



**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: November 2, 2021
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)
Contact Info: Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer
SUBJECT: **Appointment of Director of Behavioral Wellness**

DocuSigned by:
Mona Miyasato
41846F5C725B460...

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

CEO, Human Resources

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve the County Executive Officer’s Appointment of Antonette (Toni) Navarro LMFT, to serve as the Director of Behavioral Wellness and Director of Local Behavioral Health Services beginning December 13, 2021;
- B. Appoint Antonette (Toni) Navarro LMFT as the local director of mental health services pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code Section 5607; and,
- C. 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 approve the County Executive Officer’s appointment of Antonette (Toni) Navarro LMFT as the Director of Behavioral Wellness and Director of Local Behavioral Health Services beginning December 13, 2021.

Background:

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

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the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF), unless otherwise determined by the PHF Governing Board. On April 20, 2021, County of Santa Barbara Behavioral Wellness Director, Alice Gleghorn Ph.D. announced she would be leaving her position. In order to ensure a seamless transition of leadership and critical support to the multitude of programs and services provided by the department, Dr. Pam Fisher began serving as the Acting Director of Behavioral Wellness starting June 14, 2021. Prior to her interim role, Dr. Fisher announced her retirement as the Assistant Director of Behavioral Wellness. Dr. Fisher's retirement is anticipated Winter 2021 and she will be available to assist during the initial transition with the new Director.

The County Executive Office, with support from Human Resources and Wendy Brown Creative Partners, initiated and completed a comprehensive nationwide recruitment for the Behavioral Wellness Director position. Multiple community and organizational stakeholders were engaged in the recruitment and selection process. The Behavioral Wellness Commission Chair and Vice-Chair participated in the process in order to make a formal recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding candidates. On October 14, 2021 the Board of Supervisors interviewed candidates for the position.

Antonette (Toni) Navarro LMFT was selected following the rigorous selection process. She comes to this director role with 30 years of behavioral health experience. For the past seven years she has served as Tri-City's Mental Health Authority's Executive Director following four years as its Chief Clinical Officer. During her tenure as Executive Director, she was responsible for the planning, organizing, and directing operations of the governmental joint-powers authority to provide outpatient specialty mental health services to the cities of Claremont, La Verne, and Pomona in California. Her prior experience also includes a focus on youth and family mental health and substance use disorder programming with Hathaway-Sycamores Children and Family Services in Pacoima. Navarro received a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles; and a master's degree in Education with an emphasis on Marriage and Family Counseling from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Per Title 9, California Code of Regulations, Section 620(d) Director of Local Mental Health Services, a county may select a Director of Local Mental Health Services that is a marriage, family and child counselor with a master's degree, whom has a license, and has had at least five years of mental health experience, two of which shall be administrative experience. Ms. Navarro's selection meets the required criteria.

Various state and federal agencies such as the Centers for Medicaid Medicare and the State Department of Health Care Services, 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. The bi-weekly pay rate is \$8,432.64 plus other benefits consistent with those received by other Santa Barbara County Department Heads. Costs are addressed within the department's budget.

Staffing Impacts:

None with this action.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

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Special Instructions:

Please send an electronic copy of the minute order and executed copy of the contract to Kathie Cisek
kcisek@countyofsb.org

Attachments: N/A

Authored by:

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO