



Mental Health Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR

April 29, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Mental Health Commission
Submitted by: Paul Kealoha-Blake, Chairperson, Mental Health Commission
Subject: Appointment of Jennifer Fazio to the Mental Health Commission

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the appointment of Jennifer Fazio to the Mental Health Commission, as a representative of the special public interest category, for a three year term beginning April 30, 2014 and ending April 29, 2017.

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 four 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.

At its February 27, 2014 meeting, the Mental Health Commission interviewed Jennifer Fazio who introduced herself as an evaluator with University of California at Berkeley. She has completed an MA in Political Sociology and a PhD in Education studying

marginalized youth in low-income urban neighborhoods. She is interested in being on the Commission to learn about what's going on in Mental Health in Berkeley and because she has a family member who utilizes mental health services. The Commission Secretary has determined that Ms. Fazio is eligible for a Special Public Interest Seat on the Commission.

On February 27, 2014, the Mental Health Commission passed the following motion:

M/S/C (Davis, Michel) Move to recommend appointment of Jennifer Fazio to the Berkeley Special Public Interest seat on the Mental Health Commission.

Ayes: Arreguin, Davis, Heda, Kealoha-Blake, Marasovic, Michel, Posey; Noes: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Adams.

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

Carol Patterson, Mental Health Commission Secretary, HH&CS, 510-981-7721

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

APPOINTMENT OF JENNIFER FAZIO AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SPECIAL
PUBLIC INTEREST CATEGORY TO THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

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 February 27, 2014 meeting, recommended the appointment of Jennifer Fazio to the Mental Health Commission.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council appoints Jennifer Fazio to the Mental Health Commission, as representative of the special public interest category, for a three year term beginning April 30, 2014 and ending April 29, 2017.

