


MEMORANDUM

DATE	May 5, 2017
TO	Policy and Advocacy Committee
FROM	 Cherise Burns Central Services Manager
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #6(c)(14) – AB 477 (Ridley-Thomas) Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Panel

Background:

This bill would establish the Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Panel, as an independent, statewide advisory board to provide ongoing advice and assistance on behavioral health program needs and priorities to the California Health and Human Services Agency, including making recommendations on actions to improve the collaboration and processes of the multiple agencies involved in California's behavioral health delivery system. The bill would require the panel to annually report to the Legislature on its accomplishments, effectiveness, and efficiency, including any recommendations for statutory changes needed to improve the effective delivery of behavioral health services in the state.

Staff spoke to the author's office and was informed that this bill is a 2-year bill and will not be moving for the remainder of this legislative year. Staff will continue to watch the bill until it is taken up next year.

Location: Assembly Committee on Health

Status: 4/25/2017 In committee, set first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

Action Requested:

No action is required at this time. Staff will continue to watch AB 477 due to its potential to improve interagency coordination and cooperation that would improve the delivery of behavioral health services to California consumers.

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SECTION 1. *Division 3.75 (commencing with Section 3550) is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:*

DIVISION 3.75. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY PANEL

3550. *The Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Panel is hereby established as an independent, statewide advisory board that shall provide ongoing advice and assistance on behavioral health program needs and priorities to the California Health and Human Services Agency, including making recommendations on actions to improve the collaboration and processes of the multiple agencies involved in California's behavioral health delivery system.*

3551. (a) (1) *The members of the advisory panel shall be appointed by the Secretary of California Health and Human Services and shall serve on a voluntary basis and without compensation.*

(2) *The advisory panel shall consist of at least seven members. At least one member shall be appointed from each of the following:*

(A) *The mental health provider community.*

(B) *The substance abuse provider community.*

(C) *The county public health provider community.*

(D) *The health plan community.*

(E) *The patient advocacy community.*

(F) *The law enforcement community.*

(G) *The education community.*

(3) *The advisory panel shall elect a chairperson from among its members.*

(b) *The advisory panel's powers and duties include, but are not limited to, both of the following:*

(1) *To advise the Secretary of California Health and Human Services on all policies, regulations, and operations of the various agencies involved in the delivery of behavioral health services in the state.*

(2) *To meet at least quarterly, unless deemed unnecessary by the chairperson.*

(c) *The California Health and Human Services Agency's powers and duties shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:*

(1) *To provide general support and staff assistance to the advisory panel.*

(2) *To convene and attend meetings of the advisory panel at least quarterly, unless deemed unnecessary by the chairperson, at locations that are easily accessible to the public and advisory panel members, are of sufficient duration for presentation, discussion, and public comment on each agenda item, and are in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).*

3552. (a) *The advisory panel shall submit an annual report to the Legislature on the advisory panel's accomplishments, effectiveness, efficiency, including any recommendations for statutory changes needed to improve the effective delivery of behavioral health services in the state and the ability of the advisory panel to fulfill its purpose.*