

Committee: **Accessibility and Advisory Committee**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Jennifer N Ehiwario**

Address:

959 Notre dame drive appt 17, n6j3c3 London Ontario

Occupation: **Registered Nurse**

Work experience: **Personal support worker(private employer) 2000-2013 Assisted client with a physical disability with her learning needs, personal care, ambulation/mobility and self actualization. I contributed to the quality of life of my client by promoting independence, dignity, physical and emotional well being, mobility support and safety. Working with this client contributed to my knowledge and skill in caring for persons with disabilities. Head Nurse (Retirement home) till date Provide care for residents with a variety of health and mobility needs. My role involves assessing clients need for mobility aids/device thereby ensuring safety within the home and community. Nephrology Nurse(Victoria Hospital) till date Care for critically ill patients with renal dysfunctions as well as other comorbidities including but not limited to cardiovascular disease, diabetes, hypertension, infectious disease, bone disease, disability due to a limb amputation, psychological conditions as well as psychosocial issues. Volunteer Experience McCormick Home Independent living Hutton house My experience with these organizations involved direct meaningful and in-person interaction with persons with physical, cognitive and or social disabilities. I assisted in facilitating life enrichment programs for McCormick home and Hutton house.**

Education: **Formal Education Certificate of pre-health science (Fanshawe college) Graduated with honors(2008-2009) Bachelor of Science In Nursing (BScN) 2009-2013 Graduated with honors Continuing education and workshop (2012-2013) Leadership Education Program (LEP) Involved a series of workshops that covered 3 subjects in Individual leadership Group leadership and Community leadership. I choose to do my community leadership placement at the Hutton House; an association for youths and adults with disabilities. I am passionate about advocacy and social action for people with disabilities.**

Skills: **As a healthcare practitioner who has worked closely with persons with disabilities, I have been trained in advocacy for this vulnerable population. I bring with me specialized knowledge about that psychological effects as well as social and physical barriers facing this population. My time spent volunteering at McCormick home where I assisted with the initiation of their life enrichment program helped improve my skills in the planning of intervention and initiation of services. I believe I can work with other community members as well as council to identify barriers, initiate ideas and provide universal accessibility for all persons with a disability in the city of London.**

Interest reason: **I have had the pleasure of working together with persons with various kind of disabilities at work as well as at various volunteer opportunities. I quite understand their struggles in regards to transportation, accessibility of public space, communication barriers and employment. It is my desire to contribute to the promotion of universal accessibility for all persons by advocating for them. I desire London to be recognized as a city conscious of the accessibility needs of its diverse population.**

Contributions: **As a result of my experience working with this vulnerable population, I believe I can contribute to the accessibility and Advisory committee by offering suggestions on issues raised in other to improve the accessibility needs of those with disabilities. I am quite passionate about profitable employment for these ones. I do hope to work with the committee members as well as council on policies and suitable programs and services that should be provided to person with disabilities.**

Past contributions: **I am a member of the African Canadian Federation of London and Area (ACFOLA). Last year, I had the privilege of sitting in as a member of the event planning committee towards its 2nd Moving Forward Conference. I worked together with the committee members to ensure that the business of the committee aligned with and complimented the goal for the conference. Practical solutions to challenges confronting African Canadians were realized. The conference was a success.**

Interpersonal: During my time as a member of the event planning committee of the above mentioned organization for its 2013 Conference, I was required to lead discussions, hold listening sessions, share and solicit ideas from committee member on ways to achieve outlined goals. My effective collaboration with other committee members lead to a successful achievement of our goals. Over the past couple of years, teams work has been a major part of my personal and professional life. For the most part of my nursing career, I have been privileged to work alongside doctors and Allied Health providers. including but not limited to social workers, physiotherapist, dieticians, speech language pathologist to ensure the identified goals of patient care is achieved. During these interactions, I have successfully exchanged ideas with the healthcare team while at the same time respecting and appreciating the diverse skills and knowledge of the team members. As a member of the accessibility and Advocacy Committee, I believe I would be required to work alongside other members; sharing ideas and seeking solutions to issues for which I am well prepared.

Interview interest: Yes