



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER**

**Agenda Number:**

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

**Department Name:** County Executive

**For Agenda Of:** May 18, 2021

**Placement:** Administrative

**Estimated Time:** 5 mins

**Continued Item:** No

**If Yes, date from:**

**Vote Required:** Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Director(s)      Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer

Contact Info:      Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer

DocuSigned by:  
*Mona Miyasato*  
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**SUBJECT:** **Appointment of Acting Director of Behavioral Wellness**

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**CEO, Human Resources**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Appoint Pam Fisher Psy.D. to serve as the Acting Director of Behavioral Wellness and Acting Director of Local Behavioral Health Services beginning June 14, 2021;and,
- B. Determine that the above actions are government activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and are therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to appoint Pam Fisher Psy.D. as the Acting Director of Behavioral Wellness and Acting Director of Local Behavioral Health Services beginning June 14, 2021.

**Background:**

On April 20, 2021, County of Santa Barbara Behavioral Wellness Director, Alice Gleghorn Ph.D. publicly announced that she will be leaving her position. The position of Behavioral Wellness Director carries significant statutory authorities and responsibilities for administration the State Mental Health Plan and the state Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS). Additionally, the Behavioral Wellness Director serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF), unless otherwise determined by the PHF Governing Board. Therefore, in order ensure a seamless transition of leadership

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and critical support to the multitude of programs and services provided by the department, it is recommended that the current Assistant Director of Behavioral Wellness, Dr. Pam Fisher serve as Acting Director of Behavioral Wellness beginning at such time as Dr. Gleghorn formally vacates the position. This transition is anticipated on June 14, 2021. Assistant Director of Behavioral Wellness, Dr. Pam Fisher, has agreed to delay her previously announced retirement to assist the department during the recruitment for the next Behavioral Wellness Director. Dr. Fisher has served as Assistant Director of Behavioral Wellness for over 5 years. During that time, she spearheaded the implementation of the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program (AOT) while also overseeing the department's clinical, crisis and substance use disorder systems. Dr. Fisher previously served with Ventura County and has extensive experience leading mental health systems and implementing evidence-based services to address client needs.

Per Title 9, California Code of Regulations, § 620.1. Acting Director of Local Behavioral Health Services, a county may select an Acting Director of Local Mental Health Services with appointment limited to a 12-month period. It is anticipated that Dr. Fisher will serve in the Acting Director capacity no longer than December 31, 2021. This timing provides ample opportunity to conduct a comprehensive recruitment for the next Director of Behavioral Wellness.

Various state and federal agencies, such as Centers for Medicaid Medicare and the State Department of Health Care Service, as well as the State Pharmacy Board, must be alerted when a change of leadership occurs in the director position. Notifications will be sent to all pertinent agencies at the appropriate time.

**Fiscal Impacts:** Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

There are no fiscal impacts with this action. Costs are addressed within the department's budget.

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Current FY Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u></b>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Staffing Impacts:**

None with this action.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**

0

**FTEs:**

0

**Special Instructions:**

Please send an electronic copy of the minute order and executed copy of the contract to Kathie Cisek [kcisek@countyofsb.org](mailto:kcisek@countyofsb.org)

**Attachments:** N/A

**Authored by:**

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Terri Nisich