

Kootenai Health Board of Trustees Candidate Questionnaire

Kootenai Hospital District dba Kootenai Health is committed to transparency and accountability. This questionnaire was developed by the Board to ensure voters have the information needed to make an informed decision. Responses will be posted on the Kootenai Health web site. Please return the fully completed questionnaire to Kootenai Health by email to Nathan Orlando at Nathan.orlando@kh.org. If you would like to have a photograph of yourself posted on the Kootenai Health web site also, please email a .jpeg or .pdf to Nathan.orlando@kh.org with your completed questionnaire.

Your Full Name: Thomas Rensselaer deTar

1. Please list the high school and all colleges/universities you have attended. For higher education, please describe your area of study and the degree you received, if any.

ANSWER: High School: St Micheal's High School, Orange California

2. Please identify your current employers and all employers over the past 5 years.

ANSWER: St. Joseph's ENT and Allergy Clinic

3. Do you hold, or have you ever held, a publically elected or appointed position? If yes, please describe.

ANSWER: I have been an elected trustee of the Kootenai Hospital district for the past six years.

4. Have you, or one of your family members, ever worked for Kootenai Health? If so, please describe.

ANSWER: I have never been an employee of Kootenai Health. Approximately 8 years ago our daughter was employed by Kootenai Health for a few months.

5. Why are you interested in becoming a Trustee of Kootenai Health?

ANSWER: As a full-time physician working and living here in Kootenai County for the past 27 years, I understand what constitutes good medical care, and I am aware of the challenges of providing affordable care to our community in these challenging economic times. I want to help our hospital be successful in providing excellent care.

6. Please describe your prior leadership experience.

ANSWER: I have served in various leadership positions at Kootenai Health, including Chief of Surgery, Chief of Staff, Chief of the Credentials Committee, and I have served on the current Board of Trustees for the past six years.

7. Please state whether you currently serve on, or have previously served on, a board. If so, please identify the company or group, dates served and board responsibilities.

ANSWER: I currently serve on the Kootenai Health Board of Trustees. I served on the Board of Directors for the Anna Schindler Children's Cancer Foundation for the past eight years, ending this in April, 2023.

8. Do you have any experience in finance, accounting, business operations or health care? If so, please explain.

ANSWER: I started my own private practice 27 years ago, and this has grown into a practice with four physicians with more than 20 employees.

9. Please describe any thoughts you have on improving access to health care in our community.

ANSWER: Lack of physicians and lack of nurses and support personnel have become a major issue in North Idaho. Kootenai Health needs to develop the infrastructure and culture which encourages superior medical staff to move her and stay here. In addition, the hospital needs to have the financial strength and stability to be able to provide uncompensated care to those who have no means to pay for their necessary medical care.

10. Please describe any additional health care services you feel our community needs?

ANSWER: We need more access to psychiatric care and drug rehabilitation, as well as affordable dental care. Many complications of these areas result in terrible medical conditions that can be life-threatening.

11. Do you see any challenges with completing a 6 year term as a Trustee and attending monthly meetings to transact hospital district business?

ANSWER: No.

12. Are you employed by, have an ownership interest in, or hold a leadership position in a hospital, ambulatory surgery center or health system? If yes, please explain.

ANSWER: No.

13. Do you have any other commitments or relationships that may conflict or interfere with acting in the best interests of the hospital district? If yes, please explain.

ANSWER: No direct conflicts, other than I am an independent physician.