



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION



Salud Mental y
Tratamiento del Uso
de Sustancias

**MINUTES – Approved
November 21, 2024**

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

OCTOBER 17, 2024, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

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

MICROSOFT TEAMS (831) 454-2222, CONFERENCE ID 900 607 988#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Kaelin Wagnermarsh, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez

Absent: Hugh McCormick

Staff: Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Karen Kern, Brenda Campbell, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

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- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:02p.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
 - New MHAB member – Kaelin Wagnermarsh, District 1
 - IV. Approve September 19, 2024 Minutes
Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Valerie Webb
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Kaelin Wagnermarsh, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez
Abstain: Michael Neidig
Nays: None
Motion passed.
 - V. Reports
 - A. Secretary's Report
 - Reminder to board members: 2-hour yearly training requirement
 - No attendance issues
 - CalBHB/C meeting and training is on October 19th

- B. Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate
September report was not provided. George attended the meeting. George stated his concerns: (1) Telecare acuity level has gone up which has something to do with the jail. Telecare down 2 social workers as a result of direct abuse or intimidation which affects the services for folks (2) there are no beds for individuals picked up on 5150 and are generally transferred out of county.
- C. Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Felipe Hernandez
The Watsonville Community Hospital \$2M loan was forgiven to ensure they were established and not lose the hospital. WCH also needed to increase their credit viability in order to purchase the property.
- D. Behavioral Health Director's Report – Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Director of Behavioral Health
- Update on Mobile Crisis Response: County BH Mobile Crisis responds 7 days/week, 365 days/year, 8am to 6pm. Family Service Agency (FSA) provides response 4:30pm to 12:30am, 7 days/week. Anticipate that FSA will be fully staffed and begin providing coverage 4:30pm to 8am, 7 days/week in mid-November 2024.
 - All County Behavioral Health Division Crisis Responder teams will be referred to as the Mobile Crisis Team (MCT). The MCT includes staff formerly known as Mobile Emergency Response Team (MERT) and Mobile Emergency Response Team Youth (MERTY). Some MCT staff will also be assigned as Mental Health Liaisons working with assigned law enforcement partners.
- MHA Annual Plan Update and Survey – Karen Kern, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health
- The 2024-2025 Annual Plan Update Survey will be open for two weeks. Feedback will be incorporated in the 24/25 Annual Plan.
 - The 2024-2025 Annual Plan Update is coming to the November 21st MHAB meeting for review and to open public comment for 30 days. Public comment will close in December, feedback will be incorporated, and then taken to the Board of Supervisors.
 - The Annual Plan Update for the 2025-2026 will go through the full process with the community planning which will include focus groups and community engagement activities. The 2025-2026 Annual Plan Update will incorporate feedback from the community and then attend the MHAB meeting in late Spring for review and to open public comment. Public comment will close the following month at MHAB meeting. Upon completion, the 2025-2026 Annual Plan Update will go to the Board of Supervisors.

- Presentation: CARE Act Implementation – Brenda Campbell, Behavioral Health Program Manager
 - CARE is the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment Act which is a state mandate aimed to get people with untreated schizophrenia spectrum disorders and other psychotic disorders voluntarily engaged in treatment. This is not a conservatorship; it is a completely voluntary program. It is not a cure for homelessness. It is not for all people with mental illness.
 - County BH division will be assigned to do an investigative report once the petition is filed. If the respondent meets the eligibility criteria, they will move forward with the CARE process. If they do not, they will try to link that person to the supports and level of care that is appropriate for them without having to go through the CARE process.
 - The CARE participants will be priority for Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) which is going to be at the site next to Telecare opening Summer 2025. They will link people to other services and will be connected to the housing continuum.
 - If someone is voluntarily in treatment, they do not qualify for CARE. This is designed for people who are untreated and may not necessarily willfully engage.
 - There are status review hearings and after 12 months, individuals can graduate from CARE or can opt in for another year. An individual can graduate earlier in the process if they are progressing very well.

VI. Medication Use in Mental Health Presentation postponed to November meeting.

VII. New Agenda Items

A. 2024 Data Notebook

The MHAB reviewed the document and voted to submit the survey.

Approve submission of the 2024 Data Notebook.

Motion/Second: Dean Kashino / Mike Neidig

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Kaelin Wagnermarsh, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez

Abstain: Michael Neidig

Nays: None

Motion passed.

B. Letter of Recommendation regarding Prop 36

The letter was discussed and the MHAB agreed to submit to the Board of Supervisors.

Approve letter of recommendation to vote no on Proposition 36 with changes as discussed.

Motion/Second: Celeste Gutierrez / Antonio Rivas

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez
Abstain: Kaelin Wagnermarsh, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb
Nays: None
Motion passed.

- C. Distribution of HR8575 information and letter to all 58 Behavioral Health Boards in CA requesting them to send a letter of recommendation to their Board of Supervisors that they send a letter to their local congressional representatives requesting they cosponsor HR8575, the Michelle Go Act. Committee members to distribute letters are Jennifer, Celeste and Jeffrey.

Motion to form an Ad Hoc Committee to send a letter to all 58 Behavioral Health Boards in CA regarding HR8575.

Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Michael Neidig

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Kaelin Wagnermarsh, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez

Abstain: Michael Neidig

Nays: None

Motion passed.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

- Open MHSA Public Comment Period

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.