



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: January 10, 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: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form:

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Appoint Antonette (Toni) Navarro LMFT, Director of the Behavioral Wellness, (Classification-County of Santa Barbara), to the CenCal Health Board of Directors, effective January 1, 2023, and;
- b) Appoint the following persons to the CenCal Health Board of Directors for a two-year term effective January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024:
 - i. Appointment of Sara Macdonald (Non-Provider Classification: Medi-Cal Recipient, Santa Barbara County), and
 - ii. Appointment of Kieran Shah (Provider Classification: Other), 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:

The item before your Board today is to appoint three CenCal Health Board Members, one representing the County of Santa Barbara and two representing sectors of the local and medical community.

CenCal Health 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 Health's Board of Directors are Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann and County Director of Social Services Daniel Nielson.

With the departure of the Director of the Public Health Department, Dr. Van Do-Reynoso, PhD, the third County representative seat is currently vacant. Ms. Antonette (Toni) Navarro LMFT, is the County of Santa Barbara's Director of Behavioral Wellness and is recommended to serve as the third County of Santa Barbara representative. 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 the ideal candidate to fill the vacancy of the County representative seat on the CenCal Health Board of Directors.

Additionally, the Bylaws indicate that the Board also appoints various other members to the CenCal Health Board of Directors representing sectors of the local and medical community following recommendations by an appropriate agency. The CenCal Health Chief Executive Officer, Marina Owen, CenCal Health staff, and the CenCal Health Nominating Committee, reviewed applications and recommend the following individuals for appointment by the Board of Supervisors to two vacant seats representing the local and medical community:

- Ms. Sara Macdonald is a Medi-Cal recipient and resident of Santa Maria and will serve as the Non-Provider Classification- Medi-Cal recipient of Santa Barbara County representative. She is a community advocate who volunteers for social justice initiatives with the California State Coordinating Committee of California Poor Peoples and was the 2022 recipient of the Giving Back Award from the Santa Barbara County Action Network.
- Mr. Kieran A. Shah is President and Chief Executive Officer of VNA Health in Santa Barbara and will serve as the Provider Classification-other non-hospital or non-physician health care provider representative. He is a Board-Certified Hospice and Palliative Care Administrator (CHPCA) and previously served on the Board of the Central California Alliance for Health's Continuous Improvement Committee.

Applications for those seeking 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 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 Board meets six times per year in Santa Maria (4 times), San Luis Obispo (1 time) and Santa Barbara (1 time). 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 Health's largest Santa Barbara County primary care providers. In addition, the 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 Health 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:

A. Ms. Toni Navarro Application

B. Ms. Sara Macdonald Application

C. Mr. Kieran Shah Application

Authored by:

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO

Lindsay Walter, Principal Management Analyst