



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING – County of Santa Cruz
MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

MAY 18, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

1430 FREEDOM BLVD, SUITE A, ATRIUM, WATSONVILLE, CA 95076

THE PUBLIC MAY JOIN THE MEETING BY CALLING (831) 454-2222, CONFERENCE ID 643 359 355#

Xaloc Cabanes Chair 1 st District	Valerie Webb Member 2 nd District	Michael Neidig Member 3 rd District	Antonio Rivas Member 4 th District	Jennifer Wells Kaupp Member 5 th District
Laura Chatham Member 1 st District	Stephen T. Busath 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 Behavioral Health Director	Karen Kern Behavioral Health Deputy Director

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

The public may attend the meeting at the Health Services Agency, 1400 Emeline Avenue, Room 207, Santa Cruz. Individuals interested in joining virtually may [Click here to join the meeting](#) or may participate by telephone by calling (831) 454-2222, Conference ID 643 359 355#. All participants are muted upon entry to prevent echoing and minimize any unintended disruption of background sounds. This meeting will be recorded and posted on the Mental Health Advisory Board website.

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

3:00 Regular Business	
I.	Roll Call
II.	Public Comment (No action or discussion will be undertaken <i>today</i> on any item raised during this Public Comment period except that Mental Health Board Members may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed. Limited to 3 minutes each)
III.	Board Member Announcements
IV.	<i>Approval of March 16, 2023 minutes and April 20, 2023 minutes*</i>
V.	Secretary’s Report
3:15 Standing Reports	
I.	Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Felipe Hernandez
II.	Behavioral Health Report – James Russell, Director of ACCESS and Crisis Services
III.	Ad Hoc Committees
	A. Budget
	B. Peer Support Certification
	C. 9-8-8
	D. Ideal Crisis System
	E. Community / Publicity
IV.	Patients’ Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients’ Rights Advocate for Advocacy, Inc.
4:00 Presentation: Building Hope and Safety Santa Cruz Grant and Suicide Prevention Activities Carly Memoli, Program Director, Applied Crisis Training and Consulting, Inc.	
4:40 New Agenda Items	
I.	<i>Vote Member-At-Large: Marina Archer*</i>
II.	<i>Discussion and vote on letter regarding Sweeps, camping and parking bans and clearing of the San Lorenzo Park Benchlands*</i>
4:50 Future Agenda Items	
5:00 Adjourn	

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

**NEXT REGULAR MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING IS ON:
JUNE 15, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
1400 EMELINE, BLDG K, ROOMS 206-207
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060**

MINUTES – Draft

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MARCH 16, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

1400 EMELINE AVE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ

Microsoft Teams Meeting (831) 454-2222, Conference 311 318 08#

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

- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
- II. Public Comments
 - Nicholas Whitehead – article in Growing Up in Santa Cruz stated that there is a 50% increase in attempted suicide in girls ages 12-17.
 - Perry from Up 2 Peace – provided update regarding the event on August 4th at 2pm on Cooper Street. They are moving forward and getting contacts.
- III. Board Member Announcements
 - April 26th, 7pm at Resource Center for Nonviolence – several leaders in our community will be speaking about a world without violence including Chris Murphy, President of Santa Cruz Warriors, Faris Sabbah, Superintendent of Schools for Santa Cruz County, Brandon Kahl, Martial arts instructor and Human Rights Advocate, and Deutron Kebebew, Founder and President of MENtors.
 - The MHAB currently meets monthly except for the month of November. The board is considering to change the schedule with no meeting in December instead of November.
- IV. Business / Action Items
 - A. Approve February 16, 2023 Minutes.
Motion/Second: Serg Kagno / Jeffrey Arlt
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes
Absent: Hugh McCormick, Stephen Busath, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez
Motion passed.
 - B. Change the Community / Publicity Committee from standing to ad hoc committee.
Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Jennifer Wells Kaupp
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes
Absent: Hugh McCormick, Stephen Busath, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez
Motion passed.
 - C. Motion to accept letter regarding the Shelter and forward to Board of Supervisors.
Motion/Second: Serg Kagno / Laura Chatham
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes
Absent: Hugh McCormick, Stephen Busath, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez
Motion passed.

- V. Presentation – Dr. Robert Ratner, Director of the Housing for Health Division
Dr. Ratner stated there is a funding opportunity that was recently released by the State of CA called the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program. Santa Cruz County is set to receive up to just under \$10.2 million. Applications to secure this funding are due April 28th and the intention behind this program is to create bridge housing, which means temporary housing programs for people who are experiencing homelessness in our community, who are struggling with serious mental health or substance use disorders or both. The term bridge housing refers to housing that has services to help people get off of the streets in an unsafe situation, into a safe, welcoming environment with supports that are intended to help people move into more permanent housing long term. The money must be used as follows:
- 25% of the funding for infrastructure
 - 75% of the funds for helping to operate the program and for services.
- People who are referred to Care Court get priority for any bridge housing program slots that get created.
- MHAB will write a letter of support.
- VI. Mental Health Services Act 3-Year Plan Fiscal Years 23/24 – 26/27
Karen Kern, Adult Services Director
- The purpose of the three-year plan is to identify persistent mental health service gaps and develop strategies to address them over the next three fiscal years based on community needs assessment and stakeholder input. Karen stated they are wrapping up their community planning process, which included several focus groups and stakeholder meetings. They are collecting all the data and the plan is being prepared in draft form, which means that all individuals will have the opportunity to read through the plan and provide feedback. The draft plan will be posted on the MHSA website and feedback can be provided via email, telephone, or completion of the online form on the website. Public comment will open on Monday, March 20th and close at the next Mental Health Advisory Board meeting on April 20th.
 - Reminder to all that the Mental Health Services Act funding through Prop 63 runs services in a few different buckets: 1) community services and support which funds some services through children’s community gate, probation gate, child welfare gate, education gate and family partnerships. It also funds some crisis response, consumer peers, family support services, and some other community support services which include the family partnership at Volunteer Center, Community Connections, as well as MHCAN Peer Drop-in Center, Mariposa Center in Watsonville, and Second Story; 2) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funding which looks at suicide prevention, stigma and discrimination reduction and outreach for increasing signs of mental illness. It funds the Veterans Advocate Agency, County Office of Education, Senior Council, Triple P at First Five, as well as the Wellness Connect program for transitioning to youth, and suicide prevention efforts through Family Services Agency, and senior outreach for Family Services Agency, and NAMI and MHCAN for stigma and discrimination reduction.
- VII. Reports
- A. Secretary’s Report
- Training that was completed last year does not count for 2023.
 - No issues with attendance.
 - No update on available training.
- B. Behavioral Health Report, Karen Kern, Adult Services Director
- 1) Introduction of James Russell, Senior Behavioral Health Manager for Access and Community Crisis Continuum. James started his new role on March 6th and is in both North and South County offices. James has had a variety of employment experiences which led him into the behavioral health field specializing in crisis intervention, including substance use counseling, street outreach with the downtown outreach workers, forensic behavioral health and mobile crisis response. He completed a brief

internship with Children's Behavioral Health, was a case coordinator on the MOST team, was a Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office mental health liaison, promoted to Supervisor for the mental health liaisons and FIT Teams, before promoting to the Behavioral Health Program Manager for Forensic Services and then the the Community Crisis Continuum. James enjoys roles that involve implementing new or improving upon existing programs and looks forward to implementing the State mandates covered in CalAIM and AB988.

- 2) Crisis Stabilization Program Update –the County is moving forward with building a new crisis stabilization program for youth with 8 beds at 5320 Soquel, hoping to open late 2024. At the same time, Telecare will not accept youth under the age of 18 starting March 27th. HSA is looking at a youth crisis stabilization receiving center as a temporary plan which will be ready as early as 5 months from now. The program will work with someone for a period of 24 hours before either a) finding alternative placement option in the community safety planning or b) they are going to be inpatient. The MERT team will continue to go into the ER to reassess within several hours of someone being there to see if we can safety plan and safely get them back out with their families or care team.
- 3) April 11th and April 12th – Behavioral Health will be visited by the External Quality Review Organization, who reviews our mental health plan, DMC-ODS plan. This review includes the site visit, policy review, documentation review. They will meet with the consumers and do an overall compliance analysis to see where we are with our required metrics that we do for the plan for the State.

C. Committee Updates

1. Standing Committees

- a. Budget – did not meet due to no quorum. Informal conversations included: holding meetings in central location so commute is equal for everyone; how to create a persistent presence using social media and engaging the community more; and improving the use of letters of recommendation to the board and to the director by gathering more input and attending Board of Supervisors meetings when the letters are submitted to show additional support.
- b. Community/Publicity Committee
See Section IV.B. to see the votes changing the status of the Community/Publicity Committee from standing to an ad hoc committee.

