



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING – County of Santa Cruz
MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
FEBRUARY 15, 2024 ♦ 3:00 PM-5:00 PM
UCCE AG EXTENSION AUDITORIUM
1430 FREEDOM BLVD, SUITE E, WATSONVILLE, CA 95076

Xaloc Cabanes Chair 1 st District	Valerie Webb Member 2 nd District	Michael Neidig Co-Chair 3 rd District	Antonio Rivas Member 4 th District	Jennifer Wells Kaupp Member 5 th District
Laura Chatham Member 1 st District	Dean Shoji Kashino Member 2 nd District	Hugh McCormick Member 3 rd District	Celeste Gutierrez Member 4 th District	Jeffrey Arlt Secretary 5 th District

Felipe Hernandez Board of Supervisor Member	
Tiffany Cantrell-Warren Director, County Behavioral Health	Karen Kern Deputy Director, County Behavioral Health
Stella Peuse – Youth Representative	

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN THE
 MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

The public may attend the meeting at the UCCE Ag Extension Auditorium, 1430 Freedom Blvd, Suite E, Watsonville. This location does not have the technology to allow participants to join virtually. This is an in-person meeting only.

If you are a person with a special need, or if interpreting services (English/Spanish or sign language) are needed, please call 454-4611 (Hearing Impaired TDD/TTY: 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format.

Si usted es una persona con una discapacidad o necesita servicios de interpretación (inglés/español o Lenguaje de señas), por favor llame al (831) 454-4611 (Personas con Discapacidad Auditiva TDD/TTY: 711) con 72 horas de anticipación a la junta para hacer arreglos. Personas con discapacidades pueden pedir una copia de la agenda en una forma alternativa.

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

ID	Time	3:00 Regular Business
1	15 Min	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roll Call• Public Comment (No action or discussion will be undertaken today on any item raised during Public Comment period except that Mental Health Board Members may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed. Limited to 3 minutes each)• Board Member Announcements• <i>Approval of January 18, 2024 minutes*</i>• Secretary's Report
		3:15 Standing Reports
2	15 Min	Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate for Advocacy, Inc.
3	15 Min	Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Felipe Hernandez
4	15 Min	Behavioral Health Report – Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Director County Behavioral Health
		4:00 New Agenda Items
5	45 Min	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Review draft Biennial Report and vote to submit to the Board of Supervisors*</i>• <i>Discussion and vote on supporting/opposing Proposition 1*</i>• <i>Discussion and vote on revising Bylaws to include the SUDS Commission and change name from MHAB to Behavioral Health Board*</i>
		4:45 Future Agenda Items
		5:00 Adjourn

*Italicized items with * indicate action items for board approval.*

NEXT MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING IS ON:
MARCH 21, 2024 ♦ 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
1400 EMELINE, BLDG K, ROOMS 206-207
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

MINUTES – Draft

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

JANUARY 18, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
1400 EMELINE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ
Microsoft Teams (831) 454-2222, Conference ID 859 546 544#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Stella Peuse, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez
Excused: Hugh McCormick
Staff: Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, James Russell, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

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- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:08 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
 - II. Public Comments
 - Mark Warner – friend had a stroke due to the action of SCPD towing his vehicle which caused high blood pressure, clot, then stroke. Current housing doesn't allow him to have interactions with wife, and where he is currently living does not allow help from medical people.
 - III. Board Member Announcements
 - Biennial Report – need pictures of Stella, Jenny, and Celeste. Received extension to submit the report next month.
 - The Mental Health Advisory Board will merge with the SUDS Commission in approximately three months to become the Behavioral Health Board.
 - IV. Business / Action Items
 - A. Approve November 16, 2023 Minutes
Motion/Second: Jeffrey Arlt / Celeste Gutierrez
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez
Nays: None
Absent: Hugh McCormick
Motion passed.
 - B. Approve the 2023 Data Notebook with the changes outlined in section VI.A.
Motion/Second: Dean Kashino / Antonio Rivas
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez
Nays: None
Absent: Hugh McCormick
Motion passed.

C. Proposition 1

Postpone the Proposition 1 discussion on supporting/opposing to the next meeting.

Motion/Second: Dean Kashino / Valerie Webb

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Dean Kashino, Valerie Webb

Abstain: Jennifer Wells Kaupp

Absent: Hugh McCormick

Nays: Celeste Gutierrez, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez

Motion failed.

