



# Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Boards & Commissions  
Vacancy Report

Thursday, March 8, 2018

<u>Board Name</u>	<u>Criteria for Appointment</u>	<u>Applicant Name</u>
Board of Directors of the <b>Richmond Behavioral            Health Authority</b> (15 members) <a href="#">(page 2)</a>	*  (2 vacancies)	Thomas Bannard <a href="#">(page 4)</a> Karah L. Gunther <a href="#">(page 8)</a>

\* Applicants must either reside or work in the city.

# Richmond Behavioral Health Authority

## Vacancy Chart

*as of*  
July 22, 2018

The authority shall have a board of directors consisting of fifteen (15) members who shall be appointed by Council. Appointments to the Board of Directors shall be broadly representative of the community, to include consumers and family members of consumers when practical, and one (1) city employee who shall be nominated by the mayor.

Appointments to the board of directors shall be broadly representative of the community. One-third of the appointments to the board shall be individuals who are receiving or who have received services or family members of individuals who are receiving or who have received services, at least one of whom shall be an individual receiving services. One or more appointments may be nongovernmental services providers. Sheriffs or their designees also shall be appointed, when practical.

*(Assigned to the Education and Human Services Standing Committee)*

<b>Member</b>	<b>Patron</b>	<b>Expiration Date</b>	<b>Eligible for Reappoint.</b>	<b>Interested in Reappoint.</b>	<b>Qualification</b>
Lawrence Everette	All members of Council	01/29/2018	Yes	Resigned	Reside or work in the city
Marcellus Plummer	All members of Council	01/22/2018	No	Resigned	Reside or work in the city

### **Contact:**

Meleese Evans, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director and Board of Directors  
Richmond Behavioral Health Authority  
107 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Richmond, Va. 23219  
804-819-4002 (o)  
[evansm@rbha.org](mailto:evansm@rbha.org)

**From:** [John Lindstrom](#)  
**To:** [Rawles, Alexander B. - Clerk's Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Newbille, Cynthia J. - City Council: "Dr. Joy Bressler"](#)  
**Subject:** RBHA Board Appointments  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018 11:57:37 AM

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Mr. Rawles,

I have reviewed the current applicants for RBHA Board appointment with our Dr. Newbille, our Board Chair, and Dr. Joy Bressler, chair of our Board's nominations committee. I am reporting our rank ordering of suitability for board appointment as follows:

1. Karah Gunther – brings strength in policy and health legal matters
2. Thomas Bannard – strong advocate for recovery services, would take a seat reserved for individual in treatment or recovery (a requirement that 5 of our board seats be held by individuals in treatment or recovery, or by family members of such individuals)

We are also aware that Hope Elliott has applied, and we are reaching out to her to discuss interest in sitting on the RBHA board.

Individuals with previous online applications who have not responded to at least 2 emails sent to set up a meeting are Ms. Brinson and Mr. Parker.

Thank you.

*John P. Lindstrom, Ph.D., LCP*  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
*Richmond Behavioral Health Authority*  
*107 South 5th Street*  
*Richmond, VA 23219*  
*804-819-4195 (Office)*  
*804-819-4081 (FAX)*

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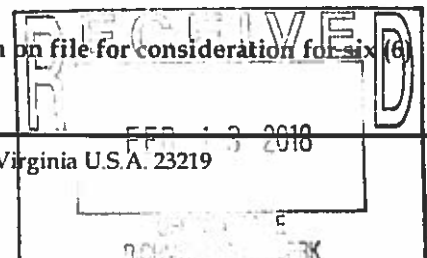
**City of Richmond, Virginia  
City Council  
Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Task Forces Application**

(Please Print or Type)

<b>Name of Authority, Board, Commission or Task Force:</b> Richmond Behavioral Health Authority Board	
<b>Title:</b> Mr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Miss. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
<b>Last Name:</b> Bannard	<b>First Name:</b> Thomas
<b>Home Street Address:</b> 5551 Riverside Dr.	<b>Home Telephone:</b> 8043668027
<b>Home City, Zip Code:</b> Richmond, VA 23225	<b>Home Fax:</b>
<b>Personal E-Mail Address:</b> tbannard@gmail.com	
<b>Employer:</b> Virginia Commonwealth University	
<b>Job Title:</b> Program Coordinator, Rams in Recovery	<b>How Long?</b> October 2015
<b>Business Street Address:</b> 815 S. Cathedral Pl.	<b>Business Telephone:</b> 828-9355
<b>Business City, Zip Code:</b> Richmond, VA 23284	<b>Business Fax:</b>
<b>Business E-Mail Address:</b> bannardtn@vcu.edu	
<b>Is your place of employment located in the city of Richmond?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Is your place of employment located in the county?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, which county?	
<b>Are you a city resident?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, which City Council district? 4th Number of years? 9	
<b>Do you or your employer have a contract, other than a contract of employment, either with the city of Richmond or with the entity to which you are seeking appointment?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>If yes, please provide information on the nature of the contract.</b> We(Rams in Recovery, VCU) are one of the grantees on the City of Richmond's Americorps Opioid grant. This provides peer mentors who work in our program. This does not significant a conflict of interest because RBHA is an Authority structure, and because it more represents experience and ability partnership with City and other public entities.	
<b>Please list your educational background and/or other expertise or qualifications you will bring to this authority, board, commission or task force:</b> I am applying for this position both as a professional in the Substance Use/Addiction field (CADC) and as a person in long term recovery from a substance use disorder. I worked for CARITAS for 7 years before working at VCU and have significant connections through the treatment and recovery world organizing a large annual conference through a partnership with DBHDS and organizing a Family Education Partnership for Substance Use Disorders for more than 5 years. I have experience working with Severely Mentally Ill, homelessness and severe Substance Use Disorders, and have experience running recovery housing both for indigent clients and in a college setting. I also have an MBA, and serve on the Board of the Association of Recovery in Higher Education.	

**NOTE: This application is a public document. Completed applications will remain on file for consideration for six (6) months at which time it must be updated.**

Office of the City Clerk, 900 East Broad Street, Suite 200, Richmond, Virginia U.S.A. 23219  
Telephone: (804) 646-7955 • Fax: (804) 646-7736  
[www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk](http://www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk)





**City of Richmond, Virginia  
City Council  
Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Task Forces Application**

List other city of Richmond authorities, boards, commissions or task forces you currently or have previously served on. Please give date(s) and office(s) held, if applicable.

Entity: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date(s) Served: \_\_\_\_\_ Office(s) Held: \_\_\_\_\_

Entity: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date(s) Served: \_\_\_\_\_ Office(s) Held: \_\_\_\_\_

Entity: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date(s) Served: \_\_\_\_\_ Office(s) Held: \_\_\_\_\_

**Other community involvement:**

Current Board Member - The JHW Foundation - Foundation serving young adults in or seeking recovery  
 Current Board Member - The Virginia Recovery Foundation - Foundation working on access to treatment and prevention  
 Current Board Member - Treasurer, Association of Recovery in Higher Education - National Board supporting Collegiate Recovery  
 COBE Town Hall 2016, 2017, 2018 - Lead organizer of 300+ participant conference focused on substance use and young people  
 Organizer, Family Education Program - Educational groups meeting 100 times a year facilitated by 10 community partners for families of those with substance use disorders.  
 Healing Place - Monthly Volunteer  
 Richmond City Justice Center - Weekly Volunteer

**OPTIONAL**

Please list additional information you would like considered, or you may attach your resume or other information.

See attached Resume

Check this box if your resume is attached.

**How did you hear about or who referred you to apply for appointment to this authority, board, commission or task force?**

I was recommended to apply by CEO John Lindstrom at the suggestion of coworker Eduardo Vial.

