

**PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Adult System of Care and Medical Clinics**

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Jeffrey S. Brown, M.P.H., M.S.W., Director of Health and Human Services
Maureen F. Bauman, Director of Adult System of Care and Medical Clinics
DATE: September 1, 2015
SUBJECT: Appointment to the Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board

ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Approve the appointment of Jeff Cowen, Consumer Member, District 3, Seat 4, to The Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board (MHADB).

BACKGROUND:

Jeff Cowen has applied for a position on the MHADB as a consumer member. His professional and personal experience in mental health make him a strong candidate.

Mr. Cowen has worked for various independent living centers for over 25 years, improving the quality of life for people with disabilities. During that time, he's worked in the capacity as a Board President and as Executive Director. For the last 10 years, Mr. Cowen has been working for PIRS – Placer Independent Resource Services, as an Independent Living Advocate. Mr. Cowen received his Master of Social Work and Bachelor of Arts from CSU in Sacramento.

Mr. Cowen volunteered at Foothills Youth Foundation and has served on a variety of community boards. The focus was on disability issues, mental health and homelessness.

His special areas of interest are on men's health and mental health. For many years, he's concentrated his efforts on helping people deal with mood disorders, developmental disabilities, HIV/AIDS and assisted those involved in the criminal justice system. His desire is to continue to help bring a voice to people with disabilities and promote independent living. He has an extensive background in quality improvement and assessment projects and plans to use those skills to help in the Board's work – effecting change.

Mr. Cowen's lived experience and desire to continue to look at programs, training and educational opportunities to promote independent living will be an asset to this Board.

The MHADB recommends appointment of this applicant.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action.

Membership Application and Interest Survey for Jeff Cowen is on file with Clerk of the Board.

