

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - Mental Health Board/Behavioral Health Commission]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to change the name of the Mental Health Board to the Behavioral Health Commission; to include in the definition of a “consumer” one who receives substance use services; and to permit a consumer who is an employee in a behavioral health public or private agency and who does not have any interest, influence, or authority over any financial or contractual matter concerning the employer, to be appointed to the Commission.

Existing Law

The Mental Health Board was created in 1993 pursuant to California Welfare & Institutions Code §§ 5604, et seq., to review and evaluate the community’s mental health needs, services, facilities, and special problems, and to advise the Director of Health, the Director of Community Behavioral Health Services, the Health Commission and the Board of Supervisors on mental health programs.

Amendments to Current Law

The amendment would change the Mental Health Board’s name to the “Behavioral Health Commission,” to reflect the inclusion of substance use disorder services in our county mental health plan and programs. This amendment expands the definition of “consumer” to include the also includes a recent change to state law that permits a consumer in a behavioral health public or private agency, who does not have any interest, influence or authority over any financial or contractual matter concerning the employer to be appointed to the Commission.

Background Information

Over the last few years, substance use disorder services have become more integrated into local mental health plans and programs, thus expanding the designation more accurately to “behavioral’ health.

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