



Yolo County Local Mental Health Board

137 N. Cottonwood Street • Woodland, CA 95695
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August 2, 2022

Angel Barajas, Chair Yolo County Board of Supervisors
Gerardo Pinedo, Chief Administrative
c/o Phil Pogledich, County Counsel
Officer 625 Court Street Woodland, CA 95695

Re: Local Mental Health Board Recommendation regarding Mental Health Director Position

Dear Chair Barajas and Mr. Pinedo,

On August 1, 2022, the Local Mental Health Board (LMHB) held a special closed session meeting. This meeting was requested by Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Director Nolan Sullivan in order for the LMHB to provide feedback to him regarding his plan for the Mental Health Director position.

Director Sullivan informed LMHB members that he would be recommending to the Board of Supervisors that Interim Mental Health Director Karleen Jakowski be appointed to the position and that a new position, Assistant Director, would be created and Ms. Jakowski would also fill this position. Director Sullivan addressed questions and concerns relating to: the public perception of not recruiting for the position; the issue of the high numbers of vacancies at HHSA; the funding source for the newly created Assistant Director position; and the critical nature of assuring that these positions be filled by someone with experience in “analytics” in order to provide focus and improve the area of “Outcome Measures” at HHSA.

After a brief discussion, LMHB members voted unanimously to recommend that the BOS approve Director Sullivan's request to create an Assistant Director position. Subsequently, there was discussion regarding Ms. Jakowski being appointed Mental Health Director and Assistant Director. Comments about Ms. Jakowski included: she has been collaborative; she is well-spoken; she seems dedicated and hard-working; she has the ability to make difficult decisions (e.g., the decision to slow down on reducing funding to Safe Harbor); and she has experience working in Yolo at HHSA, at Communicare, and as Deputy Director for HHSA in Butte/Yuba. With no opposition votes, the LMHB voted to recommend that the BOS move forward to appoint Ms. Jakowski as Mental Health Director and Assistant Director of HHSA.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Jonathan Raven
Chair, Local Mental Health Board