

**MINUTES**

**APPROVED 12/21/17**

**MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

October 19, 2017

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Veteran's Memorial Building – Gymnasium  
215 E Beach Street, Watsonville, CA 95060

**Present: Xaloc Cabanes, Aimee Escalante, Bek Sebedra, Jim Roszell, Jodie Wells, Kate Avraham, Rebekah Mills, and Supervisor Greg Caput**

**Excused Absence: Charlotte Reyes and Hugh McCormick**

**Unexcused Absence: None**

**Motion to approve September 21, 2017 meeting Minutes with minor add/delete on "Presentations" by Kate Avraham; Second by Supervisor Greg Caput**

**Ayes: Xaloc Cabanes, Aimee Escalante, Bek Sebedra, Jim Roszell, Jodie Wells, Kate Avraham, Rebekah Mills, and Supervisor Greg Caput**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: Charlotte Reyes and Hugh McCormick**

**Introductions and Public Comment:**

- Guests discussed MHCAN funding and food pantry hours
- Laura's Law Committee Advocate
- Alicia Najera made an announcement to the MHAB of her pending retirement in December
- Phil announced that he would like to donate land/acreage to the County for a Sober Living Environment (SLE)/Peer type of housing in collaboration/partnership with the County

**Public Hearing:**

- Alicia Najera – Mental Health Service Act Three Year Update
- 30 day review
- Draft Plan – Erik Riera, Behavioral Health Director, to include website information in October minutes re: CAO's planned Town Hall Meetings

**Standing Reports:**

**Board of Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Greg Caput**

- Report on Aging Summit
- Touched on Santa Clara County Funding cuts
- No Veteran Should be Homeless (get word out) 10/23/17 flyer
- Ombudsman Flyer
- New Behavioral Health Clinic that Director Erik Riera will discuss

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

- Legislative Updates
  - AB 74: "Housing for a Healthy California" will allow Counties participating in a Whole Person Care Project to use funds to support rental assistance to participants in the program

- AB 727: Allows Counties more flexibility around the use of MHSA funding to support rental assistance
- SB 323: Allows Counties to work with local FQHC's to contract for Drug Medi-Cal services. They would likely need to become a certified provider.
- AB 1250: Has been sent back to a study committee. This legislation would have made it very difficult for the County to continue contracting with local non-profits for services.
- AB 1299: For children in foster care placed in another County, the services needed by those children will now become the responsibility of the County they are placed into.
  - Has significant limitations for Counties with large numbers of children placed. Impact of Santa Cruz County is \$400,000+ in new services we will be responsible for.
  - Absorb significant expense starting in January 2018
  - Waiver up to CA Senate so other County can continue paying placement cost
  - No plans for cutting other programs
  - So far 31 clients placed out of Santa Cruz County and 31 placed in Santa Cruz County
- New Alliance Grant
  - We were notified yesterday that we are being awarded a new Alliance Grant in Behavioral Health to upgrade our technology in our conference rooms at Building K and in Watsonville.
  - Monitors for presentations, client educational programs, and videoconferencing capacity.
- Watsonville Behavioral Health Office Building Update
  - Contract with the building company is going to the Board on October 24
  - Construction expected to begin in January for this outpatient facility
  - 13,000 square feet (2x the size of our current office)
  - Current office has inadequate facilities
- Psychiatric recruitment:
  - We have made 3 job offers for Psychiatrists who will start with us next summer at which time we will be fully staffed.
- Rebekah Mills requested a QI Report of number of complaints on an ongoing basis. Erik indicated he would have that information for the MHAB going forward.

#### **Sub-committee and Board Member Report:**

- Rebekah Mills working on jail subcommittee report. She is requesting to have 7 people on this committee and is asking for potential volunteers to contact her.
- Jodie Wells requested assistance with the written Semi-Annual Report that goes before the Board of Supervisors (BOS).
  - Summary to be presented to the BOS in January and each subcommittee will be presenting a brief summary of their work.
  - About 15 minute presentation to the BOS
  - Kate Avraham and Bek Sabreda volunteered
  - Summary Report to highlight changes in the MHAB since the last Grand Jury Report and themes from Public Comments

#### **Unfinished Business:**

- Data Notebook 2017 – Aimee Escalante and Charlotte Reyes
  - Steve Ruzicka will be a MHAB presenter in December moving forward on it.
  - Review Data Notebook and comment on trends

**New Business:**

- Nomination of Chair
  - Motion by Jim Roszell to nominate Xaloc Cabanes as MHAB Chair; Second by Aimee Escalante

Ayes: ALL                      Nays: None                      Abstain: None

- Board Secretary, Kate Avraham – to send letter to the Sunday Sentinel
  - Draft letter (2-pages) to newspapers so that MHAB becomes more visible to the public and out in the community.
  - Motion by BOS Greg Caput to accept letter to be sent to the Sentinel, Register Pajaronian, and the Good Times as is and Second by Jim Roszell

Ayes: ALL                      Nays: None                      Abstain: None

- Liaison's with Law Enforcement report/announcement by Watsonville Police Department
  - Reina Valencia, Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health Mental Health Client Specialist has been doing an amazing and successful job working in collaboration with Watsonville Police Department
  - 494 people have been served since the program began in March 2016
  - Watsonville Police Department commented on the success of the program
- Jim Roszell volunteered to attend the No Veteran Should be Homeless 10/23/17 event and represent the MHAB.
- MHCAN funding letter sent in August to City of Santa Cruz Manager per Rebekah Mills.
- Addendum letter to October Minutes of MHAB. Rebekah Mills to forward to include and post online.

**Motion to adjourn at 4:41 PM proposed by Xaloc Cabanes, Second by Jim Roszell**

Ayes: All      Nays: None