



# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

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# HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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

**JUNE 20, 2024 ♦ 3:00 PM-5:00 PM**

**HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY**

**1400 EMELINE AVENUE, BLDG K, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060**

**THE PUBLIC MAY JOIN THE MEETING BY CALLING (831) 454-2222, CONFERENCE ID 151 711 224#**

Xaloc Cabanes Chair 1 <sup>st</sup> District	Valerie Webb Member 2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Michael Neidig Co-Chair 3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Antonio Rivas Member 4 <sup>th</sup> District	Jennifer Wells Kaupp Member 5 <sup>th</sup> District
Laura Chatham Member 1 <sup>st</sup> District	Dean Shoji Kashino Member 2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Hugh McCormick Member 3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Celeste Gutierrez Member 4 <sup>th</sup> District	Jeffrey Arlt Secretary 5 <sup>th</sup> District

Felipe Hernandez Board of Supervisor Member	
Tiffany Cantrell-Warren Director, County Behavioral Health	Karen Kern Deputy Director, County Behavioral Health
Stella Peuse – Youth Representative	

**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, Bldg K, Rooms 206-207, Santa Cruz. Individuals may click here to [Join the meeting now](#) or may participate by telephone by calling (831) 454-2222, Conference ID 151 711 224#. 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

ID	Time	3:00 Regular Business
1	15 Min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll Call</li> <li>• Public Comment (No action or discussion will be undertaken today on any item raised during Public Comment period except that Mental Health Board Members may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed. Limited to 3 minutes each)</li> <li>• Board Member Announcements</li> <li>• <i>Approval of May 16, 2024 minutes*</i></li> <li>• Secretary's Report</li> </ul>
		<b>3:15 Standing Reports</b>
2	5 Min	May Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate for Advocacy, Inc.
3	15 Min	Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Felipe Hernandez
4	10 Min	Behavioral Health Report – Tiffany Cantrell-Warren Director, County Behavioral Health
5	15 Min	Crisis Now Academy Update – Jeffrey Arlt and Antonio Rivas
		<b>4:30 New Agenda Items</b>
6	45 Min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on requesting the Board of Supervisors to direct the BH Dept to work with Police Dept to reduce the traumatic way the Raids (“sweeps”) are conducted on the unhoused folks</li> <li>• Confirmation of Retreat date</li> <li>• <i>Vote on the updated Santa Cruz County Code 2.104*</i></li> <li>• <i>Discuss and vote on letter of recommendation in support of Congressional Bill HR8575 the Michelle Alyssa Go Act*</i></li> </ul>
		<b>4:50 Future Agenda Items</b>
		<b>5:00 Adjourn</b>

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

**NEXT MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING IS ON:**  
**JULY 18, 2024 ♦ 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**  
**SHERIFF'S HEADQUARTERS**  
**COMMUNITY ROOM**  
**5200 SOQUEL AVENUE**  
**SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060**



# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

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## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

**MINUTES – Draft**

### **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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Summary

This is a May 2024, 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  
May 2024

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**Telecare PHF**

On May 14, 2023, this Patients’ Rights Advocate\* received a phone call from a conserved client receiving treatment at the Telecare facility. The client reported that he would be transported to an out of the country facility and did not wish to travel by ambulance. The client gave his consent to speak with his conservator about this matter. The conservator promptly returned my call and said that she is agreeable for the client to travel by locked vehicle and would convey this to the receiving county. This writer placed another call to the conservator who confirmed that the client could ride in a locked vehicle instead of an ambulance.

\*Ms. Davi Schill

On May 23, 2024, this writer\* received a phone call from a client on an LPS hold at the Telecare facility. The client reported her mother dropped off clothes at the Telecare facility, but she did not receive them. This writer\* received permission to speak with staff and followed through. Spoke with staff. The client received her clothing and reported that shas was satisfied with the outcome.

\*Ms. Davi Schill

**Front Street Residential**

On May 13, 2024, this writer\* received an SOC 341 report sent to the Patients’ Rights program by Front Street Residential staff of alleged resident-to-resident abuse. The report stated that the alleged perpetrator threw a glass of milk at the reported without provocation. The alleged perpetrator refused to speak with this writer. However, the reported was agreeable speak with the PRA but did not want to contact local law enforcement and felt safe living at the facility in general

\*Ms. Davi Schill

On May 23, 2023, this writer\* responded to a report sent by Front Street Residential staff. Two residents got into a pushing match while waiting for medications which began from an argument about who was the first in line. The incident did not escalate beyond this point since one of the residents removed themselves from the line. This writer spoke with the

reported victim. This resident said he was not hurt, nor did he need assistance from the PRA or staff.

\*Ms. Davi Schill

**May 2024**

**Fourth Quarter**

1. TOTAL NUMBER CERTIFIED	21
2. TOTAL NUMBER OF HEARINGS	20
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTESTED HEARINGS	6
4. NO CONTEST PROBABLE CAUSE	14
5. CONTESTED NO PROBABLE CAUSE	1
6. VOLUNTARY BEFORE CERTIFICATION HEARING	
7. DISCHARGED BEFORE HEARING	1
8. WRITS	
9. CONTESTED PROBABLE CAUSE	5
10. NON-REGULARLY SCHEDULED HEARINGS	

\*One hearing uncontested but released due to facility error

**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 at Telecare (Santa Cruz Psychiatric Health Facility)**

Reise Hearings. /Capacity Hearings

Total number of Reise petitions filed by the Telecare treating psychiatrist: 5

Total number of Reise Hearings conducted: 3

Total number of Reise Hearings lost: 3

Total number of Reise Hearings won: 0

Total number of Reise Hearings withdrawn: 2

Hours spent on conducted hearing representation: 1.5 hours

House spent on all Reise hearings: 1 hour and thirty minutes. Reise appeal: 0

Respectfully: Davi Schill PRA, George Carvalho, PRA



.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R.

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to revise the definition of institution for mental diseases under the Medicaid program to exclude from such definition institutions having 36 beds or less if such institutions meet certain standards.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to revise the definition of institution for mental diseases under the Medicaid program to exclude from such definition institutions having 36 beds or less if such institutions meet certain standards.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Michelle Alyssa Go  
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REVISING THE DEFINITION OF INSTITUTION FOR**  
2 **MENTAL DISEASES UNDER THE MEDICAID**  
3 **PROGRAM TO EXCLUDE FROM SUCH DEFINI-**  
4 **TION INSTITUTIONS HAVING 36 BEDS OR**  
5 **LESS IF SUCH INSTITUTIONS MEET CERTAIN**  
6 **STANDARDS.**

7 Section 1905(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
8 1396d(i)) is amended to read as follows:

9 “(i) **INSTITUTION FOR MENTAL DISEASES.**—The  
10 term ‘institution for mental diseases’ means a hospital,  
11 nursing facility, or other institution that is primarily en-  
12 gaged in providing diagnosis, treatment, or care of persons  
13 with mental diseases, including medical attention, nursing  
14 care, and related services, unless such hospital, facility,  
15 or other institution—

16 “(1) has 36 beds or less; and

17 “(2) meets nationally recognized, evidence-  
18 based standards for mental health programs (and, in  
19 the case of an institution for mental diseases that  
20 provides treatment for substance use disorders,  
21 meets nationally recognized, evidence-based stand-  
22 ards for substance use disorder programs, such as  
23 the latest standards set forth by the American Soci-  
24 ety of Addiction Medicine) approved by the Sec-  
25 retary, including standards that establish the types  
26 of services offered, hours of clinical care, and staff-

1 ing credentials for such an institution, and any other  
2 standards as the Secretary may require.”.

3 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

4 The amendments made by this Act shall take effect  
5 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and shall  
6 apply to State plans beginning on such date.

08-JUN-2024 **DRAFT**

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors  
701 Ocean Street, Room 500  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
831 4543 2200

Re: Letter of recommendation in support of Congressional Bill HR 8575 the Michelle Alyssa Go Act .

To: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

The Santa Cruz County Mental Health Advisory Board recommends that the BOS send a letter urging our congressional representatives to actively support and or cosponsor HR 8575, the Michelle Alyssa Go Act which expands the Medicaid program's reimbursement to Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) from 16 to 36 beds and for patients between the ages of 22 and 64.

Santa Cruz county currently has only 16 out of the 153 acute care inpatient psychiatric beds recommended by the California Department of Health Care Access and Information. Santa Cruz also has a large population of individuals over the age of 22 without health insurance needing mental health and substance use treatment.

HR8575 amends title XIX of the Social Security Act to revise the definition of Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD) under the Medicaid program allowing mental health institutions to be reimbursed by Medicaid if they have more than 16 beds designated for mental health treatment. This bill would also remove the age limitation for medical reimbursement, so that IMD patients between the ages of 22 and 64 are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.

This legislation will increase the number of beds from 16 to 36 allowing for the expansion of existing facilities and

Again, Santa Cruz County Mental Health Advisory Board recommends that the BOS send a letter urging our congressional representatives to actively support and or cosponsor HR 8575, the Michelle Alyssa Go Act which expands the Medicaid program's reimbursement to Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) from 16 to 36 beds and for patients between the ages of 22 and 64.

Please do not hesitate to contact Xaloc Cabanes, chair of MHAB, should you have any questions.

Santa Cruz County Mental Health Advisory Board