



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: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: March 21, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Director(s) Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO
Contact info: 805-568-3400

SUBJECT: Appointments to CenCal Health Board of Directors

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form:

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Appoint Mouhanad Hammami MD, MHSA, Director Public Health Department, (Classification – County of Santa Barbara), to the CenCal Health Board of Directors effective March 21, 2023 and;
- b) Appoint Antonette (Toni) Navarro LMFT, Director Behavioral Wellness Department, (Classification- County of Santa Barbara), to the CenCal Health Board of Directors, effective March 21, 2023, and;
- c) Determine that these activities are exempt from California Environmental Quality Act 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:

This item is on the agenda to appoint Mouhanad Hammami, Director Public Health Department, and Antonette (Toni) Navarro, Director Behavioral Wellness Department to the CenCal Health (CenCal) Board of Directors representing Santa Barbara County.

CenCal 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 whom currently serve on the CenCal's Board of Directors are Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann and County Director of Social Services Daniel Nielson. Mr. Nielson will be stepping down from his seat and with the July 2022 departure of the Director of the Public Health Department, Dr. Van Do-Reynoso, PhD, there are currently two vacant County representative seats which need to be filled.

Mr. Mouhannad Hammami MD, MHSA joined the County of Santa Barbara in January 2023 as the Director of Public Health. He is a non-practicing, non-licensed medical school graduate (MD) and holds a graduate certificate in Public Health and a master's degree in Health Service Administration (MHSA). With over fifteen years in community and public health administration and extensive experience in clinical research, Mr. Hammami has a deep understanding of healthcare systems. For the past ten years, he served as the Chief Health Officer for Wayne County in Michigan where he oversaw health and wellness services in addition to primary care and human services, such as foster care and youth assistance programs.

Ms. Antonette (Toni) Navarro LMFT, is the County of Santa Barbara's Director of Behavioral Wellness. She has over 30 years of extensive work experience in healthcare at the local and regional level. Prior to Santa Barbara, she served as Tri-City's Mental Health Authority's Executive Director and is a Licensed Marriage Family Therapist (LMFT). As the Director of Behavioral Wellness and with her diverse background in behavioral health services for the Medi-Cal population, Ms. Navarro is an ideal candidate to fill the vacancy of a County representative seat on the CenCal Health Board of Directors.

The Board of Supervisors made a recommended appointment of Ms. Navarro on January 10, 2023. The CenCal Health Nominating Committee met on February 15, 2023. They reviewed applications for Ms. Navarro and Mr. Hammami and recommend their appointment by the Board of Supervisors to the two vacant County representative seats. As a result, the individual applications for those seeking CenCal Board appointment are attached.

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 CenCal 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 CenCal Board meets six times per year in Santa Maria (4 times), San Luis Obispo (1 time) and Santa Barbara (1 time). CenCal Board meetings are open to the public.

Through its network of ambulatory care clinics countywide, the Public Health Department (PHD) is traditionally one of CenCal's largest Santa Barbara County primary care providers. In addition, PHD 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 will 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:

1. Mouhanad Hammami Application
2. Antonette "Toni" Navarro Application

Authored by:

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO

Lindsay Walter, Principal Management Analyst