



CONTRA COSTA  
MENTAL HEALTH  
COMMISSION

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cchealth.org/mentalhealth/mhc

June 2, 2021

Dear Supervisor Candace Andersen,

We respectfully ask the Internal Operations Committee of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors to read and consider the Mental Health Commission’s suggestion to the bylaw regarding Section 4. VACANCIES AND RECRUITMENT.

The following language presents 1) the text that you are requesting; and 2) the text that the Mental Health Commission is requesting as an alternative (note: highlighted text is what differs).

**Text Proposed by Supervisor Candace Andersen, District II**

SECTION 4. VACANCIES AND RECRUITMENT

4.1 Role of the Commission

The role of the Commission in recruitment of new commissioners is at the discretion of and to the extent requested by the Board of Supervisors.

4.2 The Commission is encouraged to help identify and recruit qualified applicants to apply for any vacancies on the Commission.

4.3 Commission Identification and Recruitment of Applicants

a) Pursuant to Article IV, section 1.2, the Commission shall, to the extent possible, identify and encourage applicants who will assist the County in complying with the ethnic and demographic mandates in the Welfare & Institutions Code.

b) To the extent possible, the Commission shall identify and encourage applicants who have experience and knowledge of the mental health system, preferably in the County

4.4 Each County Supervisor will encourage any applicant being considered for the Mental Health Commission to attend a Commission meeting prior to their appointment.

4.5 Upon appointment, the Chair and Executive Committee of the Mental Health Commission shall coordinate appropriate training and orientation of all new commissioners.

**Text Proposed by the Mental Health Commission:**

SECTION 4. VACANCIES AND RECRUITMENT

4.1 Role of the Commission

The role of the Commission in recruitment of new commissioners is at the discretion of and to the extent requested by the Board of Supervisors.

4.2 The Commission is encouraged to help identify and recruit qualified applicants to apply for any vacancies on the Commission.



The Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to advise them on all matters related to the county’s mental health system, in accordance with mandates set forth in the California State Welfare & Institutions Code, Sections 5604 (a)(1)-5605.5. Any comments or recommendations made by the Mental Health Commission or its individual members do not represent the official position of the county or any of its officers. The Commission is pleased to make special accommodations, if needed, please call ahead at (925) 313-9553 to arrange.

#### 4.3 Commission Identification and Recruitment of Applicants

a) Pursuant to Article IV, section 1.2, the Commission shall, to the extent possible, identify and encourage applicants who will assist the County in complying with the ethnic and demographic mandates in the Welfare & Institutions Code.

b) To the extent possible, the Commission shall identify and encourage applicants who have experience and knowledge of the mental health system, preferably in the County

4.4 Each County Supervisor will encourage any applicant being considered for the Mental Health Commission to attend at least one Commission meeting prior to their appointment. Applicants are required to meet with the MHC Chair, MHC Vice Chair and/or ad-hoc committee prior to accepting position to ensure full understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and restrictions of being a Mental Health Commissioner.

4.5 Upon appointment by the District Supervisor, the Chair and Executive Committee of the Mental Health Commission shall coordinate appropriate training and orientation of all new commissioners.

Will you please honor the fact the Commission is currently not reflective of the diversity of the client population in the county? We would like to ensure we are following the guidelines of Executive Order No. 13985 *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government* (pg 7009 - 7013), signed into law January 20, 2021 by President Joseph R. Biden Jr., as well as the Recruitment of Board/Commission Members, WIC 5604 (a) (1), and *Best Practices for Local Mental/Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions 2020*, rev.1 (pg. 24, Best Practices, 2020).

We realize that the Board of Supervisors is inundated with responsibilities of the county and Mental Health Commissioners are ready and willing to take on the task of recruiting, orienting/interviewing, and making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for candidates to fill open seats on this Commission.

Sincere Regards,

Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission