



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER**

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda Number:**

**Submitted on:  
(COB Stamp)**

**Department Name:** County Executive Office  
**Department No.:** 012  
**Agenda Date:** November 4, 2025  
**Placement:** Administrative Agenda  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:** N/A  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director(s): Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Contact: Brittany Odermann, Deputy County Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT: Appointments to CenCal Health Board of Directors**

DocuSigned by:  
*Mona Miyasato*  
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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Appoint the following persons to the CenCal Health Board of Directors for a two-year term effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027:
  - i) Reappoint Daniel Herlinger (Consumer Classification-Community Business);
  - ii) Reappoint Edward Bentley, MD (Central Coast Medical Association Representative); and
- b) Determine that these activities are exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review per CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) since the recommended actions are government administrative activities which do not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The item before the Board is to appoint two CenCal Health Board Members representing sectors of the local and medical community.

The CenCal Health Chief Executive Officer, Marina Owen, CenCal Health staff, and the CenCal Health Nominating Committee, reviewed applications and recommended the following individuals for

reappointment by the Board of Supervisors to two seats representing the local and medical community:

Mr. Daniel Harlinger has been serving on the CenCal Health Board of Directors since 2009 and is seeking reappointment. He will serve as the Consumer Classification board member, as representative of a community business.

Dr. Edward "Ned" Bentley, MD is a physician with Santa Barbara Gastroenterology Consultants. He has been serving on the CenCal Health Board of Directors since 2020. He will serve as the Provider Classification board member as a physician representative as recommended by the Central Coast Medical Association.

Applications for those seeking appointment are attached.

**Discussion:**

CenCal Health is authorized as the local Medi-Cal fiscal intermediary for Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. Per the CenCal Health Bylaws (Bylaws), Santa Barbara County holds three seats on the CenCal Health Systems Board of Directors. One seat must be filled by a member of the Board of Supervisors and two are discretionary and serve by appointment of the Board of Supervisors. County representatives who currently serve on the CenCal Health Board of Directors are Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann, County Director of Behavioral Wellness, Antonette Navarro and Director of County Health, Mouhanad Hammami. The Bylaws indicate that the Board appoints various other members to the CenCal Health Board of Directors representing sectors of the local and medical community following recommendations by an appropriate agency.

**Background:**

The CenCal Health Board of Directors is comprised of 13 members who are appointed by the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County Boards of Supervisors. The CenCal Health Board of Directors is composed of local government representatives, physicians, hospital representatives, member representatives, other health care provider representatives, and business representatives. Openings on the CenCal Board are noticed through advertisement on the CenCal website, as well as local newspapers. Once an application is submitted, CenCal sends the application to the appropriate agency referenced in the Bylaws for review and, if recommended for appointment by the agency, ultimately to the Board of Supervisors for appointment. The County Board of Supervisors makes the final decision regarding appointments.

Per the adopted Bylaws of the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Health Authority or CenCal, the Board is composed of the following:

Three (3) members elected or appointed officers or employees of Santa Barbara County, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Board of Supervisors.

Two (2) members elected or appointed officers or employees of San Luis Obispo County, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Board of Supervisors.

These five (5) Directors, have no specified terms or office. They serve at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors that appointed that officer or employee.

The remaining eight (8) Directors are appointed from three groups:

1. Two (2) Non-provider Santa Barbara County residents:
  - a. A Medi-Cal or Medicare or Medi-Cal/Medicare recipient
  - b. A representative of a community business
2. One (1) Non-provider San Luis Obispo County resident:
  - a. A Medi-Cal or Medicare or Medi-Cal/Medicare recipient
3. Five (5) representatives of providers of health care:
  - a. A physician from a list provided by the Santa Barbara County Medical Society (a and b are now one entity)
  - b. A physician from a list provided by the San Luis Obispo County Medical Society (a and b are now one entity)
  - c. Two (2) hospital administrators who shall be appointed from a list established by the local hospital councils.
  - d. A non-hospital or non-physician health care provider.

Except for initial staggered terms that may be established by the Board, the term of office of each non-county member is two years and, in addition, time as necessary until the appointment and qualification of his or her successor.

The Board meets six times per year, and Board meetings are open to the public.

Through its network of ambulatory care clinics countywide, the County Health Department (CHD) is traditionally one of CenCal Health's largest Santa Barbara County primary care providers. In addition, the clinics provide a range of specialty services to CenCal members that are not readily available in the private medical community.

In the upcoming year, CenCal Health will continue to lead the local Medi-Cal program transformation to achieve the promise of the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) program while partnering with the County to advance quality and health equity for all in our community.

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – Appointment Letter from CenCal Health Chief Executive Officer, Marina Owen

**Attachment B** – CCMA Letter of Recommendation for Dr. Edward Bentley

**Attachment C** – Mr. Daniel Herlinger Application

**Attachment D** – Dr. Edward Bentley Application

**Contact Information:**

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