



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: December 13, 2016
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: 20 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Alice Gleghorn, Director
Director(s) Department of Behavioral Wellness
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO
Contact Info: 568-3400

SUBJECT: Proposed Merger of Mental Health Commission and the Advisory Board on
Alcohol and Drug Problems

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file Board letter regarding a proposal to combine the County of Santa Barbara Mental Health Commission and the Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems into an integrated Behavioral Wellness Commission; and
- b) Establish a newly integrated Behavioral Wellness Commission to replace the current Mental Health Commission and Advisory Board on Alcohol and other drug problems through the following actions:
 - i. Adopt a Resolution creating the Behavioral Wellness Commission, and dissolving the County of Santa Barbara Mental Health Commission and the Advisory Board of Alcohol and Drug Problems effective January 10, 2017;
 - ii. Approve bylaws for the Behavioral Wellness Commission, setting the membership requirements and regular meeting place and time; and
 - iii. Direct staff to advertise and solicit applications for members to serve on the Behavioral Wellness Commission for appointments on January 10, 2017; or

- 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 at the request of the Mental Health Commission (MHC) and the Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems (AOD) to facilitate the merger of the two entities. This matter has been discussed by the MHC and the AOD. Both bodies voted unanimously to pursue the merger and bring the concept to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

The MHC and AOD have indicated that a 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. The creation of a Behavioral Wellness Commission also mirrors the integration that has occurred at the state level, as the California Mental Health Directors Association and the County Alcohol Drug Program Administrators Association of California have merged in to a single association. A number of counties throughout California, such as Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties have also combined their commissions and boards in order to reduce duplication of efforts, reduce costs, streamline administration, and promote integrated care and decision making. Should the Board of Supervisors desire to pursue a merger of the MHC and the AOD, this Board letter provides the mechanism to facilitate that action. Other options available to the Board include maintaining status quo operations of the MHC and the AOD, or providing other direction as may be deemed appropriate.

Background:

The Present Mental Health Commission

The Santa Barbara County Mental Health Commission was established in May of 1993 pursuant to §5604 of Welfare and Institutions Code. The duties of this Commission include the following:

- 1) Review and evaluation of the community's mental health needs, services, facilities and special problems;
- 2) Review any County agreements entered into pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5650;
- 3) Advise the governing body and the local mental health director as to any aspect of the local mental health program;
- 4) Review and approve the procedures used to ensure citizen and professional involvement at all stages of the planning process;
- 5) Submit an annual report to the governing body on the needs and performance of the County's mental health system;
- 6) Review and make recommendations on applicants for the appointment of the local director of mental health services. The Commission shall be included in the selection process prior to the vote of the governing body; and
- 7) Review and comment on the County's performance outcome data and communicate its findings to the California Mental Health Planning Council.

Under its bylaws and in compliance with statutory obligations, the Commission is currently comprised of eleven members appointed by the Board of Supervisors as follows:

- Two appointees by each member of the Board of Supervisors.
- The eleventh member shall be a member of the governing body with a second member of the Board of Supervisors appointed as an alternate.
- If the Board of Supervisors member cannot attend, the alternate Supervisor shall attend and vote in the appointed member's absence.
- Representation shall recognize the geographic description of Santa Barbara County; Supervisors may appoint members outside their Supervisorial districts to meet legal requirements.
- To the extent feasible, 50% of the Commission membership will be consumers or the parents, spouse, sibling or adult children of consumers, who are receiving or who have received mental health services.
- At least 20% of the total membership shall be consumers, and at least 20% shall be families of consumers.
- To the extent feasible, the composition of the Mental Health Commission will represent the demographics of the County as a whole, and will reflect the ethnic diversity of the target population.
- An alternate from each district will be appointed to the Commission by each Supervisor. Alternates will be encouraged to attend each meeting and serve on committees. They will also be voting members when a member of their district cannot attend a meeting.

Attachment B provides a list of current Mental Health Commission members and terms.

The Present Advisory Board on Alcohol and Other Drug Problems

The Advisory Board on Alcohol and Other Drug Problems (Advisory Board) was created by the Board of Supervisors in January of 1992; it is presently authorized under Section 11805 of the California Health and Safety Code. The purpose of the Advisory Board is to provide a forum to obtain comprehensive, broad-based input from the community and other sources that can be utilized to advise the Santa Barbara County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Department, now Behavioral Wellness, which is responsible for planning, funding, coordinating and evaluating the county Alcohol and Drug Program. Advisory Board members visit contracted programs to ensure quality of service and make recommendations to the department regarding improvement in the quality of prevention and treatment services.