Signature: Thomas Barnard Date: 2/12/18  
 (By signing, forwarding or otherwise transmitting this form, you certify that all information submitted for consideration is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge)

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# Thomas Bannard, MBA, CADC

5551 Riverside Dr. Richmond, VA 23225 ♦ (804) 366-8027 ♦ tbannard@gmail.com

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## Recovery Advocacy ♦ Organizational Leadership ♦ Program Development

Values-driven leader with a passion for developing innovative, cost-effective programs and transforming teams. Strategic thinker who excels in quickly analyzing programs, curriculum, and business challenges to generate original and creative solutions. Passionate recovery advocate who embraces many paths to recovery. Gifted teacher with ability to inspire students, peers and partners to exceed expectations. Brings a level-headed, logical focus with a relentless drive for results, learning and growth.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

October 2015-Present

### Program Coordinator, Rams in Recovery Program (October 2015-Present)

Support students in recovery, raise funding, and develop program infrastructure. Manage 8 part-time student workers and interns.

- Grew collegiate recovery program rapidly from about 15 students to more than 60 active participants in 18 months, and graduating 20 students.
- Raised more than \$100,000 in first 18 months to support growth of the collegiate recovery program, provide scholarships, and grow endowment.
- Leveraged partnerships with 2 non-profits and one for-profit organization to create and renovate a recovery clubhouse, which offers a safe, recovery supportive space for students.
- Partnered with Residential Life and Housing to create Recovery Housing with attached a recovery seminar.
- Honored (2017) as outstanding new employee in the Division of Student Affairs for work supporting students in Recovery despite only working part time in the division.

### Administrative Director, College Behavioral and Emotional Health Institute (October 2015-June 2017)

Originally Hired as a bridge position between a new research institute focused on college behavioral health and the Division of Student Affairs with a specific focus on new initiatives focused on health and wellness and growing the collegiate recovery program. Responsible for making research about health and wellness is available to students, parents and practitioners.

- Leveraged \$2000 budget with funds from local and national organizations to “From Research to Rehab: A Town Hall Meeting on Young People and Substance Use” that brought more than 300 people to VCU and led to more than \$35,000 in sponsorship in the second year of the conference.
- Collaborated with Residential Life and Housing to establish a Wellness focused, Living Learning Program, which combined a class called “The Science of Happiness” with outside the classroom wellness opportunities.

CARITAS, Richmond, VA

2008-October 2015

### Shelter Operations Manager (2013-Present)

Promoted to oversee operations and case managers of an 110 bed homeless shelter that houses people in 165 congregations year round. Supervise 6 full time and 15 part-time staff, and coordinate 15,000 volunteers per year. Member of the leadership team and provide strategic direction for Information Technology.

- Transformed emergency shelter program into a low barrier, harm-reduction model; provided housing-focused case management that doubled housing placements with no increase in costs.
- Led Richmond’s Homeless Service System by adopting National Best Practices including housing prioritization assessments and spearheading improvements in the treatment of transgender individuals.
- Designed and implemented a volunteer management system that automated communications and data collection; saved 40 work hours/week, reduced errors, and improved relationships with congregations.
- Quickly established effective communications systems for managing 15 part-time, night staff, positioning them to become key components in the strategic focus on enhancing congregational relationships.

**Special Projects Manager (2012-2013)**

Promoted to lead the integration of processes and systems following the merger of Richmond's two largest homeless shelters. Included phone and IT systems for 50+ staff and 70+ computers at three sites. Provided guidance and training for staff and client programs.

- Managed \$80,000 technology overhaul cutting maintenance time by 75%, centralized back-ups, and increased efficiency through unified phone and data systems across three locations.
- Selected to join the merged organization's Leadership Strategy Team, and to lead the Communications Team, due to strengths in creative problem-solving, analysis, teamwork, and strategic focus.
- Partnered with another non-profit to create a cost-effective family support program that addressed family co-dependency, which was stifling the progress of some clients.
- Chosen by Virginia Commonwealth University as one of two inaugural "Emerging Non-Profit Leaders" fellows in the ASPIRE Program based on leadership, teaching ability, and passion.