Oppose Proposition 1

Motion/Second: Laura Chatham / Michael Neidig

Ayes: Celeste Gutierrez, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig

Abstain: Antonio Rivas, Dean Kashino, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Valerie Webb, Supervisor Hernandez

Absent: Hugh McCormick

Nays: Xaloc Cabanes

Motion failed.

D. Approve the letter recommending a large portion of the tax allocation in Santa Cruz County go to Behavioral Health Services.

Motion/Second: Dean Kashino / Jennifer Wells Kaupp

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez

Nays: None.

Absent: Hugh McCormick

Motion passed.

E. Approve the letter regarding the need for a crisis receiving center in Santa Cruz County.

Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Michael Neidig

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez

Nays: None.

Absent: Hugh McCormick

Motion passed.

V. Reports

A. Secretary's Report

- No attendance issues.
- Training – Board members have until April 1st to complete the requirement.
- Recommend looking for trainings on Prop 1. Other option is to go to the Legislatures Analysts office and look at the information they have on Prop 1.

B. Patients' Rights Report – Davi Schill, Patients' Rights Advocate

The December report was provided, and Davi was present at the meeting. Davi reported that they didn't get any complaints or abuses in December.

C. Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Felipe Hernandez

- There was a transition of leadership at the BOS: Justin Cummings is Board Chair and Felipe is Vice-Chair.
- Toured the old Bay Federal building by the Sheriff's Headquarters and everything is on time for the Behavioral Health building for the youth.
- Veterans Hall Building – at some point, it will be leased to the city. There is a collaboration with Community Health Trust, who has been awarded a grant to do a Wellness Center for youth.

- D. Behavioral Health Report: Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Director of County Behavioral Health
- 5300 Soquel Avenue site for the Childrens Crisis Residential Program and Childrens Crisis Stabilization program is moving forward. There will be action at the board meeting on the 30th, directing the Community Development Infrastructure Department to release bids to make a notice to contractors in early February, open bids on March 6th, and then return to the board on or before June 4th to enter into a contract with a group that would begin construction on the facility.
 - Update on the Watsonville interim diversion project for youth experiencing a crisis: The crisis stabilization program operated by Telecare is not accepting youth in that facility, so youth are being directed to Emergency Departments (ED). BH is implementing a preferred ED for youth. It is going to have some specific staffing of behavioral health clinicians who work with youth in crisis, which is set to open in early February at Watsonville Community Hospital. They are in contract negotiations with Pacific Clinic, who is currently an outpatient contract provider for children's services. Staff will include the full ED medical staff, one licensed BH clinician on site for 12 hours, 8am-8pm and one BH support staff who is not licensed but is trained and knowledgeable. There will be two staff for 12 hours, 7 days per week.
 - BH is working on increasing their ability to provide direct services that are billable through the Medi-Cal system because that is one of their primary sources of revenue to cover the expenses of running the specialty mental health plan and the drug Medi-Cal plan. There have been huge payment reform changes which are difficult and not good. The budget situation is bad, and contractors are hurting. It is a difficult change, but they are trying to provide a lot of support by having learning communities that will start up next week for contractors to try to elevate best practices.

Mobile Crisis Response Update – James Russell, Director of Access and Community Crisis Continuum Services

- Moving ahead with the Crisis Grant Innovation Project. Family Services Agency is the first contract provider and is in the process of hiring staff. They have a program supervisor who will start on Monday in addition to hiring other positions. They expect to do onboarding for those positions and then do an onboarding with the MERT team as BH continues to tweak how MERT responds to things. They are working through all their policies and procedures to make them more in line with national standards and with the standards around meeting people where the crisis is at, when the crisis is occurring and not dictating.
- There are some State mandates that have criteria which include the use of a dispatch tool, which will be incorporated into the electronic health record. Family Services Agency will get into that electronic health record, utilizing those tools which have safety factors.
- By April, there will be two teams in the afternoon, one in Watsonville and one in Santa Cruz which will supplement the current MERT team services. BH will handle the daytime initially and then the contract agency will handle the afternoon with an on-call from BH licensed staff. Also, there will be one team in the contract agency that will do the overnight portion, which would meet 24/7.
- The State mandate for response time is 1 hour within the city and 2 hours to a rural setting. County BH goal is 15 minutes within the city.
- There are three years of solid funding, which means BH has two years to get this up and running, to demonstrate it works and meets the needs of the community.
- BH will be attending town halls, minimum of two town halls per month for the 3-year period.
- BH will continue to have ongoing monthly meetings where local law enforcement, Emergency Department and Telecare gather to network together to figure out what is working, what is not working for that part of the crisis continuum.