2. Ad Hoc Committees

- a. Peer Support Certification – no report.
- b. 988 – there is currently a work group between 911, 988 and 211 which was presented at the Board of Supervisors meeting. United Way say that they have access to 400 services they can refer people to. There will be an April meeting to go over numbers, including a call for service numbers. Regarding 211, calls are not being put into Behavioral Health Service support statistics.
- c. Ideal Crisis System
 - Introduced to James Russell who is working on the Crisis Now project.
 - Looking at letters of recommendation and items related to mobile crisis as the goal of the committee is to coordinate with the Crisis Now project.
 - Next meeting will be on April 14th, 3:30-4:30pm via Zoom.

D. Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate

George was present at the meeting. February report was provided.

- Davi Schill was on an authorized leave during February.
- Advocacy, Inc. continues to have 2 days / month furlough.
- Benefits Management – no oversight, transparency. Dozens of people are affected, eating out of garbage, no funds. Reached out to Santa Clara County

counterparts. Hard to hear about all impacted people not getting funds. Might reach out to Supervisors for help with benefit management.

VIII. New Agenda Items

1. Retreat – will be on Friday, June 16, 2023, 10am to 3pm

2. Kaiser and Behavioral Health Unit Discussion

Jeffrey expressed at the last meeting that the MHAB should provide a letter of recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to ask Kaiser Permanente to provide some integrated behavioral health services. Jeffrey called Kaiser and has not heard back to confirm anything different than what they are publicizing, which is that it will have a 24-hour medical urgent care and there will be offices for 160,000 square feet, three story building. The draft letter is asking Kaiser Permanente as a health care provider coming into Santa Cruz County, that they provide behavioral health care services for their clients as they serve approximately 6000 people, and approximately 1200 of those people will have some kind of behavioral health needs with a couple hundred who will have serious mental health needs.

Discussion included a request for County staff to do a presentation on Kaiser and if a Kaiser Representative can be invited to the emergency meeting to explain and provide clarity on the services they will be providing. The Emergency Meeting will be on Thursday, March 23, 2023, 3pm to 3:30pm to vote on approving draft letter to be sent to the Board of Supervisors.

3. Santa Cruz Mental Health Advisory Youth

- The MHAB wants youth to participate in the MHAB. Ideas include making formal requests with various groups such as NAMI, Twin Lakes Church, County Office of Education.

-Xaloc will reach out to Student Activities at the County Office of Education to share a flyer.

- A representative from Monarch Services, who manages the Youth Mental Health Advisory Commission attended the MHAB meeting and she stated she will ask if youth from that group are interested in joining the MHAB.

4. Vote on Letter to Board of Supervisors

Background information: Serg witnessed somebody who works at the Veterans Hall building attack a homeless client who had been in the shelter by a nonprofit. Santa Cruz County contracts with the nonprofit, has an agreement with the building. There is no oversight or complaint system, there is no recourse, the person can't make a complaint that goes to the County. Intent is to make a system and process that protects people. Julie Macecevic, Executive Director of the Walnut Avenue Family and Women's Center has agreed to co-sign this letter.

See Section IV.C. to see the votes approving the letter.

IX. Future Agenda Items

1. Letter of Support regarding the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

MINUTES – Draft

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

APRIL 20, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

1400 EMELINE AVE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ

Microsoft Teams Meeting (831) 454-2222, Conference 748 582 926#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham,
Michael Neidig, Stephen Busath, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez
Absent: Hugh McCormick (attended virtually), Valerie Webb
Staff: Karen Kern, James Russell, Jane Batoon-Kurovski, Arianna Lomeli

- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
- II. Public Comments
 - Nicholas Whitehead – stated that people who need treatment should have experiences with nature included.
 - Marina Archer – stated she is a social scientist in the field of social psychology who has had a lifelong interest in matters concerning mental health. She is requesting to be a Member-At-Large.
 - Richard Gallo - announced the CA Association of Mental Health Peer run organization known as Campo, is seeking peers for one of the projects that they are working on. Regarding SB43, the State is trying to change the definition of gravely disabled to also include substance abuse and Cal Voices is opposing this piece of legislation. Richard stated he addressed the State regarding the Community Planning Process (CPP) as it needs to continue under the MHSA. It needs consumer feedback, families' feedback about their loved ones needs, and gaps and services with the mental health services as they vary county to county.
 - Celeste Gutierrez – stated she is with Supervisor Hernandez' office and is looking forward to the Hope Squad presentation.
- III. Board Member Announcements
 - Serg Kagno no longer on the Mental Health Advisory Board, effective April 1st.
 - The Sheriff's Office showed a preview of a movie called The Bystander. It is about how to deal with the rape culture and how to support people and not being bystanders when they see things happening around them. The Chair stated he highly recommends all to watch this movie.
- IV. Business / Action Items
 - A. Change the status of the Budget Committee from Standing to Ad Hoc.
Motion/Second: Laura Chatham / Antonio Rivas
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Stephen Busath, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez
Abstain: Jeffrey Arlt, Michael Neidig
Absent: Hugh McCormick, Valerie Webb
Motion passed.

