

## City of London - Application for Appointment to a City of London Board or Commission

### Application

Please choose the Board or Commission you are interested in serving on: **LMCH**

### Contact Information

Name: **Samantha Rodriguez**

Phone Number:

Address:

City: **London** Province: **ON** Postal Code: **N6C 5S4**

E-mail Address (Confirmation e-mail of your application will be sent):

### Experience and Qualifications

If you have experience on a London Board or Commission, please provide dates and details. (max. 3000 characters):

**It is with great enthusiasm that I am applying for a board position with the City of London. I am a current Team Lead for the Transitional Supportive Housing programs at CMHA Middlesex and have maintained this role for over 10 years. I current hold a position as On-Call manager since September 2020. My experiences within CMHA has provided me with the ability to efficiently work with and support staff, as well as participants who experience severe mental illness. In addition to my employment experience, I have received my Developmental Services Worker diploma and have participated in ongoing training and seminars related to Leadership, Psychosocial Rehabilitation and received my RentSmart and Stop smoking Ontario certification. Personally, I lived in London Housing as a teenager(with my mother) and continue to support participants with housing through RGI and liaison with London Housing for application submission and advocacy. I feel I have acquired many of the employment, life and educational experience deemed appropriate to this particular role. Thank you for taking the time to review this letter, I hope that you will consider me an eligible candidate for this opportunity. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Kind regards, Samantha Rodriguez**

What do you hope to contribute or learn as part of a Board or Commission? (max. 3000 characters):

**This would be my first experience as a formal board member. I would hope to receive guidance, support and mentorship from other members of the board. As a contributing member, I bring my personal life experience as well as employment experience in working with marginalized populations. I am passionate about housing and have become a RentSmart educator to participants in the community. I understand the struggle with securing housing, I also understand the challenges that come with being a landlord as I've been a landlord myself. I hope to bring my commitment to this cause, my ability to use personal and professional resources to advance the organization's mission and my willingness to contribute my time and experience to better serve this community.**

How will you support the work of a Board or Commission? (max. 3000 characters):

**As a board member, I will recognize the strengths of the team and work to balance the load amongst each member. I am an organized and committed leader and am willing to take on additional responsibilities to ensure work is completed. I recognize that in a group, it is important that all voices are heard. Working as a team ensure that we all have a voice and can work together to get the job done.**

Please describe additional experience, training, or community involvement that will help you in your role as a Board or Commission Member. (max. 3000 characters):

**My experience is as follows:**

- Team Lead at CMHA Middlesex for over 10 years. Currently working in the Youth programs, as well as supporting Adult services.**
- Joined On-Call team for the entire agency Sept 2020.**
- Completed my Development Services Worker diploma and previously worked with individuals with dual diagnosis**
- 2 years as a voluntary secretary on the Executive Team for the Thames Valley District School Board APPLE program.**
- RentSmart educator since July 2019.**
- STOP smoking Ontario certified.**

Please tell us about your interest in being a part of the London Middlesex Community Housing board. Why are you interested in this particular opportunity? What do you hope to contribute, and how would you support the work of the London Middlesex Community Housing board?(max. 3000 characters):

**At the age of 17, my mother & I found ourselves without a home. We stayed at the Rhotholme shelter where we stayed for approximately 1 month. From there, we secured housing on Cleveland Ave. through London Housing. A few years later, I moved on to my own independent housing and my mother remained housed through LMCH. She has lived in two different buildings in London and we have experienced positives and drawbacks from this experience. Social housing comes with many benefits when you're experiencing poverty and lack the credit or means to secure market rent. I have had the opportunity to support individuals submit many London Housing applications, go on tours of buildings and even transition to some of the LMCH locations. My place of employment has partnerships with LMCH which has opened many supported opportunities for those that would otherwise fall between the cracks. Housing has become more and more difficult to obtain in the City of London, specifically subsidized housing. Cost have gone up but income has not. I would love to advocate for those that do not have a voice and support making positive change for our City.**

Please tell us about your educational background, professional credentials, or any other training which is relevant to this position. (max. 3000 characters):

**Developmental Services Worker diploma - Fanshawe College; RentSmart Educator; Home owner, landlord, person of lived experience.;**

Please describe any relevant work and/or lived experience you have. (max. 3000 characters):

**As mentioned previously, I have personally lived in London Housing when I was 17 years old. Not only have I experienced homelessness, I have overcome the barriers many experience when they're raised in poverty. I have worked at CMHA(formerly WOTCH) since the age of 23 and have had the privilege of supporting many youth and adults to recognize their potential. London Housing provides subsidized housing to individuals who otherwise could not afford to live in a market rent home in the community. This has become increasingly more difficult as I support participants and staff navigate housing placements. The Coordinated access team has done an excellent job in trying to reduce homelessness in our City. Unfortunately it still exists and I would love to be a part of the solution in reducing barriers and improving the situation we're in as a community.**

