

# LETTER OF INTENT DIRECTOR VACANCY

I <sup>First</sup> Bernadette <sup>Middle</sup> Hulsinger <sup>Last</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Lot D180  
submit my nomination for a Director Vacancy, and hereby signify my intent and willingness to serve, and to adhere to the Bylaws of SRCA. I understand I will be subject to and must pass a Criminal Background Check and Child Abuse History Report. **The background check will need to be completed asap. Please contact the office with your personal information.**

Current Address [REDACTED] Birth date [REDACTED]

The Candidate **MUST SUBMIT** a personal resume along with this Nomination Application explaining how you can benefit the campground as a Director. Please include the following items in your resume:

1. What qualifications and/or special skills do you have that will assist you as a Board member.
2. What other boards/associations/governments have you been involved with. What positions.

The Candidate is asked to complete the following questionnaire:

1. What is your motivation for running for the Board?

Please see attachment

2. Working with your fellow Board members, what would you like to see improved to better the campground?

Please see attachment

3. Do you currently serve on any committees in SRCA? Which committees? How long?

Please see attachment

Place this signed Letter of Intent in an envelope seal, and return it to the SRCA office. Please mark on the outside of the envelope 'Nomination for Director' along with your name and lot number.

B. Hulsinger  
Signature

02/26/2024  
Date

1. What is your motivation in running for the Board?

In short, I believe we (the SRCA Community) are in a crisis at this moment. I have a skill set for crisis management, reorganization, structure, and identifying where an organization/company may need changes, as well as what those changes may look like. In my professional career, I have worked within both non-profits and for-profit organizations as they grew and restructured. My role typically involved needing to develop one skillset or another to meet the needs of the growth. I was on the team that wrote grants and helped structure portions of the programs at a Pa facility for adjudicated youth and community service. I was on the team who set up the Mental Health Unit at the State Correctional Facility in Allegheny County – from conception to completion, including funding allocation. I've written grants that have been funded that required foreseeing money allocation before the project could buy their first pen with grant funds. I've been a professional for over 20 years. I possess a Graduate degree in Criminology Research/Intelligence with a GPA of 3.55. I hold a second Graduate degree in Psychology. I am a multi-state licensed mental health provider, and am working on completion of my Doctoral. My GPA was 3.81. I'm logical. I work well with others. I have a skillset of looking at needs and developing solutions.

Since my family is "new" to SRCA i.e. we have no relatives or friendships from SRCA that precede our membership (we know of SRCA due to driving from Pittsburgh to Erie on I-79), I want to take a moment and give a short bio of our time at camp. This is an effort to answer questions from those who know about my family's history with SRCA, and inform those who don't know. I want everyone to have the same information so they can make their own informed decision.

We bought at SRCA over COVID. Our first summer (we purchased just in time for Memorial Day) was uneventful. We purchased a camp specifically due to COVID and wanting a place for our boys that was healthy and family friendly. When I say we knew nothing about SRCA when we purchased, I am not over-stating. We toured the camp on our own with a map, saw a "for sale" sign, and made a purchase. We did not even realize that the camp was run by a board of directors as we never thought to ask. My family never intended to be involved with camp politics; we were looking for a healthy place with kid friendly areas where we could gather as a family and enjoy this chapter in life. We also had no experience with family style campgrounds that were long term. We just knew it sounded neat and we wanted our kids to have what we did not have as either Kevin (my Husband) or I were growing up. So, we bought lot D-180. A little pink park model with a great level yard. A perfect place to get lost in a book with a glass of wine. An ideal setting for my Husband to tinker with the lawn, the patio, and get lost in his desire for endless activities around camp... one of his long held dreams.

Our second summer saw some "bumps." These "bumps" cast us into a more active position than we thought we would ever have when we bought into the SRCA membership. "They" say everything happens for a reason. Whatever happened to us, whether it be "by design" or "life chaos," we are at a point where SRCA needs some significant help. Over the past summer, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of the past and current Board members. I have found them to be a melting pot of diverse opinions mixed with a deep love for SRCA. I have not always felt the same fondness for each previous or current member, but I do absolutely respect their dedication to SRCA. I think everyone has brought their best talents to the Board. Unfortunately, sometimes an organization can lose focus, and, although talented, many Board members perhaps shared the same talents when others were needed. Every Board member, both past and present, has contributed to the best of their ability. To use colloquial

phrases, “when we needed a fork, we had a spoon,” perhaps fits with what has happened to SRCA over the past handful of years. Everyone was talented and gave their best, but we still had areas of vulnerability. Let’s use this summer as an opportunity to identify those vulnerabilities and make positive steps towards closing those gaps.

What I bring to the table is a set of skills for crisis management and resource allocation. My family loved SRCA for the family activities; let’s bring more of that back! We know that we have financial hurdles facing us, so let’s address them head on. This may mean making hard decisions and analyzing our best allocation of resources. It’s time we took a hard look at our vulnerabilities and our needs, as well as our resources and how we can best allocate our funds without losing all of our “family feel.” This will likely mean a whole lot of fundraising; so, let’s do it!

When “all of this” i.e. recent events that caused these openings occurred at camp, I turned to my Husband and said, “we (SRCA) need to hire a consultant to look at our allocation of resources and options.” He made the valid point that we did not have the resources to absorb this expenditure. It is for this reason that I am running for the Board of Directors at SRCA. I look at this as an opportunity to give my resources of time and professional knowledge that I would use as a Consultant to offer suggestions and solutions to a place that my family and I have come to love. As a Board member, I offer the membership the skillset that I possess to step in as a “newcomer” to SRCA, without alliances to any committee, family, or friends, and make suggestions with possible solutions in an effort to pull SRCA from our current slump and back into a thriving family campground.

While I am asking to be your representative, I very transparently need to set boundaries. I want to “lay the cards on the table” before anyone casts their personal vote. I want to be available to the members and use my time as effectively as possible while still maintaining camp as a place for my family to spend time. Should the membership choose me to represent their interests, I would offer time while I was at camp and make it known that I was available for “impromptu” discussions through either a camp FB site or some sign on my lot, or whatever. Point being, I ask for balance between being a representative and being “Mom/Wife.” I’ll find a way to connect with members to talk about their needs, and I am not sure how that will look just yet, but just know ahead of time that I have a short term mission for joining the Board; ensuring our stability and developing a mindset of growth. I want to come in, look at needs, get a good understanding of our needs, and work to find solutions. I will probably not be the Board member who is at every event as a camp representative. I will not likely be a long running Board member. I want to be able to quickly return to camp being my retreat. I’ll donate my time as I have done in the past year to different events when I have the time. Much of my volunteering in the past has been in the form of baking for BINGO and other events as I can do this at home while working. My family has also offered to “adopt” a hole at our mini-golf, and I think that this is the type of project that we need to undertake as a Board in the very first meeting.

We need crisis management and to take a deep dive into our processes, but we also need to find a way to maintain and improve the offerings for the kids at camp. This may mean specific fundraising, and I think that I can accurately predict that, if we get off on the “right foot” and start to address our needs, that the camp members will come out in droves to support our family centered community. I hear all of the stories of how SRCA was an amazing and positive community; let’s take some steps towards unity. We need a mindset of “SRCA vs the rigors of everyday life,” rather than, “us vs them,” at the very place we come to for retreat.

Lastly, I want to make it known that I believe that every member of the Board who left their post did so after much thought and personal reflection. I believe that each made a very difficult decision, and each had to follow their own ethics. I am grateful for your service to the camp, and am open to any assistance or insight I can get to help fill one set of shoes. I am deeply saddened that we had an event that has caused so much ethical conflict. I welcome your assistance as we move forward as a camp so that we do not put ourselves in the same place in the future. I want what we ALL want – a place that our grandchildren can bring their grandchildren and tell stories of “the old days,” for many generations to come.

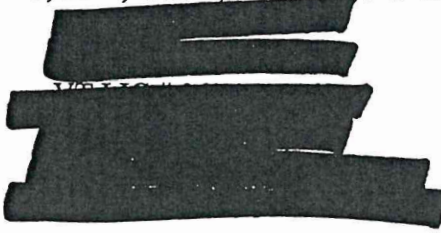
2. Working with your fellow Board members, what would you like to see improved to better the campground?

