



MEMORANDUM
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors

DATE: September 13, 2016

FROM: Jeffrey S. Brown, M.P.H., M.S.W., Director of Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: Appointment to the Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve the appointment of Geoffrey McLennan, Family Member, District 3, Seat #11, and Sharon Behrens, Family Member, District 2, Seat #13, to the Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board.

BACKGROUND:

Prior to his retirement in 2014, Geoffrey McLennan worked in state and local government for a total of 42 years. He retired from the State of California as a Facilities Professional. He holds a Master's in Public Administration and a Bachelor's in Political Science and Economics. His professional service includes administration and leadership in state government, legislation and policy making, project management, and as an instructor on government innovation. He also has extensive community experience with regional non-profits, churches and state, local and federal governments, as well as volunteer activities.

Mr. McLennan has been involved in residential and care facilities, providing oversight of residential care facilities for those who are developmentally disabled due to his sister's mental illness. His special area of interest include substance abuse, specifically around opioid addiction on addicts, their families and society. As a board member, he hopes to reduce societal stigma of mental illness by promoting positive public perception. He also would like to reduce homelessness caused by alcohol and drugs. He plans to use his family experience with attempted suicides, drugs, and depression to bring awareness to the forefront and provide education to the community.

Sharon Behrens previously served on the MHADB, serving two consecutive three-year terms from May 12, 2009 through May 12, 2015. Per the bylaws, Ms. Behrens was required to vacate her position for a one-year period. She is now eligible, and she has applied for a position on the MHADB as a family member. Her extensive background in social services including juvenile probation, mental health, seniors, individuals with disabilities and family advocacy, along with her previous extended service on this board makes her an excellent candidate.

Ms. Behrens holds a B.A. Degree from the University of California, Riverside with 60 plus units post in children's issues. She has been a part of the foster care system and is an adoptive parent of five special needs children. She has sat on numerous advisory boards in various counties and has provided foster care and adoptive parent training.

During her previous six-year term, Ms. Behrens made numerous recommendations that resulted in many positive changes in Placer County's System of Care. It is her desire to continue to bring forward her experience and information in therapeutic and familial interventions, personal and mental health support systems and resiliency. She passionately believes in the power of awareness and feels what is accomplished on this board makes a difference – bettering the lives of those we serve in our community.

The MHADB recommends appointment of these applicants.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

The Membership Applications are on file with Clerk of the Board.

