



Mental Health Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR
April 14, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Mental Health Commission
Submitted by: Jamie Works-Wright, Secretary, Mental Health Commission
Subject: Appointment of Ann Hawkins to the Mental Health Commission

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the appointment of Ann Hawkins to the Mental Health Commission, as a representative of the special public interest (peer) category, for a three year term beginning April 15, 2020 and ending April 14, 2023.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Mental Health Commission is authorized to be composed of thirteen members. However, there are presently five vacancies on the Commission. These vacancies impair the Commission's ability to adequately review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs.

Approval of the recommended action will fill a vacancy, and allow the Commission to move one step closer to having a full and diverse complement of commissioners to review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs.

BACKGROUND

California State law requires that appointments to the Mental Health Commission meet specific categories, who may serve up to nine years consecutively. The general public interest category may include anyone who has an interest in and some knowledge of mental health services. The special public interest category includes direct consumers of public mental health services and family members of consumers, which together must constitute at least fifty percent or seven of the commission seats. Direct consumers and family members shall each constitute at least 20% of the commission membership. Two members shall be residents of the City of Albany with at least one of these seats filled by a direct consumer or family member.

Currently, the Mental Health Commission consists of the following: two Berkeley Special Public Interest Commissioners; four Berkeley General Public Interest Commissioners; one Albany General Public Interest Commissioner; and one Mayoral appointee.

At its January 23, 2020 meeting, the Mental Health Commission interviewed Ann Hawkins a former professor in Environmental Sociology, who is passionate about preventative measures and de-stigmatization regarding mental health. She's involved with activities, which focuses on mental health issues and climate change. Her unique contribution to the Mental Health Commission is that she has worked in Mexico and Indonesia, speaks the language and has done postdoctoral research and even taken a Peer Support Specialist Training. Ann is eligible for a Berkeley Special interest seat in both the family and consumer category, but prefers the Consumer seat on the Mental Health Commission.

On January 23, 2020 the Mental Health Commission passed the following motion:

M/S/C (Fine, Davila) Motion to nominate Ann Hawkins to be appointed to the special public interest (peer) as a representative of the Mental Health Commission

Ayes: Castro, cheema, Davila, Fine, Kealoha-Blake, Moore, Opton, Prichett Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Izadi

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the recommended action will allow the Mental Health Commission to move one step closer to having a full and diverse complement of commissioners to review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager concurs with the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Jamie Works-Wright, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-7721

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

APPOINTMENT OF ANN HAWKINS TO THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SPECIAL PUBLIC INTEREST

WHEREAS, membership of the Mental Health Commission is composed of thirteen appointments by the City Council as a whole, including one appointment by the Mayor (*or designee*), six special public interest appointments, two appointments of residents of Albany (*one of which shall be a representative of the special public interest category*), and four general public interest appointments; and

WHEREAS, with the ongoing implementation of the Mental Health Services Act, the City of Berkeley will need to have a full complement of diverse appointees to the Commission to review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs and to fulfill its mandate; and

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Commission, at its January 23, 2020 meeting recommended the appointment of Ann Hawkins to the Mental Health Commission.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council appoints Ann Hawkins to the Mental Health Commission, as representative of the special public interest (peer) category, for a three year term beginning April 15, 2020 and ending April 14, 2023.

