of Oakland Elizabeth House, A Transitional home in Oakland Ca., I bring governance experience in nonprofit leadership focused on serving vulnerable populations. This background provides practical insight into the organizational development challenges the Hub will face as it establishes its independent structure, board composition, and community accountability mechanisms. My experience spans the specific priority areas outlined in your call for applicants: housing navigation for families with young children, resource navigation through public benefits systems, and reentry support. More importantly, I bring an understanding of how these challenges intersect and require coordinated, culturally responsive solutions that recognize African American communities' unique strengths and historical context. The Hub represents an opportunity to implement what my research identifies as "wellness-focused leadership"—approaches that integrate individual healing with collective empowerment. I am committed to ensuring that the Hub's development centers community voices, particularly those who have been most marginalized, and creates sustainable structures that serve our community's self-determination rather than perpetuating dependency on systems not designed for our success. I would be honored to contribute my lived experience, professional expertise, and research insights to help establish this vital resource for Contra Costa County's African American community.

Describe your qualifications for this appointment. (NOTE: you may also include a copy of your resume with this application)

Lived Experience with Target Population Challenges: Experienced homelessness as a single mother with two young sons, providing direct understanding of housing instability, resource navigation barriers, and the particular challenges facing African American families in crisis
Systems-impacted family member: Brother's incarceration provided firsthand experience with the collateral consequences of mass incarceration on African American families, including navigating visitation systems, understanding reentry challenges, and supporting family members through the criminal justice process
Navigated public benefit systems (Medi-Cal, CalFresh) while managing chronic health conditions and maintaining employment and educational goals
Understand the intersection of wellness, housing security, family stability, and criminal justice involvement from personal experience
Current Professional Leadership: Senior Academic and Student Services Manager (Economic and Workforce Development), Contra Costa College - managing programs that serve diverse student populations with complex needs
Program Manager, Rising Scholars Program - providing comprehensive support to formerly incarcerated individuals, including housing navigation, mental health resources, educational pathways, and family reunification support
Board President, Oakland Elizabeth House (2023-present) - nonprofit governance experience serving vulnerable

women and families Progressive Higher Education Administration Experience: Director of Admissions, Holy Names University - institutional operations and student services administration Senior Enrollment Advisor/Team Lead & Program Developer, University of Phoenix - team leadership and program development from concept to implementation Cross-sector experience spanning public community college, private nonprofit, and for-profit educational institutions, providing perspective on different organizational models Relevant Professional Expertise: Reentry Support: Direct experience managing Rising Scholars program serving formerly incarcerated African American males and females with wraparound support services, enhanced by personal understanding of how incarceration impacts entire family systems and communities Resource Navigation: Daily work connecting students and community members to public benefits, healthcare access, housing resources, and educational opportunities Behavioral Health: Trauma-informed care training and experience supporting individuals with mental health challenges, substance use disorders, and complex trauma histories Housing Navigation: Practical experience helping families with young children access emergency housing, transitional housing, and permanent housing solutions Committee Leadership and Collaborative Governance: Chair, Contra Costa College Rising Scholars Steering Committee Chair, Learning Aligned Employment Program Implementation Committee Member, Professional Development Committee These roles demonstrate ability to facilitate multi-stakeholder processes and build consensus around complex community needs Educational Background: Doctoral Candidate (EdD), Educational Leadership, California State University Sacramento (Spring 2026) MBA, Human Resource and Project Management, University of Phoenix (2015) MA, Adult Education and Training, University of Phoenix (2009) BS, Business Administration, San Francisco State University (2006) Research and Policy Expertise: Dissertation research: "The Integration of Joy and Wellness: A Narrative Inquiry into Leadership Among Black Women Community College Leaders" - examining culturally responsive wellness approaches during periods of institutional challenge Focus on holistic wellness frameworks that address systemic barriers while honoring African American cultural strengths and community wisdom Research on leadership during "rights retrenchment era" - understanding how policy rollbacks affect marginalized communities and require adaptive service delivery models Teaching and Community Education Experience: ITT Technical Institute (2014-2016): Introduction to Business, Business Communications, Foundations for College Success, Finance Experience breaking down complex information and supporting skill-building for diverse learners Relevant for Hub's community education and capacity-building components Community Engagement and Cultural Competency: Demonstrated commitment to African American community empowerment through professional roles and volunteer leadership Experience creating culturally responsive programming that addresses intersectional challenges Understanding of how historical trauma, systemic racism, and current policy environments impact wellness outcomes for African American residents Organizational Development and Program Creation: Program Developer role demonstrates experience creating new initiatives from concept to implementation Nonprofit board governance experience with fiduciary responsibility and strategic planning Budget management and grant administration experience Experience with stakeholder engagement, community outreach, and collaborative decision-making processes Communication and Facilitation Skills: Teaching experience across multiple educational settings Public speaking and presentation experience through professional development and community engagement Experience facilitating difficult conversations around equity, inclusion, and community needs Geographic and Demographic Representation: Long-term Contra Costa County resident with deep community connections Personal experience with multiple systems (healthcare, education, social services) that the Hub will coordinate Represents intersection of professional expertise and lived experience that the TCAB needs for authentic community input

