



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 13, 2010

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Christine Daniel, Deputy City Manager

Subject: Appointment of Director of Health Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution confirming the appointment of Beth Myerson as Director of Health Services to be effective August 8, 2010.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The salary and benefits for the Director of Health Services are included in the Fiscal Year 2011 Department budget. The position is paid from: the General Fund (010-4101-440-11.01), the Mental Health Fund (065-4101-440-11.01) and the Health State Aid Realignment Fund (958-4101-440-11.01) and the monthly salary is \$14,000.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Department of Health Services has been without a permanent director since the retirement of Fred Medrano at the end of 2009. An interim director, Daren Fields, was in place between January and June, and since that time, the department's Deputy Director, Peggy Gibbons, has been serving as the interim director.

In accordance with the City Charter, Section 28(b) of Article VII, I am submitting my selection for the Director of the Health Services Department to the City Council for confirmation. I have selected Beth Myerson for appointment to the vacant Director position, to be appointed with monthly salary of \$14,000. I am requesting confirmation of this appointment so that I may formally offer this regular at-will benefited department head position to Ms. Myerson to be effective August 8, 2010.

BACKGROUND

The Berkeley Health Services Department is made up of nurses, community outreach workers, health care providers, health educators, inspectors, office support staff, health policy specialists and public health program professionals with a combined total of 165 FTE and a budget of \$24.64 million for FY 2011. Berkeley is fortunate to be one of only three cities in the State of California with the distinction of having its own health jurisdiction. The Department's mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals and families in the City of Berkeley through innovative policies, effective services and strong community partnerships. The Department is organized into four operating divisions:

Office of the Director and Administration: This office provides overall leadership and management for the department; manages the Department's fiscal activities including budgeting, accounting, payroll, purchasing and billings to external funders; contract administration; and information systems support.

Environmental Health Services: This division provides disease prevention and control services with an emphasis on education and enforcement by conducting environmental health inspections at regulated facilities such as restaurants, abating public nuisances including rodent harborages, and working with various partners to protect and improve the health and well being of the community.

Mental Health Services: This division provides mental health prevention and intervention services with a focus on high-risk adults, youth and families. Working closely with other city departments and community partners, the Division operates specialized services such as Drop-in Crisis and Brief Treatment Services, Medication Support, Intensive Case Management, Mobile Crisis/Emergency Response, School-Based Mental Health, Homeless Outreach, and Disaster Mental Health Response and Recovery.

Public Health Services: The Public Health Division focuses on achieving and maintaining optimal health and well being for all people in Berkeley. Its programs promote healthy behaviors and environments, prevent illness and injury, protect against disease and emerging health threats, reduce health inequities, and advocate for social and environmental justice. Priority program areas are: a healthy start for every child, chronic disease prevention, and public health preparedness.

The Health Services Department staffs 4 different commissions: the Community Health Commission, the Mental Health Commission, the Peace & Justice Commission, and the Commission on the Status of Women.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Beth Myerson received her B.S. from California State University Fresno and her Master's in Public Administration from the Consortium of the California State Universities and Colleges. She is currently the Director of Health and Human Services for Colusa County, responsible for the management of Public Health, Environmental Health and Social Services. Prior to that, she was the Director of Mental Health for Mendocino County, as well as serving as the Deputy County Administrative Officer. She has also worked in the County Administrators' offices in Sonoma and Sutter counties, as well as in the Lake County Health Department. She is a part-time instructor for U.C. Davis Extension, and has worked as a consultant for the California Mental Health Directors Association and Association of Regional Center Agencies.

Ms. Myerson brings a breadth of experience in the public health and mental health fields, as well as an extensive background in local government finance and budget. Given the fiscal challenges facing the Health Services Department, her experience in

these areas is welcome. Her background and work experience exhibit a strong commitment to the values reflected in the mission of the City's Health Department and she will be a great addition to the City of Berkeley team.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Phil Kamlarz, City Manager, City Manager's Office, 981-7000

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF BETH MYERSON AS DIRECTOR OF
HEALTH SERVICES

WHEREAS, Beth Myerson has an extensive background in the public and mental health fields including her work as the Director of Health and Human Services for Colusa County, responsible for the management of Public Health, Environmental Health and Social Services and prior to that, as the Director of Mental Health for Mendocino County, as well as serving as the Deputy County Administrative Officer; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Myerson previously worked for both Sonoma and Sutter Counties in fiscal and administrative positions; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Myerson has received her Bachelor of Science from California State University Fresno and her Master's in Public Administration from the Consortium of California State Universities and Colleges.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council hereby confirms the City Manager's appointment of Beth Myerson as the Director of Health Services with a monthly salary of \$14,000 on the same terms and conditions as other, regular at will employees effective August 8, 2010.