

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Tel. No. (415) 554-5184
Fax No. (415) 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

June 17, 2021

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senator
California State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 264-21

Dear Senator Wiener:

On May 25, 2021, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 264-21 (Urging Passage of California State Senate Bill No. 221 (Wiener) - Health Care Coverage: Timely Access to Care), which was enacted on June 4, 2021.

The Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to forward the following document to your attention:

- One copy of Resolution No. 264-21 (File No. 210574)

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184, or by e-mail: board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela Calvillo".

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

jw:ll:ams

- c. Members of the Board of Supervisor, Supervisors Rafael Mandelman, Hillary Ronen, Shamann Walton, Ahsha Safai
Sophia Kittler, Mayor's Liaison to the Board of Supervisors
Eddie McCaffrey, Mayor's Manager of State and Federal Legislative Affairs
Andres Power, Mayor's Policy Director
Rebecca Peacock, Mayor's Office

1 [Urging Passage of California State Senate Bill No. 221 (Wiener) - Health Care Coverage:
2 Timely Access to Care]

3 **Resolution urging passage of California State Senate Bill No. 221, authored by State**
4 **Senator Scott Wiener, to establish clear timely access standards for mental health care**
5 **follow-up appointments needed by patients in ongoing, medically necessary treatment**
6 **for mental health and substance use disorders.**

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8 WHEREAS, In 2020, the California State Legislature passed Senate Bill No. 855 (SB
9 855), which strengthened the California Mental Health Parity Act by expanding coverage for
10 mental health and substance use disorder (MH/SUD) treatment and establishing a standard of
11 no more than 10 days for access to MH/SUD appointments needed by patients; and

12 WHEREAS, SB 855 did not establish similarly clear standards for offering needed
13 follow-up MH/SUD treatment appointments; and

14 WHEREAS, In the absence of clear timely access standards for follow-up
15 appointments with non-physician MH/SUD providers - like social workers and therapists -
16 large numbers of Californians requiring ongoing courses of treatment for mental health and
17 substance use disorders have been unable to access care within the timeframes that are
18 clinically appropriate for their diagnoses; and

19 WHEREAS, According to a December 2020 survey conducted by the National Union of
20 Healthcare Workers, 88% of the mental health therapists at California's largest HMO reported
21 that weekly individual psychotherapy treatment is unavailable for patients who need it, and
22 51% of therapists reported that their patients have to wait more than 4 weeks, on average, for
23 a follow-up appointment; and

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1 WHEREAS, According to the California Health Care Foundation's 2020 survey on the
2 health care priorities and experiences of California residents, 52% of those who tried to make
3 an appointment believe they waited longer than was reasonable to get one; and

4 WHEREAS, According to a 2019 survey by the California Health Care Foundation,
5 Californians ranked access to mental health treatment as the state's top health care priority;
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7 WHEREAS, This problem has been exacerbated by the significant increase in demand
8 for mental health and substance use disorder services driven by the COVID-19 pandemic,
9 with national survey data published in JAMA, an international peer-reviewed general medical
10 journal, showing that the rate of anxiety and depression has more than tripled over the last
11 year, and a recent Center for Disease Control study conducted between April 2020 and March
12 2021 finding that one in four people age 18 to 24 have seriously considered suicide in the past
13 30 days; and

14 WHEREAS, Recent studies indicate that without timely access to follow-up mental
15 health treatment, patients can suffer longer recovery times and worse outcomes including a
16 more chronic course of their disorders; and

17 WHEREAS, Delays in accessing appropriate treatment can lead to increased morbidity
18 and mortality rates, increased time away from work, increased strain on families, increased
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20 WHEREAS, Current law and regulations have been interpreted to require HMOs under
21 the jurisdiction of the Department of Managed Health Care and health insurers under the
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23 with non-physician MH/SUD providers within ten business days, but not to establish similarly
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1 WHEREAS, SB 221 will close the loophole in existing law by detailing an appropriate
2 timely access standard for follow-up appointments with non-physician MH/SUD providers,
3 while giving the treating clinician an option to create alternative timeframes for follow-up
4 appointments when that is warranted; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
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9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
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City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails Resolution

File Number: 210574

Date Passed: May 25, 2021

Resolution urging passage of California State Senate Bill No. 221, authored by State Senator Scott Wiener, to establish clear timely access standards for mental health care follow-up appointments needed by patients in ongoing, medically necessary treatment for mental health and substance use disorders.

May 25, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 210574

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/25/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

6/4/21

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

06/04/2021

Date

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June 17, 2021

The Honorable David Chiu
California State Assembly Member
California State Capitol, Room 4112
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0017

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 264-21

Dear Assembly Member Chiu:

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City and County of San Francisco

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Tails Resolution

File Number: 210574

Date Passed: May 25, 2021

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May 25, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 210574

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Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

6/4/21

Date Approved

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June 17, 2021

The Honorable Phil Ting
California State Assembly Member
California State Capitol, Room 6026
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0019

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 264-21

Dear Assembly Member Ting:

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jw:ll:ams

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Jessica Duong, Assembly Member Ting Chief of Staff
Sophia Kittler, Mayor's Liaison to the Board of Supervisors
Eddie McCaffrey, Mayor's Manager of State and Federal Legislative Affairs
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Tails Resolution

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June 17, 2021

Mr. Paul Yoder
Ms. Karen Lange
Ms. Erica Smith
Shaw/Yoder/Antwih, Inc.
1415 L Street, Suite 1000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 264 -21

Dear Mr. Yoder, Ms. Lange, and Ms. Smith:

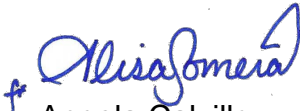
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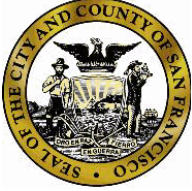
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