**Transitional Coordinator - The Healing Place**

2010- 2012

Directed a program for 70 men transitioning from a homeless shelter and substance abuse program into full time employment and stable housing. Provided counseling, teaching, and community leadership, while building programs on career development and financial responsibility.

- Collaborated with multiple sectors to transform the 2 week "Life Skills" program into a comprehensive 5 week employment preparation program (CARITAS Works); increased work placements by more than 20% despite a 70% felony conviction rate.
- Designed and implemented a rent and savings system that increased client responsibility, tripled rental profits and client savings, and ensured graduates would leave the facility with at least \$500 in savings.

**Project Coordinator - CARITAS Furniture Bank**

2008-2010

Hired, coached and mentored a crew of previously homeless clients to perform residential and commercial renovations and repairs for the CARITAS Furniture Bank. Provided IT support and building maintenance to a 30,000 sq. ft. office and warehouse building. Designed and coordinated volunteer opportunities and logistics.

- Designed, developed and acquired funding for a volunteer project that now produces more than 500 items of furniture a year, providing corporate volunteer opportunities for up to 100 employees at a time.
- Instrumental in providing logistics, motivation, and inspiration that facilitated the growth of the CARITAS Furniture Bank from serving 200 families in 2008 to more than 500 families in 2010.

**EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Masters in Business Administration** (GPA 3.9) - Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

**B.A. in History & African American Studies** (GPA 3.5) - University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

**Substance Abuse Counseling** (GPA 4.0) – Certified Drug Alcohol Counselor, J. Sargeant Reynolds CC, Richmond, VA

**Emerging Non-Profit Leaders Program** – Non-Profit Learning Point 2013

**Technical Expertise**

- Cost-effective IT solutions
- Hardware installation and repair
- Networking and Microsoft Server
- Database design and implementation
- Microsoft Office Suite, including Access
- Basic programming (SQL, PHP)
- Adobe Photoshop, Dreamweaver
- Fireworks, InDesign, Acrobat

**VOLUNTEERING**

- Founding Project Team Member of "Rams in Recovery", an organization supporting students in addiction recovery at Virginia Commonwealth University. Received more than \$35,000 in funding in first two years.
- Member of the JHW Foundation Board, a local foundation supporting young people in recovery.
- Member of the Virginia Recovery Foundation Board, a local foundation focused on making treatment more accessible and pursuing evidence-based prevention.
- Captain and coach (2012) of a nationally competitive ultimate Frisbee club.



**Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Task Forces Application**

(Name of Authority, Board, Commission or Task Force)

**RICHMOND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITY**

Title:

Name:

Home Address:

Home Telephone:  Home Fax:

Personal E-Mail Address:

Employer:

Job Title:  How Long?

Business Address:

Business Telephone:  Ext:  Business Fax:

Business E-Mail Address

Is Your Place of Employment Located in the city of Richmond

Is your Place of Employment Located in the County?  If Yes, Which County?

Are You A City Resident?  If Yes, Which City Council District?  Number of Years?

Do you or your employer have a contract, other than a contract of employment, either with the city of Richmond or with the entity to which you are seeking appointment?

If yes, please provide information on the nature of the contract.

*It is my understanding that VCU and VCUHS have certain contracts with RBHA to deliver health care services; given that I am not a health care provider, I am not directly aware of these contracts or their provisions.*

Please List Your Educational Background and/or Other Expertise or Qualifications You Will Bring to This Authority, Board, Commission or Task Force:

*I hold both a Master's in Health Administration, as well as a Juris Doctorate. After law school, I spent the beginning of my career practicing health care law at a local law firm. I then moved into the provider setting and have worked at both Bon Secours Richmond Health System, and more recently, VCU/VCU Health System. I currently serve as the Executive Director of Government Relations and Health Policy for VCU/VCUHS. In this capacity, I work closely with our mental health providers to advocate for appropriate health care policies at the state and federal levels of government. I was actively involved in advocating for the creation of the Addiction Recovery and Treatment Services benefit in the state Medicaid program. I have additionally been involved in numerous efforts to shape policy around appropriate opioid prescribing and education regarding substance abuse.*

List other city of Richmond Authorities, Boards, Commissions or Task Forces you currently or have previously served on. Please give date(s) and office(s) held, if applicable.

N/A

Other Community Involvement:





**Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Task Forces Application**

Chair of Governor-Elect Ralph Northam's Health Policy Transition Workgroup

**(OPTIONAL) Please List Additional Information You Would Like Considered, or You May Copy and Paste Your Short Resume.**

Karah L. Gunther  
3217 Monument Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221 • (804) 332-2350  
karahgunther@gmail.com

**EXPERIENCE**

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia

Nov. 2011 – present

Executive Director of Government Relations and Health Policy

July 2015 – present

In support of the strategic goals of VCU and VCU Health System (which includes MCV Hospital, MCV Physicians, Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU, Virginia Premier Managed Care Organization, and five health professions schools), provide vision, leadership, management and coordination of government relations activities on the local, state and federal levels. Serve as a primary representative of the VCU President and the VCU Health System CEO to the executive and legislative branches of local, state and federal government. Draft legislative bills and budget amendments that advance the interests of both the University and Health System; monitor external legislative and budgetary efforts and alert the President and senior leadership team to those issues requiring their input and attention, and coordinate the institution's response. Plan and orchestrate events involving legislators and state officials, and work with campus departments to appropriately resolve legislative constituent inquiries. Manage a team of professional and administrative staff to ensure the effective operation of the Government Relations Unit.

Interim Executive Director of Government Relations

July 2014 – July 2015

Director of Government Relations and Senior Health Policy Analyst

Nov. 2011 – June 2014

Researched and interpreted relevant federal and state laws pertaining to health reform and served as the primary coordinator for the implementation of health reform efforts at VCU Health System. Also responsible for overseeing system-wide education efforts pertaining to federal health reform. Assisted in planning, coordinating and executing an overall government relations strategy for Virginia Commonwealth University, with particular emphasis on the VCU Health System. Engaged in legislative and budgetary advocacy at both the state and federal levels by working closely with the Governor's Administration, the Virginia General Assembly, the Virginia Congressional Delegation, and state and federal agencies on issues of health care policy.

Bon Secours Richmond Health System, Richmond, Virginia

March 2011 – Nov. 2011

Director, Coordination of Care

Responsible for business development, coordination and implementation of the goals, objectives, and performance improvement of the Coordination of Care program. Worked collaboratively with regional referring physician offices, health system imaging directors, and other health system operational leaders to ensure seamless and efficient delivery of outpatient health care services. In coordination with corporate legal counsel, managed all legal/compliance issues pertaining to the Coordination of Care program. Operational and process improvement achievements included the following: developed and implemented a new metric system to monitor employee productivity and overall return on investment of the Coordination of Care program; reorganized the Scheduling department to meet the unique needs of health system-owned physician practices; and designed the curriculum and facilitated a comprehensive education of applicable health system staff regarding federal legal/compliance guidelines.



City of Richmond, Virginia  
City Council

**Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Task Forces Application**

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*Hancock, Daniel, Johnson & Nagle, P.C., Glen Allen, Virginia*

*August 2009 – March 2011*

*Attorney*

*Represented health care providers before the Virginia professional regulatory boards in disciplin*

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**How Did You Hear About or Who Referred You to Apply for Appointment to This Authority, Board, Commission or Task Force?**

*Michelle Whitehurst Cook; Councilwoman Cynthia Newbille; Dr. John Lindstrom*

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