



COUNTY of VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Sevet Johnson, PsyD
County Executive Officer

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

Kaye Mand
County Chief Financial Officer

Shawn Atin
Assistant County Executive Officer/
Human Resources Director
Labor Relations

January 9, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Second Public Hearing Regarding Adoption of an Ordinance Amending Two Ordinances to Remove the Designation of the Public Administrator (PA) as the Ex-Officio Public Guardian and to Revise Provisions Regarding the Appointment Authority of the County Executive Officer to Reflect County Agency Reorganizations; Concurrence in the Appointment of the Public Guardian; and Transfer of the Office of the Public Guardian and Representative Payee Program (PRPP) to the Department of Behavioral Health.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that your Board:

- 1) Adopt an Ordinance (Exhibit 1) which will:
 - a. Repeal and replace Section 5 of Ordinance 4399 to provide that the office of the Public Guardian (PG) will be separate from the office of the Public Administrator (PA) and to provide that the County's County Executive Officer (CEO), with the concurrence of the Board of Supervisors, will appoint the PG.
 - b. Repeal and replace two subdivisions of Ordinance 4610 to remove a reference to the "Area Agency on Aging" (AAA) from the list of department heads appointed by the County Executive Officer (CEO) and to clarify the list of Agency Heads and Officials that the CEO appoints with the concurrence of your Board.
- 2) Concur with the CEO's recommendation of the Interim Director of the Behavioral Health Department being appointed as the Public Guardian effective February 18, 2024.
- 3) Transfer the functions of the Public Guardian and the Public Representative Payee Program (PRPP) from HSA to the Department of Behavioral Health effective February 18, 2024

STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY:

The item presented in this board letter aligns to the Diverse and Innovative Workforce Dedicated to Service Excellence strategic priority of the County Strategic Plan as it is designed to meet the goal of leveraging innovative and continuous improvement to provide efficient and effective services.

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT: None.

DISCUSSION:

Recommendation # 1:

This is the second public hearing regarding adoption of an Ordinance to amend existing Ordinance 4399. The ordinance in Exhibit 1 will repeal and replace section 5 A of Ordinance 4399, which currently provides that the Public Administrator (PA) also serves ex officio as Public Guardian (PG), and instead provide that the CEO with the concurrence of your Board will appoint the PG.

The proposed ordinance will also repeal and replace two sections of Ordinance 4610 as reenacted in 2022. The "Area Agency on Aging" (AAA) will be removed from the list in section 6, subdivision b. Personnel, subdivision 1) of department heads appointed by the County Executive Officer, given that your Board previously approved (on April 25, 2023) the merger of AAA into the Human Services Agency (HSA) effective July 1, 2023, including a new reporting structure that places selection and oversight of the AAA Director within the scope of the HSA Director. Section 6, subdivision b. Personnel, subdivision 2) will reflect the new separation of the roles of the PA and PG.

An initial public hearing for introduction of the proposed Ordinance was held on December 19, 2023. The required notice of the adoption of this Ordinance has been published (Exhibit 2).

Recommendation # 2:

As part of the proposed reorganization, the CEO requests that your Board concur with the recommendation of the Acting Director of the Behavioral Health Department being appointed as the Public Guardian effective February 18, 2024.

Recommendation # 3:

Given the connections of the PG and the Public Representative Payee Program (PRPP) to HCA-VCBH clients, and the mandates related to CARE Court, HCA and HSA request that your Board approve the division of tasks currently in the HSA Office of the Public Administrator / Public Guardian (PAPG), which has operated as a combined entity within HSA. Under this proposal, the Office of the PG and the PRPP, would be transferred to the Department of Behavioral Health, and the Office of the PA would retain its current position and reporting structure effective February 18, 2024.

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This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office, Human Resources, and County Counsel. If you have any questions, please contact James Importante, Program Management Analyst at (805) 654-5088.

Sincerely,



Sevet Johnson, PsyD
County Executive Officer

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – Ordinance
- Exhibit 2 – Ordinance Summary