

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 24

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PROVISIONS IN THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RELATING TO THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR, PUBLIC GUARDIAN, AND PUBLIC CONSERVATOR (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The Public Conservator is responsible for directing the mental health treatment and placement of individuals deemed to be gravely disabled, or unable to care for their own basic needs. In San Diego County, the Public Conservator provides conservatorship services to all conservatees who are gravely disabled and for whom the Public Conservator has been appointed conservator of the person by court order pursuant to the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (Welfare and Institutions Code section 5000, et seq.).

Currently within the County of San Diego, the Office of the Public Conservator is consolidated with the Office of the Public Administrator and Public Guardian. To increase operational efficiencies and enhance services to residents served by the Office of the Public Conservator, today's actions request the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) approve amendments to the San Diego County Administrative Code related to the Public Administrator, Public Guardian, and the Public Conservator.

The proposed Ordinance represents a measured strategy to optimize collaborative and centralized coordination of services to ensure conservatees have access to all necessary treatment, resources, and community support to facilitate recovery. Currently, the Office of the Public Administrator and Public Guardian and the Office of the Public Conservator is situated within the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Aging & Independence Services. Aligning the Office of the Public Conservator with HHSA, Behavioral Health Services will allow for more seamless delivery of services. As seen in other jurisdictions, oversight of the Office of the Public Conservator will shift to Behavioral Health Services to align clinical oversight and management of services in support of adults with serious mental illness. This movement follows a series of court-related mental health actions implemented over the years, and will allow Behavioral Health Services to be optimally situated in anticipation of the mandated implementation of Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court, which will require close collaboration across care teams.

Today's request requires two steps: on September 27, 2022, it is recommended the Board consider an Ordinance amending sections of the San Diego County Administrative Code related to the Public Administrator, Public Guardian, and Public Conservator. If the Board takes the actions as recommended, then on October 11, 2022, the proposed Ordinance will be brought back to the Board for consideration and adoption.

This item supports the County of San Diego's vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by supporting the administration of the Public Conservator's Office, which supports vital services in support of adults with serious mental illness.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

On September 27, 2022:

Approve the introduction of the proposed San Diego County Code amendment (first reading):
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PROVISIONS IN THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RELATING TO THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR, PUBLIC GUARDIAN, AND PUBLIC CONSERVATOR.

If, on September 27, 2022, the Board takes action as recommended, then on October 11, 2022, consider and adopt (second reading):

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PROVISIONS IN THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RELATING TO THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR, PUBLIC GUARDIAN, AND PUBLIC CONSERVATOR.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency serves residents within San Diego County who are experiencing serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance. Specifically, the Public Conservator in San Diego County ensures individuals who are gravely disabled receive appropriate food, clothing, shelter, and mental health treatment. As a steward of public health for the region, the Health and Human Services Agency must ensure that its services address the social determinants of health by being accessible, capable of meeting the needs of a diverse population, and with the intent to equitably distribute services to those most in need.

Increasing operational efficiencies in support of those facing mental health challenges will benefit the community-at-large. As seen in other jurisdictions, aligning the Office of the Public Conservator with the County Behavioral Health Services will optimize coordination of care, housing, and community supports; and enhance collaboration by aligning resources, services, and policies to ensure conservatees have access to all necessary treatment, resources, and community support to facilitate recovery.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's action aligns with the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals including providing just and equitable access; and protecting the health and wellbeing of residents in San Diego County. Specifically, this action aligns with Goal #2 and Goal #4 regarding building resilience in vulnerable populations and protecting the health and wellbeing of residents in San Diego County. By ensuring an optimized structure for collaborative and centralized coordination of services to ensure vulnerable residents have access to all necessary treatment, resources, and community support to facilitate recovery, the County of San Diego will reduce the use of resources associated with higher levels of care while ensuring operations are managed most efficiently.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Fletcher, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, to further consider and adopt the Ordinance on October 11, 2022.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter