

March 19, 2019

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

**SUBJECT: Approval of an Amendment to the Bylaws of the
Behavioral Health Advisory Board.**

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of an Amendment to the Bylaws of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) (Exhibit 1).

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:

The proposed recommendation does not have a fiscal impact.

DISCUSSION:

Under the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 5604.2, the BHAB shall review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, services, facilities, and special problems; assess the impact of the realignment of services from state to county; ensure citizen and professional involvement; and advise, and submit an annual report to, the County Board of Supervisors. Currently the BHAB consists of at least fifteen and no more than twenty-one members. Each member of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors may appoint three mental health representatives and one substance use disorder representative to the BHAB.

WIC section 5604 encourages Supervisors to appoint individuals who have experience with and knowledge of the behavioral health system. BHAB membership shall reflect the ethnic diversity of the client population of Ventura County. The Board of Supervisors shall appoint the mental health advisory board members. The WIC requires that at least fifty percent of board members must be consumers, or the parents, spouses, siblings, or adult children of consumers, who are receiving or have received mental health services, with at least 20 percent consumers and at least 20 percent consumer family members.

The term of each member shall be for three years, with appointments staggered over a three-year period. Appointed members must be committed to attend regular meetings, participate in one committee, and one member of the BHAB is required to be a member of the County's Board of Supervisors.

The proposed amendments to the BHAB Bylaws, Article III Membership, have been approved by a two-thirds vote at a regular meeting on November 18, 2018. The revision reads as follows: One member shall be recommended to the Board of Supervisors by the Ventura County Sheriff to represent law enforcement. Additionally, the BHAB also approved an increase in the number of its members by one (for a total of 22 members maximum). Once the advisory board approves an amendment to the Bylaws, the statute requires your Board's approval.

This Board Letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office, County Counsel, and Behavioral Health Advisory Board. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Sevet Johnson at (805) 981-1881.


SEVET JOHNSON, PsyD
Behavioral Health Director


Karla Valle
HCA Chief Financial Officer


WILLIAM T. FOLEY
Health Care Agency Director

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 –BHAB Bylaws Signed 1-9-18
- Exhibit 2 – Proposed Revised BHAB Bylaws – Articles III Membership (Redline Version)
- Exhibit 3 - Proposed Revised BHAB Bylaws (Clean Version)