

MINUTES APPROVED
October 20, 2016

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

September 15, 2016

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Mariposa Wellness Center, 10 Carr St, Watsonville, CA 95077

Present: Kathleen Aver Avraham, Maria Correia, Charlotte Nolan Reyes, John Laue, Jodie Wells, Hugh McCormick, Richard Martinez, Greg Caput

Excused Absence: Jenny Kaupp

Unexcused Absence: N/A

1. Approved July 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Kathleen Aver Avraham, Maria Correia, Charlotte Nolan Reyes, John Laue, Jodie Wells, Hugh McCormick, Richard Martinez

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Denise Ostlund, Jenny Kaupp, Greg Caput

Approved August 18, 2016 Meeting Minutes as amended, misspelling of Sesnon House, and John Laue moved to adjourn: John Laue motion to approve, Maria Correia second.

Ayes: Kathleen Aver Avraham, Maria Correia, John Laue

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Jenny Kaupp,

2. Public Comment:

- George Carvalho: Attempted to find meeting place for public forum regarding the Mental Health Services Act. He recommends having more signage, or holding meetings in places with easier access.

3. Standing Reports

- Board of Supervisors (BOS) report. Supervisor Greg Caput:
 - There was an article in August 15 Sentinel about the new mental in health facility in Watsonville. The Sentinel stated it will be a 33-bed facility, comparable to the Puff, which was in error. The facility will be an outpatient only facility, Pam Rogers-Wyman will look into the error by the Sentinel.
 - The Suicide Prevention Hotline is doing well. There is a short training process for volunteers.
- Pam Rogers-Wyman reported for Erik Riera:
 - The facility referenced in The Sentinel is being built on the County's Watsonville Crestview Campus as an outpatient facility. The facility is being built utilizing a capital improvement grant from the Central California Alliance for Health. It will have 33 treatment spaces, and will be constructed using a combination of pre-fabricated units and custom architecture. It should be completed by the end of 2017. The facility will include Children/Youth services on one side of the building and Adult services on the opposite side of the building. There have been a number of staffing positions held in

the budget for case management, psychiatry and psychotherapy. When finished, the facility will offer all services that are available in North County on the Emeline Campus.

- There was a large peer presence at the forum on the Mental Health Services Act Town hall meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2016. There is concern because the statewide initiative, “No Place Like Home”, will take back mental health service funds from all California counties, excluding Los Angeles County. Santa Cruz County will return 1.1 million dollars to the state. The Board of Supervisors is reworking the budget approved in June to see what cuts will be needed. The contracts which were wrapped up in June need to be reviewed for mental Health Expenditures to make reductions to give funds back to the State. The main goal is to address housing: Residential facilities, specialty facilities supportive housing and independent living programs will likely be exempt from losing funds.
- Guests: Reina Valecia, Santa Cruz County Mental Health Client Specialist and Officer Angel Caldera of the Watsonville Police Department. Ms. Valecia and Officer Caldera work in South County as a version of an “embedded co-responder” model where a clinician is in the car with an officer. This facilitates 5150 assessments for people in crisis; crisis assessments and crisis intervention services. Provides linkage and referrals to treatment services for clients and families with resources; provides emotional support and psychoeducation to families and individuals with mental health disorders. There is also a follow up with clients and family members when a client is placed on a hold after normal working hours. Their goal is to help individuals find services, rather than be placed on a non-voluntary hold, or taken to jail. The team is often able to safely detain armed individuals without force and de-escalate cases where individuals are threatening to commit suicide. There are three liaisons in the county, and all have been trained in hostage negotiation. Referrals to NAMI are given on almost every occurrence.
 - Time is controlled by dispatch. County Mental Help often directs information to them. The teams are never pulled off a call until a resolution has been met. An average day consists of consists of two to three calls, but have taken up to 7 calls a day.
 - The Santa Cruz Police Department is adding .5 to .6 staff to work as liaisons in order to have seven day a week staffing.

4. Presentation:

- Kathleen Condon, Director – Integrated Behavioral Health Services, 1080 Emeline Ave.
 - MHSAS: Partnership between the Santa Cruz County Clinic and behavioral health services, and can be connected through the Access Program.
 - The program employs four licensed clinical social workers, four counselors and two psychiatrists. It primarily offers individual therapy, but does have family counselors.
 - Target Population: clients who have mild to moderate mental illness who meet a set criteria. The program deals with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia.
 - Clients get their primary healthcare from the County Clinic. The majority of clients have Medi-Cal. The program does not take private insurance.
 - Many clients feel there is a stigma attached to saying they are treated at Building K. Service is based on clients need to get stabilized on medication for psychiatric care

which is makes it more efficient for psychiatric providers to match the level of need to the level of care.

5. Old MHAB business:

- Kathleen Aver Avraham: Business cards for the board members have been ordered. The front of the card has a place for the board member's name, and their district number. The back has critical support and resource numbers.
- Chair announced there are 2 vacancies on the board: One for the 1st district, the second for the 4th district.
- Kate Avraham and Maria Correia attended a meeting with the "Ladies of the Levee" group and Pam Rogers –Wyman from the County. Currently, areas of the levee off path, are closed.
- Maria Correia: Recently visited a meeting of the Little Hoover Commission. "A Little Hoover Commission Letter Report to the Governor and Legislature of California" was distributed to Board Members.

6. New Business:

- Chair Kate Avraham recommended that public notices be put out regarding Board vacancies.
- There will be a member interest survey at the next meeting so members can let the Board Know which areas they have a special interest in.
- Maria Correia and Charlotte Nolan Reyes have agreed to help Kate Avaraham with Outreach.
- Alicia Najera will give an update on the Mental Health Services Act at the MHAB October 20, 2016 meeting.
- The October 20th meeting of the Mental Health Advisory Board will be held at 1400 Emeline Ave, Bldg. K, Room 2006, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, from 3:00 – 5:00 PM.

7. Adjournment:

- Adjournment at 5:00 PM. John Laue motion to approve. Greg Caput seconded.