VI. New Agenda Items

A. Reviewed and discussed Data Notebook. Changes to draft include:

- 1) Page 13 – remove I.
- 2) Page 10 - #1: add Santa Cruz
- 3) Page 30 - #29 add Administrative Aide, #30 add staff liaison name, #31 add Chair's name.

- B. Proposition 1
The board members agreed to add Proposition 1 to next month's meeting agenda.
- C. Reviewed and discussed the draft letter recommending a large portion of the tax allocation in Santa Cruz County go to Behavioral Health Services.
See section IV.D for voting results.
- D. Reviewed and discussed the draft letter regarding the need for a crisis receiving center in Santa Cruz County. See section IV.E for voting results.
- E. Possible MHAB Meeting Locations
 - Contracted agencies
 - Scotts Valley
 - San Lorenzo Valley
 - Consider the technology and parking at the various locations.
 - Goal is to have 4 in Watsonville and 4 in Santa Cruz

VII. Future Agenda Items

- A. Discussion on supporting/opposing Proposition 1

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Summary

This is a January 2024 Patients' Rights Advocate Report from the Patients' Rights Advocacy program. It includes the following: telephone calls, reports, and emails. It includes a breakdown of the number of certified clients, the number of hearings, and the number of contested hearings. It also includes a breakdown of Reise Hearing activity, including the number of Riese Hearings filed, the number of Riese conducted, and the number that were lost.

Patients' Rights Advocate Report

January 2024

Telecare

On January 2,2024, this writer received a call from a client detained under LPS 5250 and in the process of discharge from the facility. The client disagreed with the discharge plan and wished to return to her home. This writer encouraged to advocate for this plan. This also obtained permission to speak with the Social Worker and did so, explaining the client's reasons for wanting to return home immediately.

On January 4, 2024, this writer received a call from a client detained under LPS 5250. The client asked thoughtful questions about how to contact the licensing oversight for Telecare and asked questions about conservatorship, specifically the nature of coneveratorship, the powers granted to the conservator and limitations imposed on the conservatee. I advised my client about the right to contest the conservatorship as well.

On January 23, 2024, this writer* received a call from a client detained under LPS 5250. The client reported that the staff had not been helpful in obtaining the client's personal property and access to funds. This writer* obtained permission to speak with both Telecare staff as well as the county coordinator. Through these people's assistance, the client obtained his personal possessions and access to his funds.

*Ms. Davi Schill

Telecare (Crisis Stabilization Unit)

On January 29, 2024, this writer received a call from a client detained under LPS 5150. The client reported that she had been initially denied prescribed pain medication and that a staff person had been extremely disrespectful when she finally administered the medication. This writer received permission to speak with staff and relayed the information as reported to me by the client. Staff informed this writer that an investigation will be conducted. This writer inquired whether the findings would be reported to the client. The facility did not respond to the inquiry. This issue has not been resolved and is ongoing

Front Street

On January 30, 2024, this writer* responded to a report of resident-to-resident abuse. This writer spoke with Front Street staff. They were aware of the situation between the roommates and were working on a plan to solve the ongoing problem. This writer* reviewed the plan and reported back to the resident and left business card for any additional follow up

*Ms. Davi Schill

Willow Brook

On January 17, 2023, this writer* received notification from a social worker at the Watsonville Community Hospital that a client ready for discharge was not permitted to return to the facility. This writer* advocated for the client to return to the facility and that the facility follow proper procedures if the resident is to be evicted. The resident returned to the facility.

*Ms. Davi Schill

ADVOCACY INC.
TELECARE CLIENT CERTIFICATION AND
REISE HEARING/PATIENTS' RIGHTS

January 2024
Third Quarter

1. TOTAL NUMBER CERTIFIED	27
2. TOTAL NUMBER OF HEARINGS	26
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTESTED HEARINGS	17
4. NO CONTEST PROBABLE CAUSE	8*
5. CONTESTED NO PROBABLE CAUSE	1
6. VOLUNTARY BEFORE CERTIFICATION HEARING	
7. DISCHARGED BEFORE HEARING	1
8. WRITS	0
9. CONTESTED PROBABLE CAUSE	17
10. NON-REGULARLY SCHEDULED HEARINGS	0

*One hearing uncontested but released due to facility error

Ombudsman Program & Patient Advocate Program shared 0 clients in this month

(shared = skilled nursing resident (dementia) sent to behavioral health unit or mental health client placed in skilled at Telecare (Santa Cruz Psychiatric Health Facility))

