

**MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
COUNTY OF PLACER**

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: David Boesch, County Executive Officer
By: Gretchen Nedved, Senior Management Analyst

DATE: December 10, 2013

SUBJECT: Appointment of Health Officer

ACTION REQUESTED

Appoint Dr. Robert Oldham as the Placer County Health Officer, at step 2 of salary grade MNGT 508, effective January 6, 2014.

BACKGROUND

The Health Officer is a statutorily required position whereby each County Board of Supervisors shall appoint a Health Officer as a county officer with authority described in at least Health and Safety Code sections 101040, 120175 and 1797.153. The Health Officer appointment fulfills the Board of Supervisors duty of preserving and protecting public health in the County.

Appointing Dr. Robert Oldham as the Placer County Health Officer effective January 6, 2014, will provide a seamless transition between the current incumbent's retirement and the effective date of the new appointment.

The County's incumbent Health Officer, Dr. Richard Burton, announced his planned retirement earlier this year after 17 years of dedicated service as Placer County Health Officer and nearly 10 years as Director of Health and Human Services. Recruitment efforts subsequently began to fill the mandated position, which has resulted in today's request for the Board to make the appointment. The Health Officer position was established as separate from the department head role of Director of Health and Human Services on July 23, 2013 at the request of the Personnel Department. The Health Officer position is briefly defined below and is followed by a summary of Dr. Robert Oldham's experience and qualifications for why he is recommended as the best-qualified for the appointment.

Health Officer Defined

To serve as Health Officer per code and statutory requirements; to plan, organize, direct and coordinate public health medical services and public health programs for the County; to provide consultation to citizens, public officials, staff and community organizations and agencies on public health and preventive medicine issues; to coordinate assigned medical activities with departments and the state as necessary; and to provide highly responsible and complex medical and administrative support to the

Director of Health and Human Services; to act as a medical and public health consultant to the Board of Supervisors and County Executive Officer.

Dr. Robert Oldham - Qualifications

Dr. Oldham holds a Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Alabama School of Medicine, with residencies in Psychiatry and Preventative Medicine, and fellowship with Oregon Health and Science University in Psychosomatic Medicine, and a Master's degree in Health Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Oldham is a licensed physician and surgeon with several American Board Certifications in Psychiatry, Public Health / Preventive Medicine, Medical Quality and Psychosomatic Medicine.

After serving as Fellow in 2004 for Lister Hill Center for Health Policy in Birmingham Alabama, Dr. Oldham was a Physician for three years for Central State Hospital in Petersburg Virginia. In 2010, Dr. Oldham furthered his career as Psychiatrist for Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health in California, where he is serving most recently as the Medical Director and interim Health Officer. In Fresno County, Dr. Oldham is responsible for core public health functions such as disease surveillance and investigation, environmental health, and emergency preparedness and response. Supplementing his education and experience, Dr. Oldham has received various honors and awards, maintains membership and service to professional organizations, continues to provide dedicated public service, and teaches medical students.

Upon appointment, a period of transition would occur for the purposes of Dr. Oldham's relocation from Fresno County to Placer County. Dr. Oldham would resign from his interim position of Fresno County Health Officer but continue to assist Fresno County as their Medical Director for the Department of Behavioral Health for a short period and with the expectation of 24/7 availability as the Placer County Health Officer.

FISCAL IMPACT

Appointment of the Health Officer includes a salary of approximately \$246,000 at Step 2 of Salary Grade MNGT 508, plus benefits of approximately \$91,000. The costs applicable for the remainder of FY 2013-14 will be covered within the Health and Human Services FY 2013-14 Final Budget.