

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST
(10/19/20)

[Administrative Code - Department of Public Health - Providing Staff for the Behavioral Health Commission]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to require the Department of Public Health to provide administrative staff to support the Behavioral Health Commission; to expand the membership criteria to conform to state law; and to reset all Commission member terms as of January 1, 2021, to be staggered so that no more than one-third of the members' terms expire at one time.

Existing Law

The Behavioral Health Commission ("BHC"), formerly named 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. Commissioners serve for a three-year term.

Amendments to Current Law

The amendment would require the Department of Public Health to provide support staff to the BHC with a department employee, rather than through a contractor. The amendment resets the terms of all Commissioners beginning January 1, 2021, and staggering those terms so only one-third of the Commissioners' terms expire at a time. The amendment adds recommended categories of individuals to be considered for BHC membership in conformance with state law.

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