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AB-850 Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. (2017-2018)

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ENROLLED SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

PASSED IN SENATE SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

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AMENDED IN SENATE SEPTEMBER 08, 2017

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 12, 2017

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2017–2018 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 850

Introduced by Assembly Member Chau
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Cristina Garcia)

February 16, 2017

An act to amend Section 5845 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 850, Chau. Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.

Existing law, the Mental Health Services Act, an initiative measure enacted by the voters as Proposition 63 at the November 2, 2004, statewide general election, establishes the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, and requires the commission to consist of 16 voting members, including, among others, two persons with a severe mental illness and a mental health professional. The act may be amended by the Legislature by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of both houses and only so long as the amendment is consistent with and furthers the intent of the act. The Legislature may clarify procedures and terms of the act by majority vote.

This bill would require the Governor to appoint an additional member to the commission who has knowledge and experience in reducing mental health disparities, especially for racial and ethnic communities. The bill would state the finding and declaration of the Legislature that this change is consistent with and furthers the intent of the act.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 5845 of the Welfare and Institutions Code proposed by AB 1688 to be operative only if this bill and AB 1688 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

Vote: 2/3 Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 5845 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5845. (a) The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission is hereby established to oversee Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), the Adult and Older Adult Mental Health System of Care Act; Part 3.1 (commencing with Section 5820), Human Resources, Education, and Training Programs; Part 3.2 (commencing with Section 5830), Innovative Programs; Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), Prevention and Early Intervention Programs; and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850), the Children's Mental Health Services Act. The commission shall replace the advisory committee established pursuant to Section 5814. The commission shall consist of 17 voting members as follows:

(1) The Attorney General or his or her designee.

(2) The Superintendent of Public Instruction or his or her designee.

(3) The Chairperson of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee or another member of the Senate selected by the President pro Tempore of the Senate.

(4) The Chairperson of the Assembly Health Committee or another member of the Assembly selected by the Speaker of the Assembly.

(5) Two persons with a severe mental illness, a family member of an adult or senior with a severe mental illness, a family member of a child who has or has had a severe mental illness, a physician specializing in alcohol and drug treatment, a mental health professional, a county sheriff, a superintendent of a school district, a representative of a labor organization, a representative of an employer with less than 500 employees and a representative of an employer with more than 500 employees, a person with knowledge and experience in reducing mental health disparities, especially for racial and ethnic communities, and a representative of a health care services plan or insurer, all appointed by the Governor. In making appointments, the Governor shall seek individuals who have had personal or family experience with mental illness. At least one of the persons appointed pursuant to this paragraph shall have a background in auditing.

(b) Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(c) The term of each member shall be three years, to be staggered so that approximately one-third of the appointments expire in each year.

(d) In carrying out its duties and responsibilities, the commission may do all of the following:

(1) Meet at least once each quarter at any time and location convenient to the public as it may deem appropriate. All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public.

(2) Within the limit of funds allocated for these purposes, pursuant to the laws and regulations governing state civil service, employ staff, including any clerical, legal, and technical assistance as may appear necessary. The commission shall administer its operations separate and apart from the State Department of Health Care Services and the California Health and Human Services Agency.

(3) Establish technical advisory committees such as a committee of consumers and family members.

(4) Employ all other appropriate strategies necessary or convenient to enable it to fully and adequately perform its duties and exercise the powers expressly granted, notwithstanding any authority expressly granted to any officer or employee of state government.

(5) Enter into contracts.

(6) Obtain data and information from the State Department of Health Care Services, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, or other state or local entities that receive Mental Health Services Act funds, for the commission to utilize in its oversight, review, training and technical assistance, accountability, and evaluation capacity regarding projects and programs supported with Mental Health Services Act funds.

(7) Participate in the joint state-county decisionmaking process, as contained in Section 4061, for training, technical assistance, and regulatory resources to meet the mission and goals of the state's mental health system.

(8) Develop strategies to overcome stigma and discrimination, and accomplish all other objectives of Part 3.2 (commencing with Section 5830), 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), and the other provisions of the act establishing this commission.

(9) At any time, advise the Governor or the Legislature regarding actions the state may take to improve care and services for people with mental illness.

(10) If the commission identifies a critical issue related to the performance of a county mental health program, it may refer the issue to the State Department of Health Care Services pursuant to Section 5655.

(11) Assist in providing technical assistance to accomplish the purposes of the Mental Health Services Act, Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) in collaboration with the State Department of Health Care Services and in consultation with the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California.

