

AB 1185: Community Outreach Working Group Meeting #11 - Marin County, CA

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 – 5:30 p.m. PST

Present: Jamillah Jordan (Marin County); Gary Besser (Marin County); Cameron McElhiney (NACOLE); Curtis Aikens; Stephen Bingham; Jacqueline Dagg; Tara Evans; Matthew Hymel (County Administrator); Steve Knudsen; Cesar Lagleva; Heidi Merchen; Jeremy Portje; Stephen Raab (County Counsel's Office); Ashley Raveche; Brian Washington (County Counsel); Nancy Weber.

Absent: Devera Boyd, Charles Dresow, Rondall Leggett, Christine Soto DeBerry

Preliminary Response to Draft Document by the Marin County Counsel and Administrator:

Matthew Hymel thanked the group for their efforts and offered the following questions/comments:

- He suggested there be some sensitivity to wording as to how nominations should be made – list the BoS as the appointing authority first, followed by the makeup of the commission.
- Regarding law enforcement on the board: Ashley noted that it is about a finding of misconduct in their former position as law enforcement, not as a commissioner.
- Stipends – the county has developed a policy regarding stipends, but it stems from someone self-identifying a particular level of income and this would need to be comparable with other county boards.
- There needs to be some clarification regarding the duties of the CAO in regard to hiring and evaluation process for the IG.
- Will there be two complaint processes, one where the sheriff has a complaint process and one with the IG's office? It was explained that the IG would be notified of all complaints so that they can be aware of them. Stephen B. noted the Sheriff would be doing the investigation so there would not be parallel investigations. Ashley asked if additional language needed to be added and Mr. Hymel stated that perhaps a note needed to be added indicating the process would be developed by the commission subsequent to adoption and show how it will be included with the existing complaint process.
- In regard to hiring, an employee would be part of the merit system or would be an at-will employee. The IG would be in one of these two positions, so the notes on hiring and firing need to be consistent with the county's civil service/merit based system rules.
- Mr. Hymel noted that he would like to have additional options beyond his document.

Brian Washington offered the following comments:

- The document should indicate that the commission should establish bylaws and rules of conduct that the County Commission should approve.
- As a statutory purist, it appears that more than oversight is being suggested in regard to working with the MCSO.
- It may be better to indicate that an outside counsel may be contracted based on the recommendation of the COC to the IG.

- Echoed the “civil service” vs. “at will” comment made by Mr. Hymel.

A short discussion ensued regarding funding and the next dates for meetings. The group indicated they would like to transition from a working group to an implementation group and some discussion was held regarding what that may look like, particularly if there are people who may apply to be part of the Commission.

Ashley asked how much time would be given to the community to weigh in on the recommendations and requested that time be devoted to allow the community to provide feedback.

Drafting Committee Update:

Cameron asked if anyone had questions regarding the changes that were sent around and highlighted in gray in the most recent version. Cameron noted that once the final document was approved by the working group, it would be put up on the website for community review. After a question from Ashley, Cameron noted that links from the NACOLE website could be shared on the AB1185 website. Jamillah said she thought that was a good idea, and Gary asked that he be copied so that information could be shared on the County intranet.

Timeline Updates:

Upcoming meetings (all at 5:30 p.m.):

March 28 (Final Review of Draft Options)

Options submitted to the BoS Subcommittee – TBD

Presented to the full BoS, TBD at beginning of 2nd quarter

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.