- V. Presentation – Scotts Valley High School Hope Squad
Student Presenters: Stella Peuse, Alexa Ruiz, Caitlin Mullin, Devon Bloom, Cesar Rodriguez-Romero, Karissa Woods, Toka Mohamed and Alex Baum
Christie Danner, Assistant Principal at SVHS provided an introduction. Over the past three years, the school lost a couple of students to suicide, and lost one student in a tragic car accident. The school felt a lot of loss and a lot of trauma, and they have been working hard to heal and recover and find ways to support the students. Discussions started last spring on what can be done at school to support students with their health and wellness. The overall theme is it is a shared responsibility between school, parents, community, medical professionals, and peers. They investigated different programs that were peer to peer based as they felt that would be the most powerful for the school that could be shared efforts and include the students, and for healing and support, and that is how HOPE Squad came about. Below is an outline of the students' presentation:

- A. How Hope Squad Helps
- B. Hope Squad Selection Process
- C. Hope Squad Members and Advisors
- D. Starting Up – Getting the Word Out
- E. Scotts Valley High School Hope Squad Roles
- F. Monthly Themes/School Wide Activities
- G. Hope Squad Meetings
- H. 1st Year School-Wide Activities
- I. Hope Week
- J. Reflections and Planning for Next Year

[Click here to view the presentation slides.](#)

- VI. Public Comment Closing
Mental Health Services Act 3-Year Plan Fiscal Years 23/24 – 26/27
Karen Kern, Behavioral Health Deputy Director
The MHSA 3-year plan drives the investment of MHSA dollars in the programs and services that support people in the community who are experiencing mental illness, and County Behavioral Health takes direction and makes decisions on what services to fund based on stakeholder feedback. The feedback received from the community is around the services that have been provided, what worked, what didn't work, what were the gaps, and what should be the focus.

[Click here to view the presentation slides of the MHSA 2023-2026 Three-Year Plan: Public Comment Closing.](#)

Public Comments:

1. Antonio Rivas
 - Page 34, possibly add another section or add the group Veterans. He wants veterans to be labeled.
 - Page 35, add the word culture. This will help people be aware of culture.
2. Rebecca
 - Dissatisfaction with treatment facilities. They can be viewed as unsafe places, abusive, and need to be run better.
3. Laura Chatham
 - (In response to Rebecca) Those she has spoken to who are homeless or are close to homelessness say some get services and some don't.
4. Nicholas
 - Perhaps being open to alternate fields of hypnosis, dietary changes, and supplements to care for patients.
 - Focus on personal engagement for patients.
5. Xaloc Cabanes
 - Confusion, not clear how folks from different incomes can become a part of this discussion or be interested in it, due to different financials guiding health care paths.

VII. Reports

A. Secretary's Report

- No attendance issues.
- Laura and Jeffrey completed trainings in 2023.
- Upcoming training – CalBHBC will provide training on how to have an effective Board/Commission.

B. Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Felipe Hernandez

- The Board of Supervisors recently passed the 10-year agreement called Access to Care from Kaiser. There was some discussion about aligning contracts with different healthcare providers, but ultimately, the board wanted to have input at the 5-year interval.
- The Governor has \$2 billion housing plan which is a general fund housing plan. It is still under discussion how this plan is going to happen but the concern is that it is going to cut into MHSA funding, up to about 20-35% of our local funding.

C. Behavioral Health Report, Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Behavioral Health Director

Tiffany formally introduced Karen Kern as the new Deputy Director of Behavioral Health. She shared that Karen was selected amongst a very competitive pool of candidates because she brings the qualities that are necessary to take county behavioral health into the new CalAIM healthcare delivery system. Karen joined county behavioral health in 2020 as the Director of Adults Behavioral Health, and since then has led a transformation within that unit towards a recovery-oriented model. Prior to coming to Santa Cruz County, Karen worked at various Federally Qualified Health Clinics in Portland and in Oakland, in roles as the Director of Substance Use Disorder Services and also Quality Assurance and Compliance. She has a degree in social services, a master's in public administration and a certificate in alcohol and drug counseling.

D. Committee Updates

1. Standing Committees

a. Budget

- The committee discussed changing the status of the committee from standing to ad hoc. Justification is that a standing committee is burdensome, inefficient, and not flexible. The committee members unanimously agreed to become ad hoc and focus on the MHSA funding and program. The goal of the ad hoc committee is to support the annual update of the MHSA.
- Other update: Antonio attended the Watsonville Community Hospital Board meeting. Antonio had a conversation with one of the board members and he mentioned the possibility of building a behavioral health building on the land next to the hospital.

2. Ad Hoc Committees

- a. Peer Support Specialist Certification – Hugh said he is contacting local agencies, and everyone is excited but a little leery about all the emerging details regarding the entire process. The report is coming along, and it should be beneficial for counties and organizations and peers throughout the state. Hugh said he hopes to finish and print the report by the next board meeting.
- b. 988 – the committee met with Andrea Tolaio and discussed the convergence of the Crisis Now Project (5-year project); AB988 (5 years to accomplish); MHSA (3-year focus).
- c. Ideal Crisis System – the committee had a discussion with James and reviewed 35 questions. Jeffrey went to Tucson to look at their Crisis Response System. The committee is looking forward to working with Karen regarding the Crisis Assessment Plan. The goal is to support Behavioral Health with the Crisis Now Project. More information in May.
- d. Community / Publicity – no report.

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

Davi Schill was present at the meeting. March report was provided.

- Furlough days have been revoked. Davi thanked everyone, especially Karen Kern, who helped to ensure that all the people served have access to an advocate full time.

VIII. New Agenda Items

1. Nomination Committee – The vote for Chair, Co-chair, and Secretary was postponed to next month.
2. Vote on Letter of Support for Dr. Ratner regarding the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program – no draft letter to review.

IX. Future Agenda Items

1. SB43
2. Vote on Member-At-Large
3. Trailer Bill - AB988

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

2023 to 2026
MHSA INN Plan:

Crisis Now



Mental Health Advisory Board

May 18, 2023

MHSA Innovations

An Innovation project is defined as a project that the County designs and implements for a defined time period and evaluates to develop new best practices in mental health services and supports. *

Up to 5% of MHSA distribution is allowable for Innovative Projects

Introduces a new practice or approach to the overall mental health system, including, but not limited to, prevention and early intervention

*California Code of Regulations, Title 9, Section 3200.184

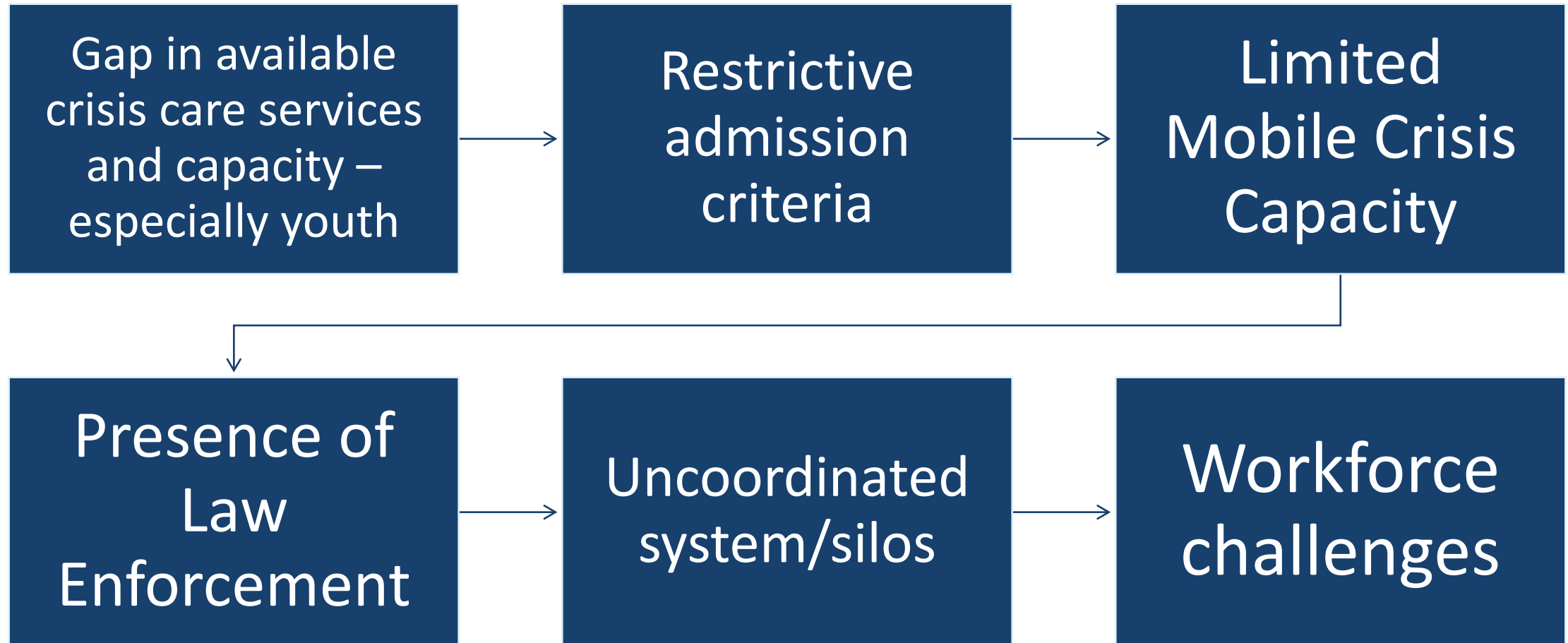
Primary Purpose

Increases access to mental health services to underserved groups

Increases the quality of mental health services, including measured outcomes

Promotes interagency and community collaboration related to Mental Health Services or supports or outcomes

Primary Problem – Crisis Continuum Barriers



Why Crisis Now?

System Barriers

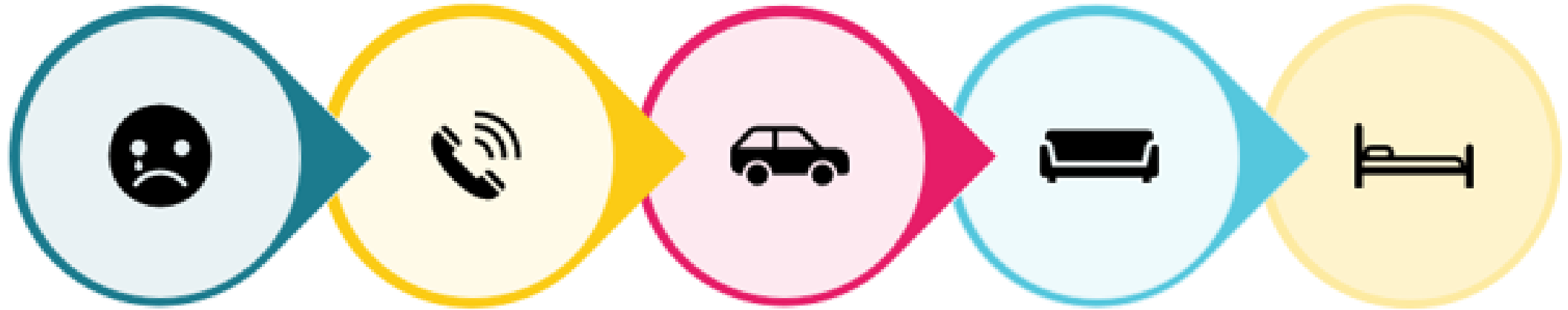


Crisis Now Strategic Solutions



Crisis Now: Transforming Services is Within our Reach





Person in Crisis

Crisis Call Center

Mobile Crisis Team

23-Hour Stabilization

Short-term Stabilization

High Tech
Crisis Call
Center

24/7 Mobile
Outreach
Crisis Teams

Facility-based
Crisis Center

Evidence-
based
Practices

Where is Santa Cruz County Now?

