

County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

(831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

JANET K. BEAUTZ
FIRST DISTRICT

WALTER J. SYMONS
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 8/3/99

July 20, 1999

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

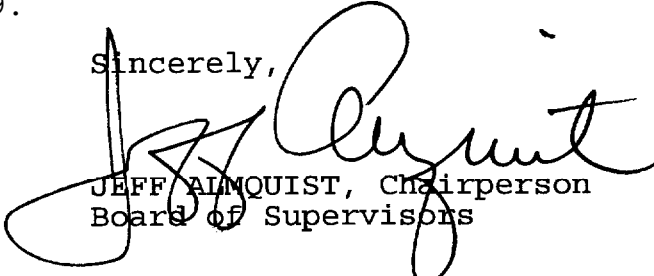
RE: QUORUM RULE RELATED TO THE
ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is a letter from Michael Merrithew, Chairperson of the County's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, requesting that the Board take action to revise the requirements for a quorum of the Commission. As Board members are aware, this Commission has experienced a number of vacancies at any given time, and I believe that it would be appropriate for the Board to make the quorum change requested by the Commission.

Accordingly, I recommend that the Board direct County Counsel to prepare an amendment to Section 2.84.050 of the County Code to reflect that the quorum for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission will be one person more than one-half of the appointed members, and bring the ordinance revision to the Board for consideration on or before August 24, 1999.

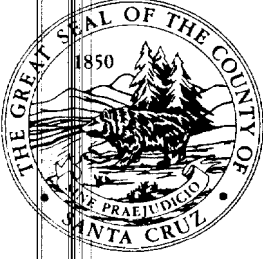
Sincerely,


JEFF ALMQUIST, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

JA:ted
Attachment

cc: County Counsel
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission

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County of Santa Cruz ²²²

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1060 EMELINE AVENUE SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962
(831) 454-4050 FAX: (831) 454-4747 TDD: (831) 454-4748

ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICES DIVISION

July 12, 1999

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission Quorum Rule

Dear Members of the Board:

This letter is to request your Board to direct County Counsel to prepare an amendment to the County ordinance governing the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission to revise the quorum rule for the Commission, and to approve a waiver to the County ordinance governing boards and commissions to permit the revision.

Background

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission currently has 15 seats, and each Board member appoints 3 commissioners. According to Section 2.84.050.C(2) of the County Code governing the Commission, "A quorum shall be a majority of the voting members of the commission, which shall be eight members."

The Commission currently has 10 members, and over the past 12 months has never had more than 11 seats filled. The Commission has been unable to achieve a quorum for 6 of the past 12 months. Although attendance is typically quite high, the low number of appointments results in the lack of a quorum when even one or two Commissioners are not present.

Proposed ~~Quorum~~ Rule Revision

The Commission maintains its ongoing commitment to addressing the important and unique issues of alcohol and drug abuse in the County. Addressing these issues is vital to improving and protecting the health and safety of all County residents, and no other board or commission has this as its primary mission. Because of the importance of its work, the Commission does not wish to reduce the number of seats, and urges your Board to continue to appoint new Commissioners.

To assist the Commission in fulfilling its role, the Commission requests that your Board direct County Counsel to prepare an amendment to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission ordinance

that changes the quorum from a majority of seats to a majority of appointed members. Had this revision been in effect over the past 12 months, the Commission would have had a quorum each month despite the relatively low number of seats filled. Such a quorum rule is in effect for the Local Mental Health Board and the Medical Managed Care Commission, and has been effective in helping these boards consistently achieve a quorum.

The County Code allows for exceptions to the standard quorum rule, provided that your Board approves a waiver. Consequently, your Board's approval of such a waiver is requested.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Approve a waiver to the County Code related to quorum rules for boards and commissions; and
2. Direct County Counsel to prepare and return for approval of a revision to the County Code to change the definition of a quorum for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission from a majority of seats to a majority of appointed members.

Sincerely,



Michael Merrithew, Chairperson
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission

cc: County Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Auditor Controller
HSA Administration
Alcohol and Drug Program Administrator