Tell us about your involvement in any public or private sector boards, community involvement, or other experiences that are relevant to this position. Please describe the roles you played and the period of time you were involved.(max. 3000 characters):

**April 2017-2019 I was a voluntary secretary for the APPLE program executive team through the Thames Valley District School Board. This allowed me the opportunity to experience the behind the scenes work that is done to ensure the program runs smoothly and efficiently. I attended meetings with the TVDSB board members, principal and other executive members on a regular basis. We ensured the operations of the program were in compliance to the policies and procedures outlined in our parent handbook. As a secretary, I ensured the details of our meetings were documented and shared accordingly. I have not had any other roles as a board member.**

If necessary, please provide any additional relevant information that is not captured in your previous answers.(max. 3000 characters):

Good afternoon, My name is Samantha Rodriguez and I am a wife and mother of two daughters. I started out working in the not for profit field, specifically residential when I was 18 years old. I have always had a passion for housing and this has carried me through my career. I have experienced homelessness, I have lived in London Housing, I have been a renter, a landlord, a home owner and became a RentSmart educator to teach tenants and landlords about their rights and responsibilities. I would be a good candidate for this board as I understand both sides and can look at situations with a neutral lens. I am a solution focused individual who is interested in becoming a board member to foster change and enhance what we're already doing well. Thank you for taking the time to read my responses. Looking forward to hearing back. Kind regards, Samantha Rodriguez

Attach resume or other document here, if needed: **Samantha's\_Resume - Copy.pdf**

Attach more files here, if needed:

## Confirmations

I declare the following: **I am a resident of London. ; I am at least 18 years old.; I am not a City employee or Council member.; I understand that my application will be included on a public agenda that is published on the City website.**

For members of the public applying to serve as Tenant Directors on the London Middlesex Community Housing Board. I declare the following:

To help inform our outreach activities, please tell us how you heard about this opportunity: (optional): **Professional or community organization**

If you selected 'Other', please specify:

Submitter E-mail:

Submitted on: **5/27/2021 4:59:36 PM**

# Samantha Rodriguez

London, ON.

N6C 5S4

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**Objection:** To obtain a Manager position at CMHA Thames Valley Addictions & Mental Health Services.

## **Employment:**

**Team Lead** October 2008-present

London, ON

**On-Call Manager** September 2020-present

CMHA Thames Valley Addiction & Mental Health Services

- ◆ Support individuals struggling with serious mental illness to enable successful transition into the community.
- ◆ Support individuals on their rehabilitation goals and improving interpersonal skills while on their recovery journey.
- ◆ Support staff with team approaches, assess the needs of participants and leading by example when addressing crisis situations.
- ◆ Provide staff support and guidance to navigate day to day operations
- ◆ Support the orientation and training of new staff and existing staff
- ◆ Support management in interviewing and training process for potential and new employees
- ◆ Complete relief supervisions and provide input into staff performance evaluations
- ◆ CRMS Power User

**Support Worker**-Employed Sept 2006-Oct 2008

London, ON

Alice Saddy Association

- ◆ Providing support to adults with a dual diagnosis needing various levels of support and assistance with daily needs.
- ◆ Encourage independence and decision making.
- ◆ Provide counselling and behaviour management when needed.

**Support Worker**-Employed June 2004-Oct 2008

London, ON

Forward House of London

- ◆ Providing support to individuals with various disabilities needing 24 hr. support including overnight shifts.
- ◆ Encouraging participation and involvement at home and within the community, one on one skill teaching.
- ◆ Carry out household duties such as cooking, cleaning and yard work.
- ◆ Provide counselling when needed, encourage decision making.

**Samantha Rodriguez Resume**  
**Page 2**

**Education:**

**Fanshawe College**

- ◆ Completed Developmental Services Worker Program.

**RentSmart Educator**

July 2019

- ◆ Graduated as a RentSmart certified community educator.
- ◆ Delivering the RentSmart course to participants and landlords on their rights and responsibilities, as well as all areas related to being a good renter.

**Training Enhancement in Applied Cessation Counselling and Health (TEACH)**

Feb 2017

- ◆ Completed an Interprofessional Comprehensive Course on Treating Tobacco Use Disorder
- ◆ Co-facilitated Smoking Cessation course at CMHA Middlesex

**Additional Skills/Certificates:**

- ◆ CPI-updated annually
- ◆ Standard First Aid and CPR-Level C
- ◆ WHMIS and fire trained
- ◆ Knowledge of computer software (CRMS, Word, Internet).
- ◆ Knowledge of Psychosocial Rehabilitation principles and practices.
- ◆ Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
- ◆ Valid drivers license and reliable vehicle

**References:** Available upon request.