Crisis Now
Scoring System
Level 2 – Basic

We have:

1. Some Mobile Crisis Capacity
2. A 988 Call Center
3. Some Receiving Center Capacity
4. Suicide Care Best Practices

We need:

1. 24/7 Mobile Crisis Response
2. Call Center with Dispatch solution directly to Mobile Crisis Teams
3. Dedicated Receiving and Crisis Support for Youth
4. Peer Support Specialists Integrated into Model

Implementation Plan

Identify Capacity Needs and Costs

Comprehensive Assessment

Community Program Planning

Address Gaps and Eliminate Barriers

Determine Implementation Plan

Align current services with Crisis Now model

Implement new Crisis Now services

No Wrong Door – Systems Partnership

Workforce Development

Training in and Implementation of Evidence-based Practices

Peer Support Specialist Certification and Recruitment

Evaluation Plan

Independent
assessment of
the project's
impact toward
learning goals

- Improve access to ongoing BH crisis services
- Divert individuals from criminal/carceral settings
- Reduce ED mental health admissions
- Increase voluntary services
- Improve long-term outcomes

Budget

- A median estimate of MHSA funds are: 4.25 million 2023-2026
- \$450,339 will be budgeted for RI International
- An additional \$300,000 will be budgeted for Evaluations.
- \$3,499,661 for a three-year period for additional training and costs associated with program expansion.



Summary

This is an April 2023 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

April 2023

Record 13868

Telecare

On April 12, 2023, this writer received a call from a client and patient hospitalized at the Crisis Stabilization unit of Telecare. The client vehemently denied the information provided leading up to the 5150 detention. I received verbal permission to speak with CSP staff to obtain further information and clarification to provide to my client. After speaking with a nurse at the CSP I was not able to obtain any other information than what the client already knew. I explained that the staff would either release him or place the client on an additional hold. This writer explained the 5250-hearing process and his rights

Record 13887

Telecare

On April 10, 2023, this writer* received a phone `from a client at the Telecare Psychiatric Health Facility. Our client stated that for the client the medications would be poisonous. The client stated the preferred alternatives to medication are meditation and the support of a dog trained to offer emotional support to the client. This writer* urged our client to give this information to the treating psychiatrist. I further informed our client that at this time the client retains the right to refuse the medications, but the treating psychiatrist may obtain a court order to medicate to forcibly medicate.

*Ms. Davi Schill

Record 13881**7th Avenue Center**

On April 24, 20223, this writer received a call from a resident of the 7th Avenue Center. The resident complained that he received a new medication that caused him to have loose bowel movements. The resident also re-expressed his strong desire to be released from the facility. This writer met with the resident at the facility. The resident informed me that he had heard from his county worker and had been informed that the county was waiting for a bed to become available, and that the client had the number and name of the county worker. The resident also informed me that side effects of the new medication had cleared up. This writer will continue to communicate with the resident on a regular basis. At this point, however, there is nothing to be done for the client.

13880**7th Avenue center**

On April 26,2023, this writer received a phone message from a resident requesting a specific brand of non-generic cigarettes. This writer met with the resident. The conversation was brief and focused upon the desire for the specific brand. This writer obtained verbal permission to speak with the resident's conservator. This writer spoke with the conservator, Ms. Sarah Snyder. She informed me that the Public Guardian was not responsible for managing the residents' funds, and the Benefits Management Corporation was now responsible. This writer will continue to work with the resident to resolve this issue.

13869**7th Avenue Center**

On April 12, 2023, the writer received a message from the Unit Coordinator of the 7th facility regarding an incident of resident-to-resident abuse. This writer met with the reported victim. The client seemed internally distracted during the attempted interview but was able to inform this writer that he did not wish to have local law enforcement involved. The resident also stated that he wanted to leave the facility and that he had been at the facility for over three years. The resident was not able to tell me the name of his mental worker or the name of his conservator. I gave the resident the name of the conservator. Staff provided the name of the mental health worker to the resident. The following day this writer spoke with the resident's conservator and advocated for more intensive staff support to assist the resident in attaining his stated goal of discharge. The conservator thanked me for this input.

ADVOCACY INC.

TELECARE CLIENT CERTIFICATION AND REISE HEARING/PATIENTS' RIGHTS
REPORT

April 2023
Fourth Quarter

1. TOTAL NUMBER CERTIFIED	34
2. TOTAL NUMBER OF HEARINGS	29
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTESTED HEARINGS	9
4. NO CONTEST PROBABLE CAUSE	20
5. CONTESTED NO PROBABLE CAUSE	3
6. VOLUNTARY BEFORE CERTIFICATION HEARING	1
7. DISCHARGED BEFORE HEARING	3
8. WRITS	1
9. CONTESTED PROBABLE CAUSE	6
10. NON-REGULARLY SCHEDULED HEARINGS	0

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 nursing facility)

The following is an account of activity April 1, 2023, through March 31, of representation to clients held at Telecare (Santa Cruz Psychiatric Health Facility) facing Reize Hearings.

