



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

**MINUTES – Approved
June 20, 2024**

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MAY 16, 2024 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

1400 EMELINE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ

Microsoft Teams (831) 454-2222, Conference ID 543 382 292#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Artl, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez, Stella Peuse
Absent: None
Staff: Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, 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
 - Deanna – stated that she would like to know if mental disorders are being addressed at Housing Matters as it is hard for them to deal with the changes that are happening when they move, they don't know what to do.
 - Tyler Starkman – expressed his concerns that some of the reshuffling of funding will be allocated towards housing rather than community services such as MHCAN. He is concerned that those funds won't be going to the right place. Also mentioned that the panel interview for Director of MHCAN is coming up. One MHAB is invited to participate in the panel interviews.
 - III. Board Member Announcements
 - This month is Mental Health Awareness month.
 - Consider limiting board members comments when have presenters – how many comments and/or length of time of comments. Further discussion at retreat.
 - IV. Business / Action Items
 - A. Approve April 18, 2024 Minutes.

Motion/Second: Supervisor Francisco Hernandez / Celeste Gutierrez
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Artl, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez
Nays: None
Motion passed.
 - B. Accept the letter to the Board of Supervisors supporting the 2024-2025 Behavioral Health Budget with the changes as discussed.

Motion/Second: Valerie Webb / Antonio Rivas
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Artl, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes
Abstain: Supervisor Felipe Hernandez
Motion Passed.
 - V. Reports
 - A. Secretary's Report
 - Currently in the second month of the 24-25 fiscal year. No outstanding issues. 2-hour training starts now, except for the Ethics training.

VI. Presentation – George Carvalho, Patients’ Rights Advocate
Advocacy, Inc.

- History – prior to 1967, the LPS Act the mental health system was hospital based. Anybody can be hospitalized by family members and 2 doctors signing off stating that person can be in the facility for an indefinite commitment. No one was checking up on this person, and harsh things were done to people. Ronald Reagan got community based mental health legislation, the LPS Act. This was designed to protect and give rights to people. Based on the Welfare Institutions Code 5325 and 5325.1, also known as the Patients’ Rights poster, it is placed in every Mental Health facility in the state of CA, in English and Spanish. The Patients’ Rights program in Santa Cruz County was developed about 10 years later.
- Advocacy, Inc ensure that the recipients of mental health services in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties are notified of their rights by going to facilities daily. Facilities in the county include Ben Lomond, Wheellock, Casa Pacifica, Telos, and Front Street. They have the right to confidentiality, and they know that the Patients’ Rights Advocate just advocates for them and not part of the treatment team or any decision making.
- PRA Services
 - Monitor mental health facilities, services and programs for compliance with statutory and regulatory patients’ rights provisions, formally or informally. Informally includes looking at records, writing notes, talking to clients.
 - Receive, investigate and take actions to resolve complaints from or on behalf of recipients of mental health services regarding abuse, unreasonable denial or punitive withholding of rights. If it is repealed, the advocate must respond within 24 hours.
 - Act as an advocate for the interests and concerns of mental health clients. In particular, serve as a voice for those persons who are unable to speak for themselves.
 - Represent involuntarily committed residents of acute mental health facilities in administrative due process hearings. 5150 is an involuntary 3-day hold in a facility for evaluation; a 5250 is a 14-day hold; Certification Review Hearing is when a person has right to ask for release; 5270 is a 1-month hold only for grave disability (person can be discharged after 14 days); an expedited writ is held within 2-4 days.
- Mission is to protect the rights of facility placed, dependent adults and individuals with mental health needs through advocacy, education, support, and intervention.

VII. Standing Reports

- A. April Patients’ Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients’ Rights Advocate
The April report was provided. George reported that there were only a few committee-based concerns, referral type calls and the phone issue is still being monitored.
- B. Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Felipe Hernandez
- There is significant concern with Measure K and the disasters in the County. The CZU fires, the pandemic, and the flooding incurred cost of over \$250 million of the general budget. FEMA reimburses some cost, but it takes seven years. Payment came from the general fund for these emergencies and still owe the County today over \$120 million. Due to this, the BOS issued a capital financing revenue bond for \$95 million to pay the debt.
 - In Santa Cruz County, the last PIC count had a 22% decrease and 30% in the City of Santa Cruz. There was a 15% bump in the South County Watsonville area where demographics include families, working farm workers, etc. The County has partnered up with the City and Monterey County to build a 36-unit Tiny Home project at the Western Presbyterian Church on Riverside. The cost is going up by \$1 million due to the need to raise the elevation of the tiny homes because it’s in the flood zone. This will take money away from the wrap-around services that it has to provide. The \$8 million project was a grant that was received from the State.
- C. Behavioral Health Director’s Report – Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Director of Behavioral Health
- Youth Diversion to Watsonville Community Hospital ED commenced this month

