



BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

PURPOSE

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board is prescribed by the "Bronzan-McCorquodale Act of 1992", the Mental Health Services Act, and subsequent acts related to the realignment of mental health services in California. The Advisory Board is further formed to promote the betterment and furtherance of Merced County's Behavioral Health environment, and to promote the improvement of the quality, quantity and cultural competency of Behavioral Health services deliverable to the people of Merced County.

MISSION

The mission of the Merced County Behavioral Health Advisory Board is to ensure that the Agency provides integrated, culturally responsive mental health, substance use disorder and community-based services that promote wellness and recovery.

VISION

To represent and advocate for all of our diverse community members, by educating about available behavioral health services and promoting a welcoming and equitable atmosphere of wellness and recovery, while acting in an advisory capacity to the BHRS to aid in continuing quality improvement.

ESTABLISHED

The original Mental Health Board was created by Resolution No. 63-1652, and adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 1, 1963 when the County applied for funding under the Short-Doyle Act. On October 13, 1998 the Merced County Board of Supervisors established the Merced County Mental Health Advisory Board. On July 21, 2015 the Board of Supervisors approved and authorized the consolidation of the Merced County Mental Health Advisory Board and the Advisory Board on Alcohol and Other Drug Problems into the Merced County Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

AUTHORITY

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board exists under the authority of Section 5604 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code and Section 11805 of the California Health and Safety Code.

MEETINGS

The regular meeting of the Board shall be held every month or as set forth by the board at the Merced County Department of Behavioral Health, or at any other public meeting place designated by the Chairperson by giving written notice to the members and the public.

LOCATION

301 East 13th Street, Wing C
Merced, CA 95341

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

APPOINTMENTS

The qualification and membership of this Advisory Board shall satisfy Section 5604 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

The Board of Supervisors shall appoint between sixteen (16) to nineteen (19) members. This number is arrived at by an equal numbers of appointees (three) by each member of the Board of Supervisors. One additional member shall be a member of the local governing body. The Governing body may increase the number of members by up to three at-large members.

*Board Appointments are part of yearly Board Committee Assignments by Board Order.

All reasonable efforts shall be made to ensure that the composition of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board represents the demographics of the county as a whole to the extent feasible. The Advisory Board membership should reflect the ethnic diversity of the client population in the county. Fifty percent of the Advisory Board membership shall be consumers or the parents, spouses, siblings, or adult children of consumers, who are receiving or have received behavioral health services. At least 20 percent of the total membership shall be consumers, and at least 20 percent shall be families of consumers.

TERM (SEATS)

The qualification and membership of this Advisory Board shall satisfy Section 5604 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

The term of each member of the Advisory Board shall be for three (3) years commencing on the first of July of the year in which he/she is appointed and ending on the thirtieth of June of the third year after appointment, except that a mid-year term vacancy appointment should be for the balance of the unexpired term. The governing body shall equitably stagger the appointments so that approximately one-third of the appointments expire in each year.

QUALIFICATIONS

The qualification and membership of this Advisory Board shall satisfy Section 5604 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

Any resident in the County of Merced with the qualifications specified in the Bronzan-McCorquodale Act for the composition of the Advisory Board may be appointed to the membership by the Board of Supervisors of Merced County. The Advisory Board may recommend appointees to the county supervisors. Counties are encouraged to appoint individuals who have experience and knowledge of the behavioral health system.

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APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants will:

- 1) Complete the intake/application form.
- 2) Attend a Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting to be indoctrinated to the functions and responsibilities required of the Board.
- 3) Be interviewed by the Membership Committee of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board. The Membership Committee will make recommendations to the full Advisory Board. The Advisory Board will then forward applications to the Board of Supervisors with its recommendation.
- 4) Note whether or not they are willing to attend an occasional state meeting, serve on board committees, and participate in board responsibilities outside of monthly meetings (i.e., county wide needs assessment survey, training, regional Behavioral Health Advisory Board meetings, and special projects.)

All applications will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors to fill vacancies. Annotations will indicate the Advisory Board's special needs/consideration to assist in the appointment process.

Reappointments are permitted upon completion of required application and Board of Supervisors approval.

BYLAWS LAST UPDATED

January 14, 2020

CONTACT PERSONS

Questions about the Behavioral Health Advisory Board: Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Secretary, (209)381-6805.

Questions about the Merced County Application to Boards, Commissions & Committees: Board Clerk Office, (209)385-7366.