

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. Completion of this questionnaire is a requirement. Responses will be posted on the Kootenai Health web site. Please return the fully completed questionnaire to Kootenai Health by email to Michela Seth at mseth@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 mseth@kh.org with your completed questionnaire.

Your Full Name: Robert M. McFarland M.D.

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: Immaculate Heart of Mary High School, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts A.B. Cum Laude in psychology
University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, Washington M.D. degree

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

ANSWER: Semi-retired, self-employed as contracted instructor at Kootenai Clinics Family Medicine Cd'A Residency

Prior to that, employed faculty member at the same residency

For thirty years prior to that, independent family physician

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

ANSWER: Member of Medical Education Committee, Idaho State Board of Education
Trustee and Board Chair, Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy

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

ANSWER: I have worked for Kootenai Health as described above

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

ANSWER: I have been involved in medical staff issues at the local and state level for years, and with medical governance and organized medicine in Idaho in several capacities. I am familiar with the issues facing our community hospital and would like to continue to serve my community to better the health of my fellow citizens.

6. Please describe your prior leadership experience.

ANSWER: Chief of Staff, Kootenai Health; President, Idaho Medical Association; President, Idaho Academy of Family Physicians; Co-founder and Board Chair, Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy; Executive member, University of Washington School of Medicine Admissions Committee; Chairman, Long Range Planning Committee of School District 271; President, Family Medicine Coeur d'Alene, P.A.

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: Board of Directors, United Way of Kootenai County 1991-1993
Board of Trustees, Idaho Academy of Family Physicians 1992-2000
Board of Trustees, Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy 1998-2005
Board of Trustees, Idaho Medical Association 1996-2014
Board of Directors, Rotary Club of Downtown Coeur d'Alene 2019-current
Board of Trustees, Kootenai Health Foundation 2019-current
Board of Advisors, Idaho WWAMI medical education consortium 2016-current

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

ANSWER: I have practiced medicine for over forty years, including inpatient care at Kootenai Health. I have been involved in organized medicine, medical peer review, medical staff governance, medical education, and charitable foundations including at an executive level for decades. In many of these positions, I shared responsibility for the organizations' finances. I am currently on the finance committee of the Kootenai Health Foundation. I was for many years the president of a medical practice with approximately twenty employees, and had primary responsibility for the organization's finances. I was on the original organizing Board of the Kootenai Care Network.

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

ANSWER: The immediate problem facing our community is gaining control of and treating COVID 19. Kootenai Health needs to continue to make vaccination, patient care, and information easily available. In the intermediate term, I believe that the hospital will need to readjust its priorities and financing to make up for the disruption in ongoing expansion caused by the pandemic. In the longer run, we will be challenged to keep up with our region's rapid increase in population and necessary health care provision, requiring continuous foresight. We need to plan effectively to accomplish growth in the most efficient and economical fashion, but the most important goal is to maintain the highest quality of health care, putting the wellness of our patients at the top of our aims. All of this requires a highly skilled and satisfied group of providers and employees, but patients always come first.

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

ANSWER: Specifically, we will need more surgical suites, equipped with the tools required by our expanding staff of surgical subspecialists. We will continue to need more general medical beds. In order to get control of the costs of care, we need more sources of primary and preventive medicine. This will be provided by physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. Kootenai Health has recognized this need and has responded by training Family Doctors here, and this program will need to be expanded, along with increasing education for the other providers mentioned. Cost effective medicine needs to be comprehensive, and the hospital will need to be increasingly involved in outpatient and post-hospital care. There is currently a piecemeal and inadequate system of home health, health education, family services, end of life care, newborn and child support, substance abuse treatment, nutrition improvement, and other services that are as important as what we do in the hospital and that spell failure for the patients' health and recovery if they are mishandled. When they can be done effectively and economically by private enterprise and existing governmental agencies, those systems should be used with the coordination of the hospital's social services. When these necessary elements of care are not provided, Kootenai Health will need to step up. This is necessary for the financial survival of the hospital in an era of bundled care, global payment and value based reimbursement, but it is most important for the health and prosperity of our patients and our well citizens.

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: This will be no problem

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: I do a few days a month of contract work, teaching residents at Kootenai Health. If this poses a conflict, I would be glad to donate my payments to the Kootenai Health Foundation, or work for free, or discontinue this work, at the discretion of the hospital attorney and Board, to maximize my unfettered ability to serve.

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: I am currently on the Idaho Medical Association Political Action Committee. I have never seen a conflict and in fact we work closely with the Idaho Hospital Association, but if elected I will resign from this position.