

2008 NAMI-RI Board Nominees

Maureen Apperson, RN

Maureen is currently finishing her MSW at RIC's School of Social Work, with emphasis on policy and administration. She has interned at The Poverty Institute and The Office of the Mental Health Advocate. Her goal is to work as an advocate in an administrative capacity to improve the health care delivery system, particularly the mental health system. Maureen has dedicated much of her professional career to helping those with mental illness. She has been a nurse for 33 years, the past 25 of which have been in the psychiatric field. Maureen has worked in hospitals doing direct care, and at The Providence center and Gateway, doing community and emergency mental health treatment. For the past two years she has worked as a nurse at the ACI.

Ellen Weaver Paquette, CAGS

Ellen currently is an adjunct faculty member at RIC's Graduate School of Education and a principal at Developpe and Finnegan Gold. She has served as a consultant to the RI Office of Higher Education and a director of the Career Development Center at RIC. She holds several degrees from RIC, including a CAGS (Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies) in counseling/educational psychology, an M.A. and M.Ed. in agency and school counseling and a B.A. in secondary education and history. Ellen has experience in fund development. She also is a Master Career Development Professional and a Master Career Counselor.

Helene Pniewski, M.D.

Dr. Pniewski graduated from Radcliffe/Harvard and Boston University Medical School and went on to Pediatrics Residency at New York Hospital. She then completed a Developmental Pediatrics Fellowship at the Rose F. Kennedy Center in the Bronx. After moving to Boston Dr. Pniewski pursued training in Child Psychiatry at New England Medical Center and subsequently worked both at New England Medical Center and Franciscan Childrens Hospitalas as a psychopharmacologist. Since moving to Rhode Island Dr. Pniewski joined Quality Behavioral Health in Cranston and continued to work in clinics in Massachusetts. She has recently transferred to Family Service Association in Fall River. She also has a private practice in Norwood MA.

Erin Rath, MA

Erin is currently a school to career coordinator at East Greenwich High School and an educational consultant, providing comprehensive college admission placement services to students and their parents. She was previously guidance department chairperson at Hugh B. Bain Middle School in Cranston. Erin worked as a guidance counselor in junior high and high schools for 11 years and prior to that taught elementary school for six years. She is a member of the National Association of College Admission Counselors, the New England assn. of College Admission Counseling and the Rhode Island Association of School Counselors.