



# STATE of MINNESOTA

Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

## NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

**Carol Olson**

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed and commissioned you to have and to hold the office of:

**Member with experience (i in the delivery of behavioral health services or care coordination or in traditional healing practices; (ii as a licensed health care professional; (iii within health care administration; or (iv with residential services**

**Executive Board of Direct Care and Treatment**

Effective: January 1, 2025

Expires: January 1, 2029

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed December 20, 2024.

Tim Walz, GOVERNOR

Steve Simon, SECRETARY OF STATE



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Filed December 20, 2024  
Office of the Minnesota  
Secretary of State, Steve Simon

DEC 30 2024

New seat

President of the Senate

# Application for the position Members with Experience ((i) in the delivery of behavioral health services or care coordination or in traditional healing practices; (ii) as a licensed health care professional; (iii) within health care administration; or (iv) with residential services.) Application Date: 8/30/2024 8:18:38 AM

Note: If your application needs to be amended, including updates to any uploaded documents, contact [open.appointments@state.mn.us](mailto:open.appointments@state.mn.us). Please provide your name, board, position you've applied to, and any other documentation you'd like included in your application along with a brief summary of your request.

## Part I: Position Sought

**Agency Name:** Executive Board of Direct Care and Treatment

**Position:** Members with Experience ((i) in the delivery of behavioral health services or care coordination or in traditional healing practices; (ii) as a licensed health care professional; (iii) within health care administration; or (iv) with residential services.)  
**Seat:** Not specified

## Part II: Applicant Information

**Name:** Carol Joan Olson

**Mailing Address:** 1629 4th Ave SW New Prague 56071

**County:** Le Sueur

**Mn House District:** 22B

**US House District:** 2

**Phone:** (612) 756-4291

**Email:** carol.olson50@gmail.com

**Recommended by the Appointing Authority:** False

## Part III: Appending Documentation

### Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
Cover Letter	application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document
Resume	application/pdf

Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
Letter of Recommendation	Letter of Recommendation.pdf

## Part IV: Optional Statistical Information

**Race and Natural Origin:** White or Caucasian

**Gender:** Female

**Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin:** No

**Heard about vacancy from:** No Answer

**Political Party:** No Answer (Default)

**Disability:** No

**Veteran:** No

**Age when applied:** No Answer

## Part V: Signature

**Signature:** Carol Olson

**Date:** 8/30/2024 8:18:38 AM

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DEC 20 2024

President of the Senate

8-14-2024

Letter of Recommendation

Selection Committee

3200 Labore Road

Vadnais Heights, MN. 55127

Dear Selection Committee,

My name is Ruth Weinandt and I am the Parish Business Administrator for St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in New Prague, Minnesota. I am writing this personal letter of recommendation in regards to Carol Olson, who is applying for the Executive Board for Direct Care and Treatment.

Carol and I have known each other for over forty-five years. We met in college and reconnected through our church, sharing many similar life experiences with all that comes with raising children. I have also had several opportunities to work with Carol in more official capacity including most recently the Finance Board for our church, of which Carol is currently the chair-person. We have also co-facilitated an 8-week discussion group at our church with adults after watching a movie series.

I believe that Carol would bring her knowledge from her lengthy work experience as the Executive Director of Forensic Services to this Board. Beyond that though, Carol is a great listener and very empathetic. She is someone who I can depend on no matter what the need. She is honest and works well with everyone. I have witnessed all of these characteristics throughout the years. In her role on the finance board for the church specifically, she has been able to understand complicated financial situations. She leads the committee through the discussion and helps move to a conclusion in a way that all members have felt validated. During our discussion group that we are co-facilitating, Carol draws out all participants so that they are heard and feel appreciated. I know that I can call on Carol if a need arises, as I have done that and she has always been willing, quickly stepping forward to help.

I feel strongly that Carol would be an asset to this board. I highly recommend that you consider her as you review the candidates. Thank you for the attention to this recommendation. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. My email is: [ruth.weinandt@npcatholic.org](mailto:ruth.weinandt@npcatholic.org).

Sincerely,



Ruth Weinandt

Parish Business Administrator

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## **Carol Olson**

New Prague, MN. 56071

612-756-4291; carol.olson50@gmail.com

### **Professional Summary:**

- Proven leader in healthcare management with expertise in strategic planning and community engagement.
- Led Forensic Services to Full Licensure and spearheaded a \$26M building project.
- Adept at strategic planning and partner/community engagement, with a track record of driving operational excellence and compliance at Department of Human Services (DHS) – Direct Care and Treatment (DCT);

### **Skills:**

- Community/Partner Engagement:
  - Engaged Labor partners, legislature, NAMI, Ombudsmen and others. Engaged in Multiple boards including: Finance Board, St. Wenceslaus Church - currently chair; Haugbeck Homes, Inc.; Small Wonders Pre-school; St. Wenceslaus Home and School Association.
- Strategic Planning:
  - Led Forensic Services from a conditional DHS license to full licensure. Established a strategic planning process that led hospitals and treatment facility forward.
- Project Management:
  - Managed a 26 plus Million dollar building project for Forensic Services.
  - Instrumental in the opening of all 10 Community Behavioral Health Hospitals (CBHH's) for DCT.
- Relationship and Team Building:
  - Built across DCT and DHS as well as other public entities.
- Program Management:
  - Developed strategies to meet Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) standards on Person Centered Treatment Plans for all the DCT - Community Behavioral Health Hospitals. Developed all the policies governing the CBHH's prior to their openings.
- Data Interpretation:
  - Implemented processes to capture data and make data-driven decisions, demonstrating success.
- Effective Communication and Public Speaker:
  - Enhanced communication to build engagement in joint mission.

### **Work History:**

Executive Director of Forensic Services – DHS – Direct Care and Treatment (3/2012 to 7/2022)

- Guided operational strategy with organizational leadership.
- Ensured fiscal responsibility and long-term sustainability.
- Maintained morale and engagement during organizational transitions.
- Fostered inclusion within Forensic leadership.
- Encouraged professional development opportunities for staff.
- Created partnerships with non-profits, businesses, and government agencies.
- Enhanced operational and organizational efficiencies.
- Ensured compliance with industry standards and regulations.

Hospital Administrator – CBHH, DHS-DCT (1/2002 to 3/2012)

- Promoted safety, leading improved patient outcomes.
- Led person-centered treatment planning across all CBHH's.

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- Managed budgetary constraints effectively.
- Coordinated medical and health services according to organizational policies.
- Ensured regulatory compliance across departments.
- Planned annual budgets.

Mental Health Program Director, Department of Human Services (9/1999 to 1/2011)

- Provided ongoing direction and leadership for program operations.
- Collaborated closely with executive leadership to develop strategic plans for long-term growth.
- Set clear objectives for delivery of outstanding program results.
- Monitored program performance to identify areas for improvement.
- Coordinated budgeting, scheduling and resource allocation ensuring smooth flow of operations.
- Evaluated program performance through comprehensive data analysis.
- Established program policies and procedures to comply with regulatory requirements.

**Education Summary:**

- Bachelor of Science – Mankato State University – Therapeutic Recreation (12/1981).
- Completed all course work for a Masters in Human Services Programming and Administration.

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8-21-2024

Carol Olson  
1629 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW  
New Prague, MN. 56071  
© 612-756-4291; carol.olson50@gmail.com

Selection Committee  
3200 Labore Road,  
Vadnais Heights, MN . 55127

Dear Selection Committee,

My name is Carol Olson and I am very interested in being considered as a board member for the newly established Executive Board of Direct Care and Treatment. I noted this being recently posted from the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State and created by the Enabling Legislation M.S. 246C/M.S.246C.06,Subd.2 (MN Laws 2024, Chapter 125). I believe that I would bring valuable expertise to this board.

I retired two years ago after 40 years of service for the Department of Human Services all within the services areas now known as Direct Care and Treatment. I began my career as a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist and moved into leadership roles within two years. These roles included Unit Supervision to Program Director roles to a Hospital Administrator position for the Community Behavioral Health Hospitals (CBHH 's) and culminating as the Executive Director of Forensic Services on the St. Peter Campus. My experience encompasses working with individuals with developmental disabilities, chemical dependency, mental health issues, and those committed as mentally ill and dangerous.

Throughout my career, I have been instrumental in numerous organizational changes. For instance, I was involved in the transitioning individuals with developmental disability into community environments from large institutions. During the closure of the outstate campuses treating individuals with mental health disorders, I played a key role in establishing the CBHH's in ten different locations across Minnesota. Working with a small group of leaders, we wrote all new policies and procedures, and ensured all ten facilities achieved CMS certification, enabling the state to recoup health dollars. As the Executive Director of Forensic Services, I led efforts to relicense the program and successfully secured state bonding money for remodeling and building new facilities.

I bring several valuable skills to this board, including the ability to envision and execute strategic directions. My communication skills have enabled me to engage multiple partners and stay focused on achieving goals, whether for a project, meeting, or overarching objectives. I have experience managing hospitals and large programs within budget constraints, working with labor partners, and collaborating with key stakeholders in the mental health continuum. My knowledge of public health care and commitment to meeting the needs of individuals served by DCT will be an asset on the board.

Thank you for considering my application and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Carol Olson

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