



# County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY  
Behavioral Health Division



Salud Mental y  
Tratamiento del Uso  
de Sustancias

**MINUTES – Approved**  
**September 19, 2024**

## **MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

AUGUST 16, 2024; 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

1400 EMELINE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ

MICROSOFT TEAMS (831) 454-2222, CONFERENCE ID 968 733 254#

**Present:** Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp (arrived 9:50am), Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes  
**Absent:** Hugh McCormick, Supervisor Hernandez, Stella Peuse  
**Staff:** Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

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- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 9:10a.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
  - II. Public Comments – none
  - III. Ice Breaker Questions
    - What are the duties of the SCC Behavioral Health Advisory Board?
      - Represent the Santa Cruz community and allocate for and ensure the public mental health services are meeting the needs of the community.
      - Oversight and monitoring of local mental health county system; advocate for persons with mental health receiving county mental health services
      - Advise the BOS on matters concerning Mental Health and SUDS in the county, not just individuals under the BH department
      - To provide, advise, and recommend to the county the needs of our community and concerns that our community is facing related to mental health, funding and staff
      - To advise the BOS on matters related to behavioral health; to advise county behavioral health agency on matters related to mental health, and educate the community as to the issues
      - Support the community and staff as all need support, not just Medi-Cal recipients
      - To ensure the County of Santa Cruz provides the best mental health support that it can for our community

- Advocate to the BOS and represent Santa Cruz public interest in all behavioral health and wellness needs
- What would you like to see accomplished?
  - Progress towards ideal crisis response system
  - New meeting date/time
  - Understanding of duties/justification
  - Equitable use of resources/funds for unhoused folks
  - Improve youth support
  - More funding/staffing
  - BOS action on recommendations
  - Opening of the 24/7 Youth Stabilization Center to allow for different levels of care and support in Santa Cruz, calling it the "Keep them Home" campaign
  - Peer Support
  - Make lives easier for BH recipients, system for consumers and better outcomes
  - Better communication about resources
  - Engagement in services
  - Reduce redundancy, improve efficiency
  - First Responder Training – physical and mental
- Things that are stressors?
 

Traffic, hostility, out of control, no stress, suffering seen in the streets, elected who don't do anything to help, MH and health care system, Newsom's order and Supreme Court decision, divisive dialogue, dishonesty, misuse of power, open mind, lack of consensus on big stuff, bringing our different passions towards same direction, personal insults, negativity, power over others rather than with, understand/listen to different points, no prejudgment
- Things that are revitalizing?
 

Outside, nature, change in G force, Continue to provide support to needs of young and old, meditation, gardening, support for letter, being with people with no care, work from staff/community, collaboration, conscious full spectrum response, learning every day, helping others, exercise, serenity prayer, dogs, community, family, love, Muay Thai, tattoos, sweat lodge, impact on others

#### IV. Discussion on revised Santa Cruz County Code 2.104

The MHAB discussed the revised Santa Cruz County Code and agreed to exclude the sobriety clause and increase the membership to 17 total.

Motion to exclude the sobriety clause: Mike Neidig

Second: Antonio Rivas

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Motion to increase the board size to 3 members per district plus 2 Transitional Age Youth (one from Districts 1, 2, 4 and one from Districts 3, 5), total of 18 board members: Michael Neidig

Second: Jeffrey Arlt

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

V. Review 2023-2024 Goals/Objectives

- Respond to Grand Jury Report with specific recommendations and findings. – Done
- Be involved in Personnel activities: recruit/hire/advocate. – Done
- Increase crisis chairs and inpatient beds to 137. – Advocated for it.
- Support sexual assault services (survivors) and educating children/family members, provide program information on how sexual assault/abuse and mental health are connected. – Not done
- More Youth Representation – 2 youth representatives in the past year
- Bring housing and mental health closer with permanent and supportive housing. – Currently striving to work on it.
- Site Visits at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Santa Cruz County Jail (Wellpath). – Wellpath no longer at jail, did not visit 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Front Street).
- Wellness Summit: create a safe place for targeted groups. – No one participated.

VI. 2024-2025 Goals/Objectives

- Site Visits at Jail, Encompass, Janus
- Attend grand opening of the Children's Crisis Center at 5300 Soquel
- Ask Director to prioritize site visits (for the MHAB)
- Do site visit and ask if MHAB meeting can be held in that facility for that month
- Visit armory and Housing Matters
- Tour of County BH building/facility
- Needs:
  - Education, presentations on fundamentals, duties and jurisdiction of BH
  - Onboarding ad hoc subcommittee
  - Engagement services / more publicity, update website
  - Crisis continuum stakeholder committee

VII. Board Member Commitments and Calendar of Events for the Upcoming Year

- ❖ Prepare in April for Mental Health Awareness month in May
- ❖ Prepare in August for Suicide Awareness Prevention month in September

- ❖ Attend health fairs, farmers market
- ❖ Attend supervisor community meetings
- ❖ Suggestion - Align the site visits as it relates to the month on the calendar, and as it relates to letters of recommendation to BOS with evidence of what was discovered at the site visit, and then do a 6-month follow-up by checking in with BOS to find out how they have responded or done since the recommendation.

VIII. Committees - formation of committees to be done at the next meeting.

IX. Election of Board Officers

Motion to keep the current officers for the next year (Chair: Xaloc Cabanes, Co-Chair: Mike Neidig, Secretary: Jeffrey Arlt): Antonio Rivas

Second: Dean Kashino

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

X. Discussion on changing the day and time of regular meetings and meeting locations. The Board will continue conversation at the next meeting.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.