Under its bylaws, the Advisory Board on Alcohol and Other Drug Problems membership is as follows:

- No more than 20 members, four per Supervisorial District.
- Members of the Advisory Board shall have a professional interest in, or personal commitment to, alleviating problems related to drug abuse and inappropriate alcohol use in their Community.
- The membership shall include representatives from various economic, social and occupational groups and shall be broadly representative of the demographic characteristics of the County.
- Persons who have received treatment or rehabilitation services for their alcohol and drug problems are encouraged to serve on the Board.

The current Board is comprised of 15 community members, appointed by the County Board of Supervisors, with representation from law enforcement, persons in recovery, family members of people in recovery, professionals, and educators. Attachment B provides a list of current listing of Advisory Board on Alcohol and Other Drug Problems members and terms.

Proposed Behavioral Wellness Commission

Should the Board of Supervisors wish to merge the MHC and the AOD, both existing entities would need to be dissolved and a new Behavioral Wellness Commission created. The dissolution process involves a formal action of the Board of Supervisors to dissolve both bodies, through a resolution that will also establish the new Behavioral Wellness Commission (Attachment A). The Board of Supervisors will appoint members to the newly established Commission in January, after reviewing applications. In addition, bylaws for the newly created Commission have been developed to reflect the mandates and operations of the Commission. Bylaws are included in Attachment D. It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve the bylaws, to provide governance structure for the Behavioral Wellness Commission. Once the Behavioral Wellness Commission membership is established, any changes to the bylaws initiated by the Commission must be approved by the Board of Supervisors before taking effect.

Recommended Membership of a Behavioral Wellness Commission

The present MHC and the AOD initially recommended a 26 member commission. However, following a review of commissions in other counties, and discussions with staff, the following membership criteria for the Behavioral Wellness Commission is recommended:

- No more than 21 members, four per Supervisorial District (four regular members) and one member of the Board of Supervisors or designee. The designee would serve as a voting member in the Supervisor's absence.
- Representation shall recognize the geographic and cultural diversity of Santa Barbara County.
- 50% or more of the Commission of the total membership should be consumers or the parents, spouses, siblings, or adult children of consumers who are receiving or have received mental health services, such that:
 - At least 20% of the total membership shall be consumers of mental health services; and
 - At least 20% of the total membership shall be family members of consumers of mental health services.
- Commission members shall have a professional interest in, or personal commitment to, alleviating problems related to mental illness, drug abuse and inappropriate alcohol use in their community, and have experience and knowledge of the behavioral health system.
- It is preferred that the Board of Supervisors appoint individuals from within their Supervisorial district, however, in order to meet the statutory requirements for the Commission, appointees from outside of one's District may be considered.

Appointments to the newly created Commission could occur in January 2017. The Behavioral Wellness Commission must serve and meet the requirements for the local mental health board as specified in the California State Welfare and Institutions Code.

Current members of the MHC serve for 3-year terms. The current MHC Bylaws do not reference term limits. Current members of the existing AOD serve 3-year terms and can be reappointed for consecutive terms without limit. Existing members of the AOD and the MHC are presently appointed at various times and terms the membership is not aligned. (Attachment B). In order to streamline the appointment process and ensure that the Behavioral Wellness Commission has staggered terms for continuity purposes, it is recommended that Behavioral Wellness Commissioners be appointed to terms consistent with Attachment C. Should the Board of Supervisors desire to reappoint existing members of the MHC

and AOD, it is recommended that applications be solicited by members, and that individuals are reappointed per the terms provided in Attachment C. Further, it is staff's recommendation that the Commissioners serve 3-year terms and that no member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive three-year appointments with the exception that if a member has been appointed to a partial term of one and one-half years or less, he/she may then be appointed to two full consecutive three-year terms. When one year has elapsed following a former member's service on the Commission, he/she may again become eligible for appointment.

Fiscal Analysis:

There are minor costs associated with the merger such as the creation of an integrated website. However, indirect costs savings will occur given the reduction in staff time to support two bodies. It is estimated that each meeting of the MHC costs approximately \$8,300 annually and each meeting of the AOD costs \$8,900 annually to support. (Costs include direct costs, i.e., mileage, miscellaneous reimbursements, and support staff.) Presently the MHC and the AOD meet 12 times each per year. The merger of bodies will result in an estimated savings of approximately \$8,600 annually.

Special Instructions:

Direct Clerk of the Board to post special vacancy notice per Government Code § 54974.

Attachments:

- A. Resolution dissolving the Mental Health Commission, dissolving the Advisory Board on Alcohol and Other Drugs, and creating the Behavioral Wellness Commission
- B. Listing of current Mental Health Commissioners and Alcohol and other Drug Problems Board Members and terms.
- C. Template for initial appointments of members to Behavioral Wellness Commission
- D. Bylaws for the Behavioral Wellness Commission

Authored by:

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO