



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION



Salud Mental y  
Tratamiento del Uso  
de Sustancias

**MINUTES – Approved  
February 20, 2025**

### MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

JANUARY 16, 2025, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

1400 EMELINE, CONFERENCE ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

MICROSOFT TEAMS (831) 454-2222, CONFERENCE ID 468 109 433#

**Present:** Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Kaelin Wagnermarsh, Michael Neidig, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez  
**Absent:** Antonio Rivas, Jennifer Wells Kaupp  
**Excused:** Valerie Webb  
**Staff:** Karen Kern, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

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- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:05p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
  - II. Public Comments – 1 person addressed the MHAB in the conference room.  
No public comments via Microsoft Teams.
  - III. Board Member Announcements
    - Board needs to approve MHSA Annual Plan Update.
    - Xaloc will participate in the hiring process for the Director of Behavioral Health.
  - IV. Approve November 21, 2024 Minutes  
Motion/Second: Supervisor Felipe Hernandez / Dean Kashino  
Ayes: Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Kaelin Wagnermarsh, Mike Neidig, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Motion passed.
  - V. Reports
    - A. Secretary's Report
      - No attendance issues.
      - All board members are up to date on the Ethics training.
      - Reminder to all board members to forward completed training information.
    - B. Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate  
November and December reports were provided. George attended the meeting.  
George reported:

- Light quarter reflected in the reports.
- Food issue at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue –complaints of no variety, nutritional value, content of food. George is in the process of communicating with dietician on how to improve the food. George stated his concern that the Residence Counsel, who is a group of clients that discuss and make recommendations to staff, is not working.

C. Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Felipe Hernandez

Supervisor Hernandez reported that Kimberly De Serpa has been appointed to the MHAB effective February.

D. Behavioral Health Director’s Report – Tiffany Cantrell-Warren

- Tiffany announced she is leaving the county at the end of January. Karen Kern, Deputy BH Director, will be the interim BH Director.

Approval of the MHSA 2024-2025 Annual Plan Update: Karen Kern, BH Deputy Director

- Public Comments are incorporated in the update, in addition to all the results from the survey and the data available from the various programs that is funded by MHSA.
- Four changes that were made based on the feedback that was received:
  1. Services for people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity– changed the plan to include the development of a new full-service partnership team, the Integrated Housing and Recovery Team (IHART), to address the unique needs of people experiencing homelessness along with serious mental illness. In addition, a housing strategy to house 100 people enrolled in specialty mental health services will be launched by June 2026.
  2. Crisis services for youth - mobile crisis response for youth is 24/7/365 effective December 5<sup>th</sup>. There are staff dedicated specifically for youth who will be able to respond anywhere in the community to provide crisis response, de-escalation, safety, planning. In addition, the youth crisis stabilization unit will be opening this summer on Soquel next to the Sheriff’s Office.
  3. Early intervention services – working with Community Connection to expand services for Transition Age Youth in early psychosis and identification of early indicators of mental illness in addition to increasing group services and individual services.
  4. Crisis services for adults – expanded the mobile crisis services for adults and expanded crisis residential services at El Dorado Center. El Dorado Center was previously just a social rehab program, 16 beds for social rehab level residential for mental health. They now have a dual license to be both crisis residential and social rehab, therefore have a step-down potential in the same facility.

Approve the MHSA 2024-2025 Annual Plan Update.

Motion/Second: Dean Kashino / Mike Neidig

Ayes: Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Kaelin Wagnermarsh, Michael Neidig, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez

Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Motion passed.

VI. Presentation: Handle with Care – Hugh McCormick, MHAB Member

- Overview – system where if somebody in the community is having a crisis, there will be a database with their information, their triggers and how they want to be dealt with in a crisis.
- Hugh's report examines police mental health collaborations and some Handle with Care programs in other municipalities around the nation, with some programs involving schools and police interventions.
- Hugh will continue to collaborate with Deputy Chief Ainsworth and continue to keep the board updated on steps that are being taken and issues that arise.

VII. New Agenda Items

A. Reconsideration of Santa Cruz County Code 2.104

Discussion included decreasing the number of board members from 18 to 13 members; adding two Transitional Age Youth; removing specific language of board member requirement who are receiving or have received substance use disorder services as it falls under behavioral health.

Approve the Santa Cruz County Code with the changes as discussed.

Motion/Second: Jeffrey Arlt / Dean Kashino

Ayes: Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Kaelin Wagnermarsh, Mike Neidig, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion passed.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

- A. Site Visit ad hoc committee – Kaelin Wagnermarsh and Dean Kashino  
B. Peer Support Services discussion

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.