



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: Behavioral Wellness
Department No.: 043
For Agenda Of: October 5, 2021
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Pam Fisher, Psy.D., Acting Director
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness, 805-681-5220
Contact Info: Pam Fisher, Psy.D., Acting Director of Behavioral Wellness
Terri Maus Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805-568-3400
SUBJECT: Behavioral Wellness Commission Requests Approval of Amended Bylaws

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

N/A

Other Concurrence:

N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve the amended Behavioral Wellness Commission Bylaws (Attachment A); and
- b) Determine that the above action is a government fiscal activity or funding mechanism which does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in potential physical impacts on the environment, and therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA guidelines.

Summary Text:

The Behavioral Wellness Commission (BWC or Commission) requests Board of Supervisors' approval of its amended bylaws. Changes include:

- Updating and clarifying language;
- Addition of the requirement that at least one consumer member on the BWC be a representative from the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) community (ages 18 to 26);
- Additional provisions, consistent with Welfare and Institutions Code section 5604, allowing certain employees of Behavioral Wellness (BWell), Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) or State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, or a contracting agency to BWell, who are also consumers of mental health services to be appointed as Commissioners (with certain limiting conditions);

- Clarification of meeting procedures and agenda development; and
- Expansion and clarification of duties/responsibilities of Board Members.

Background:

The Advisory Board on Alcohol and Other Drug Problems (Advisory Board) was created by the Board of Supervisors in January of 1992, and the Santa Barbara County Mental Health Commission (MHC) was established in May of 1993. Both entities served to obtain comprehensive, broad-based input from the community and other sources, review the community's needs, services, and facilities, advise the governing bodies of alcohol/drug services and mental health programs, respectively, and review program performance to ensure quality of services.

On December 13, 2016, at the request of the Advisory Board and MHC, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution which established a newly integrated Behavioral Wellness Commission to replace the Advisory Board and MHC. The Behavioral Wellness Commission reflects the structure of the Behavioral Wellness Department, which offers an integrated continuum of prevention, intervention and treatment services and supports for substance abuse, mental health and co-occurring disorders. As part of this action, the Board of Supervisors also approved the original bylaws for the Behavioral Wellness Commission, which requires Board of Supervisor approval of subsequent amendments to the bylaws.

As part of its mission and purpose, the Behavioral Wellness Commission seeks to serve those who have lived experience with mental health and/or substance use disorders, including underserved groups or priority populations such as TAY. To effectively advocate for and support the interests of these populations, the BWC aims to have representation from these communities within the Commission itself and reflect the diversity of the client population in the county to the extent possible, pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 5604.

The BWC wishes to amend its bylaws to reflect the prioritization of TAY representation and input. While the Commission's original bylaws require that at least 20% of the total membership be consumers of mental health services, no requirement ensuring TAY representation currently exists. The Commission wishes to amend the bylaws to include the requirement that at least one consumer member on the BWC be a representative from the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) community.

Additionally, the BWC wishes to amend the bylaws to include additional provisions, consistent with Welfare and Institutions Code section 5604(e), allowing certain employees of BWell, DHCS or State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, or a contracting agency to BWell, who are also consumers of mental health services to be appointed as Commissioners (with the condition that these members abstain from voting on any financial or contractual issue concerning their employer). In April 2021, the BWC identified four prospective TAY consumer members who have applied to join the Commission, two of whom are also Behavioral Wellness peer employees. Approval of the amended bylaws will allow those prospective TAY members to be appointed to the Commission.

During its meeting on July 21, 2021, the Behavioral Wellness Commission voted to approve the amended bylaws attached hereto as Attachment A to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

No impact.

Fiscal Analysis:

There is no General Fund fiscal impact associated.

Special Instructions:

Please send one (1) Minute Order to bwellcontractsstaff@sbcbswell.org and khaugh@sbcbswell.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Behavioral Wellness Commission Amended Bylaws (Clean Copy)

Attachment B: Amended Bylaws with Tracked Changes

Attachment C: Behavioral Wellness Commission Original Bylaws (BOS Approved 12/13/2016)

Authored by:

B. Le