Dave Toeniskoetter
Chair, Leadership Development Committee
c/o ANCOR
1101 King Street, Suite 380
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Dave,

It is a privilege to have an opportunity to apply for the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) Board of Directors. My name is Linda Plourde and I am the Executive Director/CEO of Bayberry, Inc. in both Napa and Clearlake, California. We have been members of ANCOR since January 2013.

Bayberry Inc. is a non- profit agency that offers supported living services and residential supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. When I started with Bayberry in 2006, it was clear this was an agency in significant trouble. Bayberry was at serious risk of losing its Regional Center contracts. I worked diligently with my team to ensure that our doors remained open at the end of each day. Fast forward to 2016 - we employ 150 people who support 75 individuals residing in their own homes in our local communities, and in our one intermediate care facility (ICF-DDH). California is unique in that we abide by The Lanterman Act, legislation that was proposed by Assembly Member Frank D. Lanterman in 1973 and passed in 1977. This section of the California Welfare and Institutions Code states that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the right and are entitled to choose services and supports which assist them to live a more independent life (http://www.dds.ca.gov/Statutes/docs/LantermanAct_2016.pdf). In the last decade, and particularly in the last two years, we have had to advocate like never before to salvage the Lanterman Act. Community services had been severely underfunded for many years and agencies were closing their doors. I am happy to say that the intensive advocacy resulted in the first rate increases for community services in more than a decade, just now effective July 1, 2016!

Prior to my Executive Director role with Bayberry, Inc., I worked 15 years within California's Regional Center system. The State Department of Developmental Services contracts with each of the 21 regional centers; who in turn contract with agencies like Bayberry to provide services and supports to our clientele. And again, prior to that, I worked at OHI in Maine, along with Bonnie Brooks who is without a doubt my mentor, and who introduced me early on to ANCOR.

I would like to expound on my current affiliations with both ANCOR and at the local/state level:

- ANCOR Member
    - Member of FINANCE COMMITTEE since 2014
    - Member of GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE since 2015
    - Participated in "Fly-In Day" June 14, 2016, Washington D.C., to address the DOL Overtime Rule. Met with Senator Barbara Boxer's office, Congressmen Jared Huffman's office, and Congressman John Garamendi
    - Presented at a Medicaid Briefing regarding the Equal Access Provision, Washington D.C., September 2015

California
- Vendor Representative to the North Bay Regional Center Board of Directors (3 terms)
- Board of Directors, CA Supported Living Network (representing more than 100 providers of service)
    - Member of CSLN GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS Committee
        - Coordinated with Esmé Grant Grewal of ANCOR to engage former Congressman Tony Coelho to join us in Sacramento, CA, in our fight for the survival of the Lanterman Act, September 2015
- CSLN joined with the Lanterman Coalition and was the impetus for the strongest advocacy this state has seen since the establishment of the Lanterman Act in 1973-77.

During recent leadership training at Bayberry, managers used the following words to describe me:

- Inspiring
- Insightful
- Driven
- Great and trusted Leader
- Strong
- Peaceful and calm
- Dedicated
- Powerful Advocate

In closing, it would be an extreme honor to serve on ANCOR's Board of Directors. You have my word that I will carry these same traits to any work I will do if elected. I have dedicated my life's work to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can live their lives as you or I would want to live…nothing more, nothing less.

Sincerely,
Linda Plourde