

**MINUTES APPROVED**  
**September 21, 2017**

**MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

July 20, 2017

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

1400 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA

**Present:** Aimee Escalante, Charlotte Nolan- Reyes, Hugh McCormick, Jodie Wells, Kate Avraham (Acting Chair), Xaloc Cabanes

**Excused Absence:** Maria Correia, Jim Roszell and Supervisor Greg Caput

**Unexcused Absence:** None

**Motion by Jodie Wells, to approve May 18, 2017 and June 15, 2017 meeting Minutes Seconded by Xaloc - No quorum**

**Introduction and Public Comments:**

- Fox Sloane: from Child and Family Rights group, discussed her learning about Trauma, ACE study, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). She recommended we all go see the current The MAH exhibit: Child Rights .
- Mental health Client Action Network (MHCAN) speaker discussed what she described as an assault on the rights of citizens at MHCAN after a violent attack on her person at the River St. shelter.  
She felt there is a great need for more funding for MHCAN and that there is a need for more general support.
- A second advocate/client (Kale Borgough) for MHCAN discussed her perspective on the equality and mutuality that is possible at MHCAN .
- George Cavalho, Patients' Rights advocate, discussed the heavy-handed stigmatizing of MHCAN and he encourages the board to express their concerns through letter writing, about the draconian efforts being made to drive out the mentally ill and homeless in unethical ways that violate civil rights in addition the great need for much better services in this city and that what we have is barely adequate.
- Director Erik Reira spoke up to say first, that county and city government are distinct, and that second that he has a meeting with the city tomorrow; sadly neighbors hire attorneys to fight organizations such as MHCAN due to NIMBY attitudes. Erik said that he will suggest that the county, even, may be able to will try come up with the money for perhaps even private security could be hired.  
Erik went on to say the ways we share MHCAN's distress, and that we all write to the city manager and the mayor Cynthia and also the City Council with our concerns and to express our support.
- Sheryl announced a new NAMI meeting on Thursdays 6-7:30 pm. She also described Peer-to Peer classes in September and new services of Spanish Speaking families in October. For more information on the group meetings visit the website at <http://www.namiscc.org/groups.html> .
- Hugh discussed the ways that NAMI groups are growing.

**Standing Reports:****Board of Supervisors Report - Greg Caput**

- attendance excused , no report

**Mental Health Director's Report – Erik Riera**

- Update went over his general Update for The MHAB. Highlights include the potential for partnering with state to develop a peer certification, also AB 727 the possible MHSA rental subsidies and AB 1315 services for early psychosis etc. Other key issues include community infrastructure grants

**Sub-committee and Board Member Reports:**

- Board member Hugh McCormick discussed Advisory Board members participating in outreach by paneling and tabling at the “Community Gathering on Mental Health” at the Twin Lakes Church in Aptos on August 26, 2017.

**Presentations:**

- Kathryn Louise, described the newly developed Rapid Connect which is a clinician (her for now) following up with people after a crisis (receiving services through the county Crisis Stabilization Program (CSP) to make sure that they make follow up appointments but, perhaps just as importantly, have a real human being reaching out to them.
- Marty Riggs, the county Acute services program manager described that Kathryn had been recently hired, had prior experience at Beacon.
- Kathryn described one case of a consumer who was in our CSP who had no prior history of services. He was discharged to Telos, after which he was able to verbalize a plan. He was followed up with the Rapid Connect Program

**Unfinished Business:**

- Public Outreach/Community Town Hall Committee under Jodie Wells. Jodie has arranged a table and speaking slot for MHAB at the Twin Lakes Church on August 26, 2017 with a speaker needs to meet regarding next steps for Community Mental Health Day (where/when?)
- Maria Correia and Kate Avraham met to go over the Data Notebook Committee (2016) and but there are some missing pieces county responses and analysis/response plans. Aimee made a move to follow up on this at next meeting; and Kate seconded it.
- A board and public members discussion ensued around supporting MHCAN .The City Council Resolution No. 27, 125 and also the efforts for the public members and we as a board to support MHCAN.

**New Business:**

- Xaloc is looking into our “MHAB website procedures” and will send it to Charlotte and report soon.
- Forming a letter campaign.

**Motion to adjourn at 4:59 PM proposed by Charlotte Reyes, Second by Hugh McCormick**

Ayes: All      Nays: None