

November 10, 2020

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

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve amendments to the Bylaws of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB).

**FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:**

The proposed recommendation does not have a fiscal impact.

**DISCUSSION:**

Under 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 your Board. Currently, the BHAB consists of no more than twenty-two members. Each member of your Board may appoint three mental health representatives and one substance use disorder representative to the BHAB.

WIC section 5604 encourages your Board 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 WIC requires that at least fifty percent of BHAB 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 BHAB member is three years, with appointments staggered over a three-year period. Appointed members must be committed to attend regular meetings and participate in one committee. One member of the BHAB is required to be a member

of your Board.

Before your Board today are proposed amendments to Articles II (Purpose and Authority), III (Membership) and V (Officers, Member-At-Large and Member Emeritus) of the BHAB Bylaws. The amendments have been approved by majority vote of the BHAB at a regular meeting on August 17, 2020.

The revised language in Article II incorporates legislative updates to the duties of mental health boards (WIC Section 5604.2) and to the three-year program and expenditure plan and annual updates (WIC Section 5848). The BHAB is seeking this update to its Bylaws to reflect these changes in the WIC, which became effective January 1, 2020. The changes provide clarification and address the types of facilities that the BHAB may evaluate, the recommendations the BHAB may make to your Board regarding concerns with agreements that the County may enter into, the assistance the BHAB may request from the local patients' rights advocate when reviewing services provided in public facilities with limited access, and the type of community involvement that should be used in the planning process of services to be provided.

Additionally, in Article III, the BHAB approved an increase in the number of its members by one (for a total of no more than 23 members) to add one psychiatrist practicing in Ventura County who shall be recommended by the Southern California Psychiatric Society. The BHAB also approved provisions encouraging the appointment of individuals who have experience with and knowledge of the mental health system and providing that all members appointed to the BHAB will have the authority to vote on all issues presented to the BHAB.

Finally, the revised language in Article V updates the qualifications of officers by adding the requirement that the Chair must be elected by a majority of the votes of the members of the BHAB. When these Bylaw amendments were initially proposed to your Board at its July 21, 2020, meeting, your Board directed that the amendments be returned to the BHAB to consider adding a requirement that the Chair be elected by a majority of the votes of the BHAB. The BHAB approved that requirement.

Your Board's approval is required before the amendments may go into effect. Attached are the current Bylaws (Exhibit 1), a "redline" version of the proposed amendments (Exhibit 2), and a "clean" version of the proposed amendments (Exhibit 3). The BHAB asks that your Board approve these amendments to its Bylaws.

This Board letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Sevet Johnson or HCA Assistant Chief Financial Officer Narcisa Egan at (805) 981-1881.



SEVET JOHNSON, PsyD  
Behavioral Health Director



WILLIAM T. FOLEY  
Health Care Agency Director

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – BHAB Bylaws Signed 3-19-19
- Exhibit 2 – Proposed Revised BHAB Bylaws 2020 (Redline Version)
- Exhibit 3 – Approved Revised BHAB Bylaws 2020 (Clean Version)