Aside from the obvious of assessing our resources and allocation, I want to try some new family focused activities. SRCA has great activities, and I believe that we can expand those offerings by making some simple additions that likely will not cost any additional money. I want to try to bring in some sort of an arcade – is it cheaper to sub it out or to buy machines ourselves and be serviced by volunteers? We need a place for the kids to gather. To bring back the community feel, and start to turn the tables on the “this one vs that one.” Environment, we need to bring in “community policing.” This is a style of “policing” where the security interacts with the campers and gets to know the kids and their families. Not everything needs to end up being a violation or screaming match. Many issues can be resolved through less formal measures where kids and families have a respect for the security functions at camp. I think that people are inherently good, and we are a camp of 1,100+ campsites of inherently good and decent families. I also want to start somehow formally recognizing the families that give so much to the campground. I think that we need to start focusing on the positive and how we can best move forward. The past is there. I don’t care who is at fault for what. I want to find our foundation and build from where we are great. Let’s also get creative for fundraising.

3. Do you currently serve on any committees in SRCA? Which committees? How long?

I have not served on any committees at SRCA. I did volunteer my time when I could for BINGO, spaghetti dinner, lots of baking, donating items, etc. As stated in the Letter of Intent, my purpose for buying camp was to give the kids a healthy place to interact with other kids from families with values. We “stumbled” into the political side.

**. Bernadette M. Hulsinger,  
MS, MSPC, LPC, LCPC, CCTSI/F, BC-TMH**



**Education:**

**M.S., Counseling Psychology, May 2009**  
Gannon University, Erie, Pa.      **QPA: 3.81**  
**NCC (National Certified Counselor) granted September 2009**  
**LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor) granted February 2012**  
**CCTSI/F (Certified Clinical Trauma Specialist for Individuals  
And Families) granted 2018**  
**LCPC (Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor) granted 2019**  
**TITLE I License acquired in VT granted 2019**  
**BC-TMH (Board Certified Telemental Health) granted 2019**

**M.S., Administration of Justice/ Specialization in Research  
Intelligence Analysis (R/IAP) May 2004**  
Mercyhurst College, Erie, Pa.      **QPA: 3.55**

**B.A. Criminal Justice May 2000**  
Magna Cum Laude  
Gannon University, Erie, Pa.      **QPA: 3.75**

**Employment:**

**New Beginnings**  
**LPC**  
**February 2024 – Present**  
**Double Board Certified – LPC/TMH**  
**Reorganization and expansion of telemental health services**

**Independent Contractor, LPC**  
**Credentialed in PA, MI, VT**  
**2017 - Present**

**Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic**  
**Merck Adult Outpatient**  
**Licensed Professional Counselor II**  
**3501 Forbes Avenue**  
**Pittsburgh, Pa 15213**  
**April 27, 2015 – January 2019**

Pa Dept of Corrections SCI-PIT  
MHM Correctional Services, Inc  
Mental Health Unit (MHU) at SCI-Pittsburgh  
Licensed Professional Counselor / Social Worker  
Initiated operations of MHU at SCI-PIT, part of Pa DOC  
3001 Beaver Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa 15233  
February 10, 2014 – April 26, 2015

Re: Solve Crisis Network: A division of Western Psychiatric Institute  
And Clinic (WPIC)  
Crisis Clinician  
333 North Braddock Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa 15208  
May 2013 – March 2014

Bethesda Children's Home  
Licensed Professional Counselor / Unit Lead  
15667 State Hwy 86, Meadville, Pa 16335  
349 W. 18<sup>th</sup> St, Erie, pa 16502  
June 2007 – 2013 total employment at Bethesda facilities

Gateway Rehabilitation – A division of Gateway Corrections  
Drug and Alcohol Counselor  
1928 Wager Road, Erie, Pa 16509  
Intern Forensic Therapist  
January 2009 – May 2009

SafeNet Domestic Violence  
1702 French St, Erie, Pa 16501  
Educator / Coach  
June 2001 – August 2003

Project Hope for the Homeless  
1001 W. 26<sup>th</sup> St, Erie, Pa 16502  
Grant Writer  
Outreach Caseworker  
November 2000 – July 2005

**Affiliations:** Chi Sigma Iota – Vice President 2000