



Legislation Text

File #: 14-0691, **Version:** 1

Approve the revised bylaws for the Solano County Local Mental Health Board

Published Notice Required? Yes _____ No X

Public Hearing Required? Yes _____ No X

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Health and Social Services (H&SS) recommends the Board approve the revised bylaws for the Solano County Local Mental Health Board.

SUMMARY:

On May 20, 2014 at a regular meeting of the Solano County Local Mental Health Board, an ad hoc committee was formed to review and update the current Solano County Local Mental Health Board bylaws. The ad hoc committee consisted of three board members and an H&SS Mental Health staff person. Bylaws were reviewed and rewritten; changes were discussed at subsequent Mental Health Board meetings, reviewed by Solano County's Behavioral Health Director, and County Counsel. At the September 16, 2014 Solano County Local Mental Health Board meeting, members approved the amendments by a 7 to 1 vote.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The cost associated with modifying the Solano County Local Mental Health Board bylaws is included in the Department's FY2014/15 Adopted Budget. There is no additional impact to the County General Fund.

DISCUSSION:

The Solano County Local Mental Health Board was created in 1957, when the State of California passed the Short-Doyle Act, which made counties responsible for providing treatment and care for the mentally ill through a community-based and community-operated mental health system. The mandated advisory board was seen as a key mechanism to assure citizen involvement and accountability for the mental health system in their respected communities.

In FY1992/93, California passed the Bronzan-McCorquodale Act, which significantly changed mental health services, with more of the focus and responsibility passing to the counties. With everything except for the state hospitals now being county-run, the Legislature also made changes to the advisory structure by increasing the number of consumers and family members required to be on the Local Mental Health Board. Mental Health Boards remain the primary vehicle for citizens to learn about and exert oversight of the administration and provision of the services funded by their tax dollars.

Previous amendments to the Solano County Local Mental Health Board bylaws were approved by the Board of Supervisors on September 21, 1999 and August 15, 2000. Due to the amount of time that has passed since the by-laws were amended, and the interest of the current Local Mental Health Board in correcting and updating the By-laws, the Board of Supervisors approval is sought to make amendments to these By-laws.

The primary amendments to the bylaws include changing the name of the Board from "The Solano County Local Mental Health Board" to "Solano County Mental Health Advisory Board", and an expansion of policies and procedures with respect to committees and officer attendance and removal. The bylaws reflect a change in the amount of consecutive absences of a board member resulting in board dismissal from four (4) to three (3) missed consecutive regularly scheduled Solano County Local Mental Health Board meetings.

In an effort to clearly define the policies and procedures for board membership approval and appointment, the amended bylaws expand the explanation of the process.

The Solano County Local Mental Health Board changed the minimum amount of times they shall meet in a calendar year for their general board meeting from six (6) to ten (10). Attached is a copy of the Local Mental Health Board revised bylaws, and a redline version.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board may choose not to approve the revisions of the bylaws of the Solano County Local Mental Health Board. This is not recommended because these changes are necessary to recruit and maintain members on the Mental Health Board.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The amended bylaws of the Solano County Local Mental Health Board were reviewed by County Counsel.

CAO RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION