

March 31, 2010

To The Applicant Review Panel:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Michelle R. DiGuilio-Matz for the Citizens Redistricting Commission (**18242**). I have known Ms. DiGuilio-Matz for approximately 10 years in two capacities – the first was as a colleague in the county where we both had oversight over programmatic issues for contracts in social services. When I became the Executive Director of First 5 San Joaquin 10 years ago, Ms. DiGuilio-Matz had been in her position as a Management Analyst for approximately one year. She became a mentor to me as I learned from her about working with contract management issues, promoting excellence in programs and working well with a diverse community.

The other capacity I have known Ms. DiGuilio-Matz in has been as a personal friend. I have seen her work in a county department where she came from the “outside”, and was able to observe the positive changes she made in an organization (not always easy in county government). Her ability to work with others in a cross-disciplinary manner and model high standards became the tool to strive for. I have also been able to observe her as a consultant, working with other programs throughout the county, as she was given the task of facilitating meetings, summarizing and consolidating the notes in order to bring together opinions and insights of community members and workers related to mental health issues. Again, her high standards and practical analytical skills were used throughout these projects.

I have also been able to observe Ms. DiGuilio-Matz in one of the most challenging jobs, being a mother to four young children. All jobs I have observed Ms. DiGuilio-Matz in required similar skill sets – prioritizing, completing tasks in a timely manner, strong communication skills, having the ability to quickly assess and analyze a situation, and move forward with recommendations and/or actions. This skill set in turn, has had a direct impact on the lives of children, youth and families in this community. For each skill set, Ms. DiGuilio-Matz exceeded in them.

I recall observing Ms. DiGuilio-Matz provide an orientation to potential contractors at an Applicants Workshop. I remember being impressed with the following: a) the thoroughness and easy readability of the Power Point presentation, b) the ease of her presentation, while staying on task and provided important information, c) her ability to engage the group in questions, d) the concise data she gathered and presented to the group that backed up the need for the services and e) her relaxed yet professional approach to the entire presentation. Ms. DiGuilio-Matz has been able to remain impartial while working with the various groups in the community,

regardless of what coincides with or against her personal beliefs. Not many can do that.

Ms. DiGuilio-Matz has an ability to gather pertinent information, assess the situation and make meaningful recommendations in a timely manner. She will be a tremendous asset to the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Please feel free to contact me should you desire additional information. I can be reached at **Redacted** or **Redacted**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lani Schiff-Ross
Lani Schiff-Ross, LCSW