

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL WELLNESS COMMISSION

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this commission shall be the Santa Barbara County Behavioral Wellness Commission, herein referred to as BWC.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The Santa Barbara County Behavioral Wellness Commission (hereinafter BWC or Commission) exists as an advisory board to the Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness and the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors regarding the County's provision of mental health and alcohol and other drug programs and services (hereinafter, behavioral health services).

The BWC is established as required by Section 5604 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, with membership appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. In accordance with Health and Safety Code Sections 11805 and 11998.1(f), the Commission also serves as Santa Barbara County's Advisory Board on Alcohol and Other Drug Problems.

As set forth in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5604.2, the duties of the BWC shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Review and evaluate the community's behavioral health needs, including services, facilities and special problems to ensure that behavioral health services are provided that promote wellness and recovery, improving and maintaining the health and safety of individuals, families and communities affected by mental health and/or substance abuse issues.
- Review mental health and substance abuse service performance contracts entered into pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5650.
- Advise the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (Board of Supervisors) and the Santa Barbara County Behavioral Wellness Department (Behavioral Wellness) Director (hereinafter referred to as Director) as to any aspect of the County's behavioral health services including but not limited to mental health services and substance abuse services.
- Submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors on the needs and performance of the County's behavioral health system.
- Review and make recommendations on applicants for the appointment to the position of Director. The BWC shall be included in the selection process prior to the vote of the Board of Supervisors.

- Review and comment on the County's performance outcome data and communicate its findings to the California Mental Health Planning Council.

In addition, the Santa Barbara BWC shall perform the following duties:

- Review the Behavioral Wellness department's Alcohol and Drug Program Five-Year Plan, including consultation as needed to comply with the legislative goals set forth in Health Safety Code section 11998.1(f).
- In accordance with Welfare & Institutions Code § 5803, approve County proposals prepared in response to DHCS requests for new County systems of care.
- In accordance with Welfare & Institutions Code § 5848, conduct a public hearing on the County's Community Mental Health Services draft 3-year program and expenditure plan prior to adoption.
- Assess the impact of the legislative realignment of services from the state to the county on services delivered to consumers/clients and on the local community.
- Consult with the Behavioral Wellness Director about the provision of services, establishment of facilities, special programs, identification of gaps in program services, contracting for services or facilities, recommending priorities for resources allocation and other matters necessary or desirable in accomplishing the purposes of applicable state law. This shall include consultation as determined by the Director regarding the Assisted Outpatient Treatment service planning and delivery process, in accordance with Welfare & Institutions Code § 5348(a)(2), and regarding the service planning and delivery process of new County systems of care, in accordance with Welfare & Institutions Code § 5806.
- Additional duties or authority as specified by the Board of Supervisors.
- The Commission may make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors concerning appointees to the Commission.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Each of the five (5) Supervisors may nominate four (4) voting members, subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors. The 21st voting member shall be a member of the Board of Supervisors or designee, who is not subject to the member appointment requirements set forth below.

- Representation shall recognize the geographic diversity of Santa Barbara County. Supervisors may appoint members outside their supervisorial districts to meet legal requirements.
- Supervisors are encouraged to appoint individuals who have experience and knowledge of the behavioral health system, including both mental health and substance abuse services.
- The BWC membership should reflect the ethnic diversity of the County and the client population of Santa Barbara County.

BWC member appointments shall comply with the following requirements:

