



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION

**MINUTES – Approved  
May 15, 2025**



Salud Mental y  
Tratamiento del Uso  
de Sustancias

### MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

APRIL 17, 2025, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

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

MICROSOFT TEAMS (831) 454-2222, CONFERENCE ID 766 592 663#

**Present:** Antonio Rivas, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Kaelin Wagnermarsh, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Kimberly De Serpa

**Staff:** Karen Kern, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

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- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:05p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
  - II. Public Comments – 3 people addressed the MHAB in the conference room.  
No public comments on Microsoft Teams.
  - III. Board Member Announcements
    - Mike suggested the MHAB members check in with their Board of Supervisor to see if they want written correspondence in advance of the BOS meeting to allow time to review.
  - IV. Approve March 20, 2025 Minutes  
Motion/Second: Dean Kashino / Mike Neidig  
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Kaelin Wagnermarsh, Mike Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor De Serpa  
Motion passed.
  - V. Reports
    - A. Secretary's Report
      - No attendance/training issues.
      - Regarding communication with BOS – Brown Act rule where a majority of MHAB cannot communicate with the majority of another board through email. Jeffrey volunteered to send letters of recommendation to the individual BOS in advance of the meeting.
    - B. Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate  
March report was provided. George did not attend the meeting.
    - C. Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Kim De Serpa
      - May revised coming from the State soon.

- There are proposed cuts coming from the Federal level that are quite severe, likely for Medicaid.

D. Behavioral Health Director's Report – Karen Kern

- The new BH Director, Dr. Marni Sandoval starts on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Receptions in North and South County for staff and community partners are scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup> and May 28<sup>th</sup>. Flyers will be distributed.
- SB43 – updates the LPS act, which governs involuntary detention, treatment, and conservatorship of individuals. SB43 has expanded the definition of grave disability to include individuals who are unable to care for their basic needs, which now includes safety and medical care (used to be just food, clothing, and shelter). The mandate is to launch by January 1, 2026.
- Monitoring the Governor's May Revise
  - The State used general funds last year to provide Medi-Cal to people who were not eligible for Medi-Cal. Unsure how that will impact the General Fund budget.
  - State Plan Amendment, which the State has negotiated with the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid CMS included extra dollars and bundled rates called BH Connect to help lift all that are coming through the BHSA and Prop 1. The State Department of Healthcare Services is confident that CMS is going to be stable enough to continue with the new waivers that they've negotiated.
- Monitoring the federal impacts – HSA which include BH, Clinics, Environmental Health and Public Health have set up an incident command system to be able to respond to incidents when they happen.
- 2023–2026 MHSA Plan Update – opening public comment at the May MHAB meeting. Public comment will close at the June MHAB meeting and then go to the August BOS meeting to get approval. The change to BHSA will affect how the community planning process is done. The BHSA distribution will be 30% for housing, which will take away 30% from the services. This will also expand the community planning process to include every dollar that comes into the behavioral health system of care that is received as revenue.

Presentation: Overview of Substance Use Disorder Services (SUDS) – Casey Swank, Director of SUDS

- SUDS includes Administration of DMC-ODS; Adult Outpatient Services Treatment Program; In-Custody Substance Use Disorder Treatment need assessments (ASAM); Family Children Services SUD Assessment and Referrals; Opioid Settlement Funds; Substance Use Block Grant/Prop 47, Cohort IV; Drinking Driver Programs.
- The State Department of Health Care Services does mandate the following levels of treatment, except for recovery incentives: Withdrawal management; Residential Care; Intensive Outpatient Care; Outpatient Care; Medication Assisted Treatment; Recovery Incentives; Recovery Support.
- Accessing SUD treatment: No wrong door – Adult and Children's ACCESS; Janus of Santa Cruz, Encompass Community Services (Adult and Youth); New Life Community Services; Sobriety Works; PVPSA (Youth).
- Opioid Settlement Funds: State of California DHCS said at least 50% of the settlement dollars must be spent on six areas called high impact

abatement areas: Matching funds or costs for SUD facilities; Creating new or expanded SUD treatment infrastructure; Addressing SUD needs of communities of color and vulnerable populations; Helping people with SUD into treatment and away from the justice system; Interventions to prevent drug addiction in youth; Purchasing naloxone (Narcan) for distribution and expanding access.

- E. Site Visit Ad Hoc Committee Update – Kaelin Wagnermarsh and Dean Kashino  
The majority of the MHAB are interested in visiting Juvenile Hall. Members will be split into two groups to do the site visit. Waiting on potential dates.
- F. Funding Ad Hoc Committee Update – Jeffrey Arlt and Kaelin Wagnermarsh
  - Currently doing the following:
    1. Reviewing and narrowing scope.
    2. Reaching out to some other authoritative sources of data.

## VI. New Agenda Items

### A. Election of Officers

Chair – Xaloc Cabanes; Co-Chair – Mike Neidig; Secretary – Jeffrey Arlt

The MHAB unanimously voted to keep all three officers in the same positions for the upcoming year.

### B. Letter to Board of Supervisors regarding the Use of Measure K funds to support MHCAN and reduce homelessness.

Motion to approve draft letter as amended: Mike Neidig

Second: Jennifer Wells Kaupp

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Kaelin Wagnermarsh, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Kimberly De Serpa

Nays: None

Motion passed.

### C. Letter to Board of Supervisors regarding the sharing of information between Handle with Care Program and Mobile Crisis Response Team

The MHAB discussed the draft letter and decided to hold off on approving the draft letter until next month as clarification is needed.

### D. June meeting date and Retreat date

The June meeting must be rescheduled as the third Thursday in June is the Juneteenth holiday. The Chair asked the MHAB to review their calendars and inform staff liaison of the dates they are not available in June. Dates to be announced at the next meeting.

## VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.