(12) Work in collaboration with the State Department of Health Care Services and the California Mental Health Planning Council, and in consultation with the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, in designing a comprehensive joint plan for a coordinated evaluation of client outcomes in the community-based mental health system, including, but not limited to, parts listed in subdivision (a). The California Health and Human Services Agency shall lead this comprehensive joint plan effort.

SEC. 1.5. Section 5845 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5845. (a) The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission is hereby established to oversee Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), the Adult and Older Adult Mental Health System of Care Act; Part 3.1 (commencing with Section 5820), Human Resources, Education, and Training Programs; Part 3.2 (commencing with Section 5830), Innovative Programs; Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), Prevention and Early Intervention Programs; and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850), the Children's Mental Health Services Act. The commission shall replace the advisory committee established pursuant to Section 5814. The commission shall consist of 17 voting members as follows:

(1) The Attorney General or his or her designee.

(2) The Superintendent of Public Instruction or his or her designee.

(3) The Chairperson of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee or another member of the Senate selected by the President pro Tempore of the Senate.

(4) The Chairperson of the Assembly Health Committee or another member of the Assembly selected by the Speaker of the Assembly.

(5) Two persons with a severe mental illness, a family member of an adult or senior with a severe mental illness, a family member of a child who has or has had a severe mental illness, a physician specializing in alcohol and drug treatment, a mental health professional, a county sheriff, a superintendent of a school district, a representative of a labor organization, a representative of an employer with less than 500 employees and a representative of an employer with more than 500 employees, a person with knowledge and experience in reducing mental health disparities, especially for racial and ethnic communities, and a representative of a health care services plan or insurer, all appointed by the Governor. In making appointments, the Governor shall seek individuals who have had personal or family experience with mental illness. At least one of the persons appointed pursuant to this paragraph shall have a background in auditing.

(b) Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(c) The term of each member shall be three years, to be staggered so that approximately one-third of the appointments expire in each year.

(d) In carrying out its duties and responsibilities, the commission may do all of the following:

(1) Meet at least once each quarter at any time and location convenient to the public as it may deem appropriate. All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public.

(2) Within the limit of funds allocated for these purposes, pursuant to the laws and regulations governing state civil service, employ staff, including any clerical, legal, and technical assistance as may appear necessary. The commission shall administer its operations separate and apart from the State Department of Health Care Services and the California Health and Human Services Agency.

(3) Establish technical advisory committees such as a committee of consumers and family members.

(4) Employ all other appropriate strategies necessary or convenient to enable it to fully and adequately perform its duties and exercise the powers expressly granted, notwithstanding any authority expressly granted to any officer or employee of state government.

(5) Enter into contracts.

(6) Obtain data and information from the State Department of Health Care Services, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, or other state or local entities that receive Mental Health Services Act funds, for the commission to utilize in its oversight, review, training and technical assistance, accountability, and evaluation capacity regarding projects and programs supported with Mental Health Services Act funds.

(7) Participate in the joint state-county decisionmaking process, as contained in Section 4061, for training, technical assistance, and regulatory resources to meet the mission and goals of the state's mental health system.

(8) Develop strategies to overcome stigma and discrimination, and accomplish all other objectives of Part 3.2 (commencing with Section 5830), 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), and the other provisions of the act establishing this commission.

(9) At any time, advise the Governor or the Legislature regarding actions the state may take to improve care and services for people with mental illness.

(10) If the commission identifies a critical issue related to the performance of a county mental health program, it may refer the issue to the State Department of Health Care Services pursuant to Section 5655.

(11) Assist in providing technical assistance to accomplish the purposes of the Mental Health Services Act, Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) in collaboration with the State Department of Health Care Services and in consultation with the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California.

(12) Work in collaboration with the State Department of Health Care Services and the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, and in consultation with the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, in designing a comprehensive joint plan for a coordinated evaluation of client outcomes in the community-based mental health system, including, but not limited to, parts listed in subdivision (a). The California Health and Human Services Agency shall lead this comprehensive joint plan effort.

SEC. 2. Section 1.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 5845 of the Welfare and Institutions Code proposed by both this bill and Assembly Bill 1688. That section shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2018, (2) each bill amends Section 5845 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after Assembly Bill 1688, in which case Section 1 of this bill shall not become operative.

SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that this act is consistent with and furthers the intent of the Mental Health Services Act within the meaning of Section 18 of the Mental Health Services Act.