Total number of Riese petitions filed: 5

Total number of Riese Hearings conducted: 3

Total number of Riese Hearings lost: 3

Total number of Riese Hearings won: 0

Total number of Riese Hearings withdrawn: 0

Hours spent on cancelled Reize hearings: 4.5 hours

House spent on all Reize hearings: 7

*Riese appeal: 0

Hours spent on all Riese Hearings included those hearings that were cancelled by the hospital:

1.5 hours.

The following is an account of 5150 hearing activity April, 2023, through April 31, 2023, of representation on behalf clients held at Telecare CSP (Santa Cruz Telecare Crisis Stabilization Program) facing 5150 hearing (AB2275) Hearings.

AB 2275 hearing conducted: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Davi Schill, PRA

George N. Carvalho, PRA

To the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors:

A recent study [published April 10, 2023 in the Journal of the American Medical Association \(JAMA\)](#) confirms recent findings made by our county's Deputy Health Officer and Director of Emergency Medicine, that contrary to popular opinion, involuntary displacement is bad for public health. Researchers say practices such as encampment sweeps, bans, move-along-orders and cleanups that forcibly relocate individuals away from essential services will lead to substantial increases in overdose deaths, life threatening infections and hospitalizations.

In coordination with the [National Healthcare for Homeless Council](#), the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and the [National Foundation of the CDC](#), a multidisciplinary group of researchers developed a simulation model projecting the long-term health effects of involuntary displacement of people experiencing homelessness who inject drugs using data from 23 U.S. cities. They used city- and national-level data to closely model what the population looks like in real life including their overdose risk and mortality. They then modeled two scenarios over a 10-year time period: no continual displacement and continual involuntary displacement of this population.

In hundreds of different projections, the model showed no feasible scenario, in any city, where continual involuntary displacement improves health outcomes. Instead, the practice would likely result in a significant increase in morbidity, mortality and a shortened life expectancy, the study said.

“Our research shows that these widespread practices that forcibly displace people are clearly impacting the health of this population, particularly when it comes to increasing their overdose risk, so much so that it actually decreases the life expectancy of the entire population,” says [Josh Barocas, MD](#), associate professor at the [University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus](#) and corresponding author.

“Modeling studies like ours give us a sense of whether we’re headed in the right or wrong direction. Our study showed that displacement could directly result in a quarter of deaths of this population. This tells us that the practice of forcibly displacing people is taking us in the wrong direction if we want to solve issues around homelessness and substance use disorders.”

Researchers also found displacement increased overdose deaths, hospitalizations, injection-related infections and hindered access to medications for opioid use disorder along with other detrimental impacts.

“It’s estimated that more than 500,000 people are experiencing homelessness in the U.S., and understanding the toll practices such as camping bans and sweeps take on such a substantial population is critical to emphasizing the need for care and services versus literally being swept aside,” says Barocas. “We hope these results inform future policies that actually mitigate the long-term health consequences in this population before it’s too late.”

An article dated 12/19/22 from Santa Cruz Lookout noted the spike in overdose deaths in Santa Cruz in September 2022 and considered the probability that the spike might be connected to the clearing of the San Lorenzo Park Benchlands that began in September 2022.

The fact of the unsafe flooding conditions at the Benchlands when the atmospheric rivers hit does not absolve the city of wrongly destroying the camp because they might have provided a safe place to send people rather than concentrating them in the Benchlands for months before they swept the Benchlands.

As the County Mental Health Advisory Board, it is our mission to advise public policy makers throughout the county on what good public health policies look like, with respect to mental health. Because of these recent findings, we must advise our county supervisors and cities within the county against the implementation of policies that seek to increase involuntary displacement; policies like camping bans, sleeping bans, parking restrictions on oversized vehicles, and similar policies which seek to increase involuntary displacement, are perpetuating negative public health outcomes.

We hope to instead encourage local policy makers to focus their efforts on positive, resource-based interventions, that improve the health outcomes of those living in tents, vehicles, or other makeshift structures.

Sincerely,
Santa Cruz County Mental Health Advisory Board

Link to University of Colorado study 4/10/23 and Lookout Article 12/19/22:

https://news.cuanschutz.edu/news-stories/study-shows-involuntary-displacement-of-people-experiencing-homelessness-may-cause-significant-spikes-in-mortality-overdoses-and-hospitalizations?hs_amp=true

<https://lookout.co/santacruz/civic-life/story/2022-12-19/fentanyl-epidemic-santa-cruz-overdoses-opioids-benchlands>