

PHCD faces organizational issues

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The election of three challengers to the Petaluma Health Care District board of directors and the resignation of a standing member has raised a host of questions and possible scenarios regarding the reorganization of the board.

In the Nov. 4 election, challengers Dr. Stephen Steady, Fran Adams and Dr. Bob Ostroff won seats on the board, and the following day, Dr. David Anderson announced he was relinquishing his seat.

So, a new board member must be selected to fill Anderson's seat, to serve until the next election, in 2010. A majority vote is needed to select a new member, and the choice will be made by members who were on the board before the election — Kay Kerriden, Josephine Thornton and two members who unsuccessfully ran to remain on the board, Liz Close and Robert Hill.

Notices regarding the vacant seat were posted on Thursday, Nov. 6 as part of a 15-day notification period that the board must exercise prior to meeting about a possible replacement. Anyone interested in applying for appointment to the vacant director's position must do so no later than 5 p.m. on Nov. 21 at the PHCD office, 1425 North McDowell Blvd., Suite 103. For additional information, please contact Suzanne Cochrane at 285-2143, ext. 130.

Applications for the position are being taken through Nov. 21, and if Close and/or Hill are among the applicants, they would not participate in the vote. The board also could choose to appoint someone who does not formally apply, said Daymon Doss, executive director of the health care district.

The current board will serve until Dec. 4, and new members might be installed the following day, Doss said. Hill has been serving as president of the board, and a successor likely will be chosen by board members at a special meeting or at the board's regularly scheduled meeting in January.

Also, ever since the South Sonoma County Medical Group formed, the board has dealt with many issues pertaining to it. Ostroff has been serving as its president, and Steady is a member, so possible conflicts

of interests could arise.

“The day after the election, I spoke with Bob, and he indicated that he was requesting legal opinions regarding possible conflict of interest,” Doss said. -- Dan Johnson