Reise Hearings. /Capacity Hearings

Total number of Reise petitions filed by the Telecare treating psychiatrist: 3

Total number of Reise Hearings conducted: 3

Total number of Reise Hearings lost: 3

Total number of Reise Hearings won: 0

Total number of Reise Hearings withdrawn: 0

Hours spent on cancelled Reise hearings: 0

Hours spent on all Reise hearings: 2.5

Reise appeal: 0

Respectfully submitted: Davi Schill PRA, George Carvalho PRA

12-FEB-2024

Mental Health Advisory Board of Santa Cruz County **DRAFT**

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Phone: (831) 454-220

Re: Letter of Recommendation to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to support Proposition 1 as it authorizes \$6.4 billion in bonds and directs billions more annually to move people permanently off the streets into housing and treatment.

To Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors,

The Mental Health Advisory Board of Santa Cruz County strongly recommends that the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors support Proposition 1 as it authorizes \$6.4 billion in bonds and directs billions more annually to move people permanently off the streets into housing and treatment.

Proposition 1 will create supportive housing settings where people in Santa Cruz with the severest mental health needs can live, recover, stabilize and thrive. Prop. 1 will provide \$1 billion to serve veterans experiencing homelessness, mental health and substance abuse issues.

Again, the Mental Health Advisory Board of Santa Cruz County strongly recommends that the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors support Proposition 1 as it authorizes \$6.4 billion in bonds and directs billions more annually to move people permanently off the streets into housing and treatment.

Please do not hesitate to contact Xaloc Cabanes, chair of MHAB, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mental Health Advisory Board of Santa Cruz County

12-FEB-2024

Mental Health Advisory Board of Santa Cruz County **DRAFT**

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Phone: (831) 454-220

Re: Letter of Recommendation to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to oppose Proposition 1 as it reduces funding for existing behavioral health services and crisis response and

To Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors,

The Mental Health Advisory Board of Santa Cruz County strongly recommends that the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors oppose Proposition 1 as it reduces funding for existing behavioral health services and crisis response.

Proposition 1 diverts one-third of existing funding from the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding, allows many kinds of services to compete with mental healthcare for the remaining money, and puts the state in charge of local behavioral health programs and decisions.

The results will be devastating at the local level. Current MHSA programs are a lifeline for underserved communities and people without insurance. Many of these services will be cut due to Prop 1..

Again, the Mental Health Advisory Board of Santa Cruz County strongly recommends that the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors oppose Proposition 1 as it reduces funding for existing behavioral health services and crisis response.

Please do not hesitate to contact Xaloc Cabanes, chair of MHAB, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mental Health Advisory Board of Santa Cruz County

Letter Regarding Prop 1 -For approval/ debate at the MHAB meeting Feb 15, 2023?

To the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors.

Proposition 1 is on the California State Ballot on March 5th 2024. It will substantially change the funding structure for Mental Health support given by the State of California. Passage of Prop 1 would reappropriation funds from the Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63 passed in 2004?) taking funds that already are insufficient to fully fund all the great programs that are already up and running. This would mean big cutbacks to many programs that work to help people but already have long wait lists for people- some of whom are in desperate need.

The passage of Prop 1 would constitute the biggest change in the structure of Mental Health funding in California in 20+ years. It will further overburden our already overburdened County Behavioral Health Department. The system would be restructured to become the Behavioral Health Services Act.

If Prop 1 passes, about one third of current funding from the Mental Health Services Act would be redirected away from services that may be enjoyed by any person in California to housing Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) Unhoused people. That is expected to be about one third of the Unhoused people. If it is completely successful, Prop 1 would not solve our Housing Problem. It would only house about one third of the currently unhoused people in California. This is a problem that is still growing as the economy worsens for low wealth and poor people.

While we do support the effort to help unhoused people who suffer from SMI, we believe the funds should come from other sources rather than from cutting good programs that are up and running and helping many people. Currently you do NOT have to be unhoused to qualify for many of these programs.

Our Behavioral Health Department is already Underfunded (See Grand Jury Report June 2023- add link?). We believe there are better solutions to the problems of funding Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders than those offered by Prop 1. We respectfully request that our legislators in Sacramento find a different source of funding- and especially a realistic and humane solution to our problem of unhoused people that suffer from SMI and Substance Use Disorder (SUD).

Sincerely,

MHAB