



County of San Diego

BARRY JANTZ

CHAIR

HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

June 28, 2024

Supervisor Nora Vargas, Chairperson
Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Vice Chairperson
Supervisor Joel Anderson
Supervisor Jim Desmond
Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe

RE: Health Services Advisory Board Involvement on County Health Matters

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Honorable Members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the Health Services Advisory Board (HSAB), we are writing to reintroduce our membership and encourage you to leverage our advisory board and other established advisory bodies to advance health policy priorities for the County of San Diego.

The County of San Diego has various Boards, Committees, and Commissions (BCCs) focused on health-related topics, including the [Health Services Advisory Board \(HSAB\)](#), [Healthy San Diego \(HSD\)](#), [Aging and Independence Services \(AIS\) Advisory Council](#), [Behavioral Health Advisory Board \(BHAB\)](#), [Social Services Advisory Board \(SSAB\)](#), among many others. Each of these BCCs is advisory in nature and includes membership appointed by your offices. These BCCs include representation from a wide array of health stakeholders tied to local organizations, including representation by consumers, organized labor, business, children's advocates, legal professionals, health plans, hospitals, community clinics, education, physicians, nurses, pharmacy, dentistry, mental health, and public health. The intersectional nature of the HSA related BCCs is intentionally designed to promote an integrated health care delivery system.

For example, the HSAB mission is to “Provide the Board of Supervisors expert, timely advice and options to advance an integrated wellness and health care system where all residents have access to affordable, comprehensive and quality care.” We are appointed to serve you.

Two health-related task forces were formed by the Board of Supervisors in the last quarter that the HSAB would welcome the opportunity to work with and contribute to in a meaningful way.

HHSAs BCCs can be useful for soliciting consumer and professional feedback from community members who are experts in their field. Robust community engagement from these multi-disciplinary groups of individuals can enrich your policy making efforts and further motivate volunteers to dedicate their time and energy to their appointments. The standing meeting times are an opportunity for you and your team to provide updates and solicit feedback from a diverse group of busy stakeholders who have already dedicated this time to serving their community.

We appreciate the County Board of Supervisors’ attention to transparency and community engagement and, through this, recognize an opportunity for HSAB to serve as a more active partner and advisor. Historically, attendance and participation from appointees wane when members perceive their participation as more ceremonial than influential. As a Board, you have spearheaded impactful health care initiatives such as pursuing efforts to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates, increasing health and social service interventions in lieu of incarceration, addressing the opioid crisis, and diligently planning to implement SB-43. We ask that you leverage your Health Services Advisory Board and its membership to be influential in the implementation of these policies and the development of future initiatives for the community. We invite you and your staff to attend our meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 3 pm at the County Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Jantz, Chair
Health Services Advisory Board

Geysil Arroyo, Vice Chair
Health Services Advisory Board

Attachments:

Health Services Advisory Board membership list and vacancies
Health Services Advisory Board strategic plan
Healthy San Diego membership list and vacancies

cc: Caroline Smith, Interim HHSAs Director
Eric McDonald, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer
Patty Kay Danon, Chief Operating Officer
Ankita Kadakia, MD, Interim Public Health Officer
Elizabeth Hernandez, PhD, Public Health Services Director
Health Services Advisory Board Members