

# THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
502 HALL OF RECORDS  
LOS ANGELES 12, CALIFORNIA

L. S. HOLLINGER CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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WARREN M. DORN

February 9, 1960

*Memo 57018  
7797*

*400.1  
162.4*

HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
County of Los Angeles  
501 Hall of Records

Gentlemen:

### CREATION OF DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

The Mental Health Advisory Board has requested that a Department of Mental Health be established to assume responsibility for the County's program under provisions of the Short-Doyle Act. This proposal also has the support of the Director of Mental Health Services, Superintendent of Charities, and the Medical Director of the Department of Charities.

When your Board appointed Dr. Roger O. Egeberg, M.D., as Local Director of Mental Health Services without compensation on March 24, 1959, it was understood that his assignment would be limited to initiating the County's mental health program under provisions of the Short-Doyle Act, and supervising the early stages of its operation. This limitation was necessarily imposed because of Dr. Egeberg's full-time responsibilities as Medical Director, Department of Charities.

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This initial phase has now been completed. A plan, program, and a budget totaling approximately \$1,000,000 and providing for mental health services in four County departments and four institutions for 1959-60 were developed and submitted to your Board and to the State for approval. Dr. Egeberg took action to implement the program by working with the various County agencies involved, as well as with the State Department of Mental Hygiene, in matters such as personnel recruitment, accounting and billing procedures, statistical reporting, and program concepts and revisions. With Dr. Egeberg's resignation, and your Board's appointment on December 29, 1959 of Dr. H. R. Brickman, M.D., as full-time director of the program, the task now becomes one of planning and carrying out, with the help of the Mental Health Advisory Board and the approval of your Board, a long-range program of mental health services for this County.

*ask L.A. Co. med. comm  
for their views*

FEB 16 1960

### MOTION

HAHN .....  
DEBS .....  
CHACE ..... Approve .....  
~~DORN~~ .....  
BONELLI .....  
*Cost 2 weeks to  
(3/1/60)*

The employment of a Director other than Dr. Egeberg, of course, alters the current relationship of the program with the Department of Charities. This factor was recognized by your Board in your action of October 5, 1959, establishing the Director and his immediate staff in the Salary Ordinance as reporting directly to your Board, with the understanding that the County's mental health program under Short-Doyle would ultimately become a separate department of County government.

Departmental status would provide better program control in terms of determining costs, evaluating results, and fixing responsibility. It would also better identify the program within the County, not only for County personnel who come in contact with it, but also for State personnel and community leaders who are concerned with it.

The functions of the new department would be consistent with those duties outlined in the enabling statute as assignable to the local administrator of mental health services. However, it is the specific concern of the County Counsel that the authority of the Director, Mental Health Services, not be in conflict with statutory or Charter authority granted to existing County officers who may provide treatment and other services in the mental health program. To this end, it is recommended that the County Counsel and the Chief Administrative Officer confer in the drafting of the necessary ordinance required to establish the new department.

Your Board, in the current fiscal year, approved the establishment of 14 positions for the mental health program. These positions consist of the Director, a secretary, an administrative assistant, an accountant, and 10 Consulting Psychiatrists, the latter positions to be used on an as needed basis as required by the program. Only the Director's position has been filled pending the development of a program and the determination of the types of positions necessary to conduct such a program. The Civil Service Commission has now reviewed the proposed duties as they relate to the program approved by the Mental Health Advisory Board and by your Board, and has concluded that the proper classifications for these positions are as follows:

- 1 Director, Mental Health Services
- 1 Intermediate Stenographic Secretary \_
- 1 Executive Assistant, Mental Health \_
- 1 Accountant
- 10 Consulting Psychiatrists, M.D., As Needed

Salaries for these positions have already been established with adoption of the 1959-60 Salary Ordinance with the exception of the Executive Assistant, Mental Health. This position is recommended for Salary Schedule 47 (\$715-789) based upon relationship with other administrative and executive positions in County

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departments and assigned duties. The 1959-60 appropriation for this program provided full salaries for the 14 positions, which have not been required since only 1 position has been filled since January 4, 1960.

Based on the recited advantages of a separate department for the Mental Health Program and with the support of the Mental Health Advisory Board,

IT IS RECOMMENDED:

That your Board instruct the County Counsel, in consultation with the Chief Administrative Officer:

1. To prepare an ordinance establishing the Department of Mental Health.
2. To prepare an amendment to the Salary Ordinance establishing the Department's positions in accordance with the classification findings of the Civil Service Commission.

Very truly yours,



L. S. HOLLINGER  
Chief Administrative Officer

LSH:LWE

ERH:ym

cc: Each Supervisor  
Director, Mental Health Services  
County Counsel  
Superintendent of Charities  
Mental Health Advisory Board  
Medical Director, Department  
of Charities