



Mental Health Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR  
September 13, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Mental Health Commission  
 Submitted by: Dr. Margaret Fine, Mental Health Commission Chair  
 Subject: Appointment of Judy Appel to Mental Health Commission for the City of Berkeley

### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution appointing Judy Appel as a representative of the Special Public Interest Category (family member), to complete her first 3- year term beginning September 14, 2022 and ending September 13, 2025.

### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Mental Health Commission is authorized to be composed of thirteen members. However, there are presently five vacancies on the Commission. The Mental Health Commission is actively seeking candidates with the ability to fulfill the state law duties for Commissioners, including reviewing and evaluating the community's needs, services, facilities and special problems. Approval of the recommended action will fill one vacancy and allow the Commission to move one step closer to having a full and diverse complement of commissioners.

### BACKGROUND

California State law requires that appointments to the Mental Health Commission meet specific categories, who may serve up to nine years consecutively. The general public interest category may include anyone who has an interest in and some knowledge of mental health services. The special public interest category includes direct consumers of public mental health services and family members of consumers, which together must constitute at least fifty percent or nine of the commission seats. Direct consumers and family members shall each constitute at least 20% of the commission membership.

The Mental Health Commission nominated Judy Appel as a special public interest consumer applicant for appointment to the Mental Health Commission for the City of Berkeley for a three-year term. She grew up with a sister who was close in age and who

had severe psychiatric disabilities. She was in mental health programs and hospitals much of her life, so Judy has that personal experience which in many ways that informs her professional experience. Her sister died several years ago.

Judy Appel is a long-time Berkeley resident with a deep commitment to supporting Berkeleyans living with mental health and substance use issues and disabilities. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Ashby Village and is a non-profit organizational development consultant. She is committed to addressing diversion for people calling 911 who need emergency mental health and substance use services in the community and moreover, avoiding involvement in the criminal legal system and incarceration. She has worked with very diverse populations of people impacted by mental health and substance use challenges, including for people experiencing homelessness.

In addition, Judy is a strong supporter of mental health and substance use services for young people in need. She was elected to the School Board for Berkeley Unified School District in 2012 and 2016 and served two times as President. She provided policy direction for educational instruction with a focus on closing the opportunity gap for students of color and low-income students. The School Board oversees a budget of \$160M from local, state, and federal sources and directs budgeting and fiscal oversight. She has lead School Board efforts to implement restorative justice, social-emotional learning, and trauma-informed practices at multiple school sites.

Further Judy served as a Senior Program Officer and Director of Special Projects for the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation. She managed a broad range of education portfolios and grantees focused on social justice projects, equity, and inclusion. She also leveraged an extensive network to secure involvement from community leaders and influencers on foundation initiatives, including a broad range of local, national, and global grantees.

The Mental Health Commission passed the following motions at the June 23, 2022 meeting:

M/S/C (Fine, Prichett) Motion to nominate Judy Appel to the Mental Health Commission  
Ayes: Fine, Jones, Opton, Pritchett Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Escarcega; Taplin

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the recommended action will allow the Mental Health Commission to move one step closer to having a full and diverse complement of commissioners to review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position.

CONTACT PERSON

Jamie Works-Wright, Commission Secretary, HHCS, 510-981-7721

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

APPOINTMENT OF JUDY APPEL TO THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

WHEREAS, membership of the Mental Health Commission is composed of thirteen appointments by the City Council as a whole, including one appointment by the Mayor (*or designee*), six special public interest appointments, and four general public interest appointments; and

WHEREAS, with the ongoing implementation of the Mental Health Services Act, the City of Berkeley will need to have a full complement of diverse appointees to the Commission to review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, resources, and programs and to fulfill its mandate; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Judy Appel has an investment in the mental health community and has family lived experience,

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Commission at its June 23, 2022 meeting recommended appointments of Judy Appel.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council appoint Judy Appel as a representative of the Special Public Interest family member category, to complete her first term ending September 13, 2025.