Upload a Resume

Would you like to be considered for appointment to other advisory bodies for which you may be qualified?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any obligations that might affect your attendance at scheduled meetings?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please explain:

I am completing my dissertation and have not yet seen the schedule of meeting to know if they conflict with this or my board presidency

Are you currently or have you ever been appointed to a Contra Costa County advisory board?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you are currently serving:

If Yes, please also list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you have previously served:

List any volunteer or community experience, including any advisory boards on which you have served.

Current Volunteer Leadership: Board President, Oakland Elizabeth House (2023-present) - Nonprofit organization serving vulnerable women and families Professional Committee Service: Chair, Contra Costa College Rising Scholars Steering Committee - Leading strategic planning and oversight for formerly incarcerated student support program Chair, Learning Aligned Employment Program Implementation Committee - Guiding workforce development program implementation Member, Professional Development Committee - Contributing to institutional professional growth initiatives

Conflict of Interest and Certification

Do you have a familial or financial relationship with a member of the Board of Supervisors? (Please refer to the relationships listed under the "Important Information" section below or Resolution No. 2021/234)

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

Do you have any financial relationships with the County such as grants, contracts, or other economic relationships?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I CERTIFY that the statements made by me in this application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith. I acknowledge and understand that all information in this application is publicly accessible. I understand that misstatements and/or omissions of material fact may cause forfeiture of my rights to serve on a board, committee, or commission in Contra Costa County.

☒ I Agree

Important Information

1. This application and any attachments you provide to it is a public document and is subject to the California Public Records Act (CA Government Code §6250-6270).
2. All members of appointed bodies are required to take the advisory body training provided by Contra Costa County.
3. Members of certain boards, commissions, and committees may be required to: (1) file a Statement of Economic Interest Form also known as a Form 700, and (2) complete the State Ethics Training Course as required by AB 1234.
4. Meetings may be held in various locations and some locations may not be accessible by public transportation.
5. Meeting dates and times are subject to change and may occur up to two (2) days per month.
6. Some boards, committees, or commissions may assign members to subcommittees or work groups which may require an additional commitment of time.
7. As indicated in Board Resolution 2021/234, a person will not be eligible for appointment if he/she is related to a Board of Supervisors' member in any of the following relationships:
 - (1) Mother, father, son, and daughter;
 - (2) Brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, grandson, and granddaughter;
 - (3) Husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepson, and stepdaughter;
 - (4) Registered domestic partner, pursuant to California Family Code section 297;
 - (5) The relatives, as defined in 1 and 2 above, for a registered domestic partner;
 - (6) Any person with whom a Board Member shares a financial interest as defined in the Political Reform Act (Gov't Code §87103, Financial Interest), such as a business partner or business associate.