- Fifty percent (50%) or more of the total membership should be consumers or the parents, spouses, siblings or adult children of consumers who are receiving or have received mental health services. Each District shall appoint at least two consumers or family members to the BWC.
- At least twenty percent (20%) of the total membership shall be consumers of mental health services, with each District nominating at least one consumer member for appointment; and
- At least twenty percent (20%) of the total membership shall be family members of consumers of mental health services, with each District nominating at least one family member of consumers of mental health services for appointment.
- The term of each member shall be for three years, with appointments staggered over a three-year period. Initial appointments shall be made in accordance with Attachment 1.
- No member shall serve more than two consecutive three year terms, with the exception that if a member has been appointed to a partial term of one and one half years or less, an individual may then be appointed to two full three year terms. When one year has elapsed following a member's service, the individual is again eligible for appointment.
- Any vacancy will be filled by a new member nominated by the Supervisor from the district of the vacating member once approved by the Board of Supervisors. The nominating Supervisor can seek input from the Board of Supervisors in making the appointment. The new member will hold a position on the BWC for the remainder of the vacating member's unexpired term.
- The members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for any actual expenses incurred in connection with their assigned duties as Commission members per County policies.
- A quorum shall be one person more than one-half the number of appointed members including the Board of Supervisors member or his/her designee.
- Members of the Commission shall abstain from voting on any issue in which the member has a financial interest, as defined in Section 87103 of the Government Code.
- Consistent with Welfare & Institutions Code §5604(d), no member of the Commission or his or her spouse shall be a full-time or part-time county employee of a county mental health service, or an employee of the State Department of Health Care Services or State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, or an employee of, or a paid member of the governing body of a contracting agency to the Behavioral Wellness department.
- After three unexcused absences of any member during a fiscal year, the BWC Executive Committee will review the reasons for the absences and will, if warranted, notify the member to inform it, in writing, with thirty (30) days, whether the member wishes to remain on the BWC. Failure to respond timely to the notice or the continuation of absences may result in a recommendation by the Executive Committee to the BWC that the Board of Supervisors be asked to remove and replace that member.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

Regular meetings shall be held at 1 pm on the third Wednesday of each month, unless cancelled, at the following locations (live or videoconference):

- Santa Barbara Children's Clinic, 429 N. San Antonio Road, Santa Barbara

- Lompoc Board of Supervisors, 401 E. Cypress (2nd Floor), Lompoc
- Santa Maria Clinic, 500 W Foster Rd., Santa Maria

Guidelines for Commission meetings:

- Meetings shall be noticed and conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 54950) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code relating to meetings of local agencies.
- A special meeting may be called, consistent with the Brown Act, by the Chairperson or by a quorum of the BWC. Notice of such meeting shall conform to Government Code Section 54956.

Procedures:

- The agendas for the BWC meetings shall be established by the Chairperson.
- Any member wishing to recommend an item for the BWC agenda shall contact the Chairperson.
- The Behavioral Wellness Commission shall be staffed by the Department of Behavioral Wellness, Minutes shall be recorded by a Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness employee, who shall serve as Program Administrator for the Commission. Agendas, Minutes, and other required notices shall be posted to the Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness website, in a manner consistent with Government Code Section 54954.2.

Meeting and Agenda Format:

- BWC regular meetings shall be conducted by the Chairperson.
- The chairperson shall ask for introductions of the members and confirm the existence of a quorum.
- Approval of minutes of the previous meeting may be included.
- Reports from committees may be included.
- Items identified as action items on the agenda by the Chairperson will be addressed and a vote will be taken.
- The time for public input will be clearly stated on the agenda, and each individual will be limited up to three minutes. No action may be taken on such public input until it is properly noticed on a future agenda.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

- The officers of the BWC shall be Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.
- The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected at the January meeting and each shall serve a term of one year. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by a majority vote of the members of the BWC. It is recommended that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson each have at least one year of experience as a BWC member.

Duties:

The duties of the Chairperson shall include:

- Call special meetings
- Preside over meetings
- Establish meeting agendas
- Produce and forward reports to the County's Board of Supervisors

The duties of the Vice-Chairperson shall include:

- Exercise all the responsibilities of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson
- Meet all responsibilities delegated by the Chairperson.

ARTICLE VI

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOARD MEMBERS

In addition to the duties listed in Article II, BWC members are expected to:

- Regularly attend and participate in monthly board meetings. If a member is unable to attend a meeting, he or she shall advise the Chairperson or Commission Program Administrator (or their representative) of his or her prospective absence.
- Annually visit at least one regularly scheduled or otherwise pre-arranged site visit to an assigned contractor and report findings to the BWC.
- Participate on committees as assigned by the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

Any proposed amendment to these bylaws must be approved at a regular meeting by a 2/3 vote of a quorum of the voting membership present at the time, provided that advance notice of the proposed amendment was given in accordance with Brown Act requirements. Should the proposed amendment be approved by the BWC members, it must be approved by the Board of Supervisors before it takes effect.

In addition, the following severability clause shall pertain to these bylaws: if any part of the preceding bylaws are deemed unlawful, the remainder of the bylaws will remain intact.