

Katherine Douglas

From: sbcob
Subject: FW: Resignation

Supervisor Nelson and Chair Pearson,

It's with regret I must resign my seat on the Behavioral Wellness Commission. I have greatly enjoyed serving these past 11 years, but I have recently transitioned in my career to a position that unfortunately does not allow the time needed to serve the commission properly.

In the time I've served, we've:

1. Rated service providers on effectiveness based on service completion and recidivism rates.
2. Performed deep research and conducted hearings on conservatorships, hearing from the DA, Sheriffs, Public Defender, families and the public. We learned it was too hard to get conservatorships, despite great need, and the county's one psychiatrist allocated to this was the bottleneck.
3. Examined barriers to accessing services encountered by Latino communities, and addressed ways to fix this. Greater outreach was then conducted by the department to destigmatize accessing services.
4. Merged the former Alcohol / Drug board and Mental Health boards into one, much higher performing commission.
5. Conducted the MHSA review annually as a public hearing.
6. Toured the jail, and talked at length with the sheriffs about the jail-based competency program to get folks ready to stand trial, and also about co-response and how effective it's been.
7. Helped the department put homeless outreach teams out in the field, and participate more heavily in the annual Point In Time Count, as well as create more housing for people suffering from homelessness and mental health struggles.
8. Provided data updates to the state on the needs of children and seniors.

It's been rewarding to serve as your representative, and I hope I've served you well. I was thrust into the chair position, as you know, in 2017, and held it for the next 5 years. I've served as a trainer for California for county behavioral health boards for the past 3 years, based on how effective our county's commission has been. It's been gratifying to see this commission really move forward in making its work relevant to the community's concerns.

I feel very good with Chair Pearson being in charge – we'll be well-served by him. We have some new energized commissioners. So we're in a good place.

Thank you for appointing me, for being very supportive in working with me, and for doing a great job as a Supervisor every time I called on you.

Kind regards,

Sharon Byrne