

ORDINANCE NO. 24-_____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF YOLO TO AMEND THE CODE
RELATING TO THE LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Yolo hereby ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Background and Findings. The State of California amended Section 5604 of the Welfare and Institutions Code relating to mental health boards to require at least one member of the board to be a veteran or veteran advocate in counties with a population of 100,000 or more. Yolo County Local Mental Health Board supports the wellness, recovery, and resilience of all Yolo County residents through the identification of local mental health assets and needs, informed advocacy and education and collaboration with policymakers, service providers, consumers, and family members. The Board of Supervisors find that it is vital to have veterans' input and perspective on mental health issues in Yolo County.

Including veterans on a local mental health board is crucial as they bring unique perspectives and experiences, particularly in dealing with trauma and stress related to military service. Their presence on the Local Mental Health Board ensures representation of the veteran community, fostering trust and encouraging veterans to seek mental health services. Veterans on the Board can effectively advocate for their peers, raising awareness about specific mental health issues faced by veterans, and their knowledge about resources and programs is invaluable for optimizing service delivery. The Board of Supervisors finds that their participation ensures that the mental health needs of veterans are comprehensively understood and addressed.

SECTION 2. Amendments to Yolo County Code Section 2-2.1303.

Subsection (d) is amended to become subsection (e).

Subsection (d) is hereby added to read as follows:

(d) *Veteran or Veteran Advocate Member.* At least one member of the board shall be a veteran or veteran advocate, as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5604(i). To ensure compliance with this subdivision, the Board of Supervisors shall notify the Yolo County Veterans Services Office about vacancies on the board as they occur.

SECTION 3. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance and each section, sentence, clause or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared invalid.

SECTION 4. Conflicting Enactments. To the extent that there is any conflict between the provisions of this Ordinance and the provisions of any other County Code, ordinance, resolution or policy, all such conflicting provisions shall be suspended.

SECTION 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days after its passage, and prior to expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage thereof, shall be published by title and summary only in the Davis Enterprise together with the names of members of the Board of Supervisors voting for and against the same.

Introduced at a Board of Supervisors regular meeting held on February 13, 2024, and subsequently approved following a second reading on February 27, 2024 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTENTION:

Lucas Frerichs, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Attest: Julie Dachtler, Senior Deputy Clerk
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Approved as to Form:

By: _____
Deputy (Seal)

By:  _____
Philip J. Pogledich, County Counsel