- All 911 and DMS are aware to transport youth to Watsonville Hospital Emergency Department. There is a press release that is going out and know they are also communicating with COE about getting messages out to all of the school counselors. Contracted with Pacific Clinics to provide the behavioral health support in the emergency department specific for youth. They are there for 12 hours, 8am to 8pm, but the youth is in the emergency department and so that there are other healthcare professionals that are there from 8pm to 8am hours, 7 days/week.
- Entry Points into Specialty Mental Health (SMH) for Adults
 - Assessments: walk in at BH Access at 1400 Emeline, 2nd floor, Santa Cruz, and walk in BH Access at 1430 Freedom Blvd, Ste F, Watsonville. Also, starting to assess persons recently experiencing homelessness in supported housing sites.
 - Crisis and Hospitalization: Mobile Crisis stabilization provided in the field, in community settings; Crisis Stabilization Program (CSP) run by Telecare; PHF Hospitalization in-patient on Soquel Avenue; enter the SMH system after a crisis stabilization or discharge from/referral by CSP, Emergency Dept, or psychiatric in-patient hospitalization.
 - Justice System Involvement
 - Entry through a justice or diversion program or jail release
 - In Jail – Collaborative Court Clinician screens people in jail to determine if they would qualify for an Access assessment. If someone is too impaired to go as a walk in, BHD County staff conduct the assessment while they are still in custody.
 - After Jail – Sometimes people are stepped down to Telos (Mental Health Crisis Residential program) from custody where BHD County staff can give them an assessment.
 - Courts order people to go to BHD Access to get assessed upon release. People on diversion are typically walk ins.
- Entry Points into Specialty Mental Health for Youth
 - Community (Client/Caregiver) Generated Referrals: Community Gates are: Encompass Community Services-Youth Services; the Parents Center; Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance (PVPSA); County/Children’s Behavioral Health ACCESS team
 - Child Welfare/HSD Family and Children’s Services (FCS) Generated Referrals through County/Children’s Behavioral Health Children’s Social Services; Encompass Community Services – Families Together Program; Encompass Community Services -Transitional Age Youth Program
 - Juvenile Probation Generated Referrals through the County/Children’s Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice Team and Encompass Community Services – FUERTE Wraparound Program.
 - School Generated Referrals through the Pajaro Valley Unified School District and the County Office of Education (COE) Alternative Education Schools
- Entry Points into Drug Medi-Cal for Adults and Youth
 - Adults and Youth
 - County staff conduct SUDS assessment through County BHD Access at 1400 Emeline or 1430 Freedom Blvd and are referred to the level of care required.
 - County contractors also conduct SUDS assessments. These include Janus, Encompass, Sobriety Works, PVPSA and New Life. If the provider that assesses the clients doesn’t offer the level of care required then they will make a referral and a warm hand off to a provider that does.
 - Youth are assessed for Youth Residential SUD Treatment at one of our DMC-ODS youth providers (PVPSA or Encompass) and if a residential referral is needed it is generated by PVPSA or Encompass to The Camp.

- County staff conduct SUD assessments for referrals directly from Human Services Department's FCS Division.
- Justice Involved
 - County staff conduct SUD assessments for AB109 populations and justice involved Medi-Cal beneficiaries, or via the collaborative court clinician who can assess court involved individuals.
 - Contractor, Encompass, conducts SUD assessments for persons in custody. Starting July 1, 2024, this will be done by County staff.

D. Crisis Now Academy Update – postponed to next month.

VIII. New Agenda Items

A. Letter to Board of Supervisors supporting the 2024-2025 Behavioral Health Budget
The board reviewed the draft letter and voted to accept with a couple of changes. See section IV.B. for board member votes.

B. Discussion on requesting the Board of Supervisors to direct the Behavioral Health Department to work with the Police Department to reduce the traumatic way the Raids (sweeps) are conducted on the unhoused folks.
The board decided they need to get more information before proceeding.

IX. Future Agenda Items

- Presentation from Cypress High School - board agreed to invite the students to a future meeting.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.