



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

MINUTES – Approved
July 20, 2023

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD RETREAT

JUNE 16, 2023 ♦ 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

1400 EMELINE AVENUE, BLDG K, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ

Microsoft Teams Meeting (831) 454-2222, Conference 420 323 347#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes
Excused: Hugh McCormick, Stephen Busath, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez
Staff: Karen Kern, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
- II. Public Comments – none.
- III. Accomplishments, Goals, Dreams–board members shared their personal accomplishments, goals, and dreams.
- IV. Review 2022 Goals and Objectives
 - Ideal Crisis System – Jeffrey reported that the format of the committee did not work as it was too burdensome, inhibiting communication between members, required scheduled public meetings. Changing the committees to ad hoc provided the smaller groups with more freedom to exchange ideas, more flexibility. Also, quantifying objectives and recommendations is essential to seeing progress.
 - 988 launch July 16th – the group contributed by getting the word out.
 - Site Visits – the Board discussed scheduled site visits vs. unannounced site visits.
 - Peer Certification Training – Hugh was absent and could not provide a report, but the Board discussed there is a need to advocate and continue support for this training.
 - CARE Court (forced treatment) – did not do a deep dive into this topic.
 - Housing – Laura reported that it is getting better. The more pressure that is put on, the more section 8 vouchers are released. Individuals on the street are dealing with mental health crisis and the best support is to provide housing first. Per Karen Kern, leveraging MHSA dollars to provide housing.
 - All law enforcement agencies have the same policy as the jail regarding management of prescriptions - The goal was to unify and ensure that when someone is released from jail, there is no waiting period to get all personal items and prescriptions. Sheriff staff joined a MHAB meeting to discuss the difficulties.
- V. Overview of Behavioral Health System of Care – Karen Kern, Director of Behavioral Health
 - The Behavioral Health mission is to work with people who are Medi-Cal beneficiaries, underserved in the areas of mental health, specialty mental health, meeting people who have severe mental illness and severely emotionally disturbed, and substance use disorder.

- BH runs two plans similar to insurance plans – 1) the mental health plan and 2) DMC-ODS which stands for Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System. All are welcome to seek services regardless of the type of insurance. If they don't have Medi-Cal and are eligible, Behavioral Health staff will help them apply for Medi-Cal. If the person is indigent, then the County will take care of it.
- The specialty mental health system is organized around Gates. For Children's Services, there are: Welfare Gate, Probation Gate, Community Gate which includes the education system.
- In Adults Services, there is Access which is where people come through Access services to do the screening and determine if they are mild to moderate or if they are in the specialty mental health area. If they are in the mild to moderate, Behavioral Health will work with the Alliance. If they meet criteria for specialty mental health services, it is their choice if they want to enroll with the County.
- For Adult Services, there are full-service partnership teams which are mostly organized by population focus: Transition Age Youth, Older Adults, Justice Involved (MOST), CREST which is community reentry (people who have been under conservatorship, they met the criteria for grave disability and became under the care of the public guardian).
- About 40% of Behavioral Health clients are experiencing homelessness. There is a full-service partnership team for people experiencing homelessness. The adults who are qualified for mental health services and experiencing homelessness need more than coordination therapy psychiatry services. They need outreach and engagement services, housing navigation services, and need street response (Healing the Streets).
- Funding for community partners comes from the Mental Health Services Act, realignment, county general fund, and various grants that are written. The following are all funded by Behavioral Health contractually within guidelines the state provides to allow Behavioral Health to pay for services: residential service at Encompass; the services at Community Connections or Front Street; MHCAN; NAMI; Advocacy, Inc.

VI. Board Member Commitments

1. Two hours of education/training per year related to behavioral health.
2. Ethics Training – complete every two years.
3. Attend regular meetings and participate in ad hoc committees.
4. Allowed two excused and two unexcused absences in a calendar year.

VII. Goals for the Upcoming Year

1. Respond to Grand Jury Report with specific recommendations and findings.
2. Be involved in Personnel activities: recruit/hire/advocate.
3. Increase crisis chairs and inpatient beds to 137.
4. Support sexual assault services (survivors) and educating children/family members, provide program information on how sexual assault/abuse and mental health are connected.
5. More Youth Representation
6. Bring housing and Mental Health closer with permanent and supportive housing.
7. Site Visits at 7th Avenue and Santa Cruz County Jail (Wellpath)
8. Wellness Summit: create a safe place for targeted groups.

VIII. Calendar of Events for the Upcoming Year

- March: ideas for May Mental Health Awareness Month
- April
 1. People/place confirmed for Mental Health Awareness Month
 2. National Minority Health Month
- May: Mental Health Awareness month event
- July: ideas for Suicide Prevention Awareness Day
- August: people/place confirmed for Suicide Prevention Day
- September 10th: Suicide Prevention Day
- October: Depression Awareness Month

- IX. Youth Voice – Vote for Youth Representation
Stella Peuse introduced herself. She just graduated from SVHS and ran the Hope Squad which is a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program. This year, she is about to be hired by the district to start the whole squad program in middle school as well.

Motion to accept Stella Peuse as the MHAB Youth Representative: Xaloc Cabanes
Second: Antonio Rivas

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes

Abstain: Celeste Gutierrez

Absent: Hugh McCormick, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Stephen Busath, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez

Motion passed.

- X. Ad Hoc Committees – to be discussed at the next meeting.

- XI. Vote to change MHAB Meeting Schedule – add regular meeting in November and remove December meeting. The Board will vote next month to change the meeting schedule.

- XII. Other Miscellaneous Items

1. Discussed Member-At-Large, Item 5 on Bylaws. Propose removing the first sentence.
2. Presentations will precede Standing Reports on the regular agenda.

- XIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.