

**From:** [Terence E Patterson](#)  
**To:** [commissionstreamlining](#)  
**Subject:** SF Mental Health Board  
**Date:** Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:08:58 AM  
**Attachments:** [0F5C175F-2EE2-49D1-A37F-F784A6DA5153.jpeg](#)

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I served on the SF Mental Health Board from 2010-16. During that time I looked forward to being part of a team to help shape policies for those needing services in the City.

Time after time, I found that it was merely a showcase for individuals to testify and advocate for change, such as strengthening Laura's Law, integrating mental health and addiction services, and other needed efforts, and I recruited a leading Western Addition advocate to become a member. We ended up either being stymied by advocates who did not want the severely mentally ill or those with addictions to be compelled to be treated in any way, or we would issue a "Resolution" to the Board of Supervisors. Those ended up with a tepid response two meetings later (due to advance notice requirements) from a supervisor's aide who would "take it under consideration".

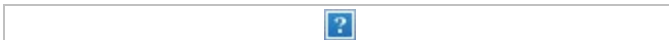
Ultimately very little of substance happened as a result of those meetings, and my colleague and I resigned.

I urge the Commission to examine the function of the SF Mental Health Board and similar advisory boards and either to provide them with a function that will provide real benefit to San Franciscans or to eliminate them.

Sincerely,

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