

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

(Revised 12/11/2023)

[Administrative Code –Composition of the Behavioral Health Commission]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to reduce the membership of the Behavioral Health Commission from 17 to 12 seats; provide that the full Board of Supervisors rather than individual Supervisors make these appointments; require that at least one seat be held by a veteran or veteran advocate; reduce the minimum number of seats reserved for consumers and families of consumers from nine to six; provide two seats for mental health professionals; update staggered terms for all seats; retain existing members; and remove seat requirements for child advocates.

Existing Law

California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5604 provides that each County shall have a mental health board. Chapter 15 of the Administrative Code provides for 17 members of the Behavioral Health Commission (“Commission”). Each member of the Board of Supervisors appoints one member to the Commission. The remaining six seats are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The Commission members consist of consumers, family of consumers, a child advocate, two members from defined mental health professions, and members representing the public interest with experience and knowledge of the mental health system. At least nine seats are reserved for consumers or family of consumers. Each seat has a maximum three-year term with approximately one-third of seats expiring each successive year.

Amendments to Current Law

The amendment to Chapter 15 of the Administrative Code would provide for 12 members of the Behavioral Health Commission. All 12 seats would be appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The Commission members would consist of consumers, family of consumers, a veteran or veteran advocate, mental health professionals, and members representing the public interest with experience and knowledge of the Mental Health system. At least six seats would be reserved for consumers or family of consumers. Two seats would be reserved for defined mental health professionals. One seat would be reserved for a veteran or veteran advocate. Each seat would have a maximum three-year term with approximately one-third of seats expiring each successive year.

Background Information

This ordinance was amended by the Rules Committee of the Board of Supervisors on December 11, 2023 to increase the total number of seats from 11 to 12, to allow incumbent

FILE NO. 231076

Commissioners to retain a seat on the Behavioral Health Commission for the remainder of their existing term after this amendment becomes effective, and to designate that two seats be reserved for defined mental health professionals. Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5604 was amended effective January 1, 2023. The amendments to the statute revised the description of the composition of mental health boards. This amendment to Chapter 15 of the Administrative Code aligns the composition of the Behavioral Health Commission with the requirements of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5604.

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