



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION



Salud Mental y
Tratamiento del Uso
de Sustancias

MINUTES – Approved
March 20, 2025

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

FEBRUARY 20, 2025, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

1400 EMELINE, CONFERENCE ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

MICROSOFT TEAMS (831) 454-2222, CONFERENCE ID 444 898 505#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb
Xaloc Cabanes

Excused: Hugh McCormick, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Kaelin Wagnermarsh, Supervisor
Kimberly De Serpa

Staff: Karen Kern, James Russell, Victoria Reynolds

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- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:04p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
 - II. Public Comments – None.
 - III. Board Member Announcements
 - Wi-fi access available in the conference rooms.
 - IV. Approve January 16, 2025 Minutes
Motion/Second: Mike Neidig / Dean Kashino
Ayes: Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Mike Neidig, Xaloc Cabanes
Nays: None
Abstain: Antonio Rivas, Valerie Webb
Motion passed.
 - V. Reports
 - A. Secretary's Report
 - No attendance issues.
 - Ethics Training – Antonio due in March. Xaloc experiencing issues logging in to complete supplemental training.
 - Terms ending on April 1st: Dean, Jeffrey, Mike.
 - B. Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate
January report was provided. George did not attend the meeting.
 - C. Behavioral Health Director's Report – Karen Kern
 - Active recruitment for the BH Director position. Announcement of new director in the next couple of months.

- Closely monitoring two federal grants that are potentially at risk- Mental Health Block grant and Substance Use block grant.
- Budget to be presented to the Board of Supervisors in April. Budget hearings are in June.
- Response to Richard Gallo (public member) about BHSA and Prop 1: Currently in the second year of the 2023-2026 MHSA 3-year plan. The MHSA rules still apply up to June 30, 2026. The new rules under BHSA and the associated housing components don't go into effect until July 2026. The next 2026-2029 three-year plan will have focus groups, surveys and townhalls.

D. HR8575 Ad Hoc Committee Update – Jeffrey Arlt

The purpose was to have the HR8575 passed into law to revise the definition of Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD) under the Medicaid program. The goal of passing into law was not achieved. The committee contacted all 60 CA boards and commissions. Lessons learned – be mindful of the calendars of the people and organizations you are working with.

E. Site Visit Ad Hoc Committee Update – Dean Kashino

One of the responsibilities of MHAB is to review and evaluate the County's MH facilities through a site visit. Possible areas include Telecare, the jail, 7th Avenue. A minimum of two members should visit a site.

VI. Presentation: Crisis Now Evaluation Findings – RDA Consulting

- Contracted by the County to complete evaluation of the Crisis Now Project as part of the Mental Health Services Act, Innovation Funding requirements.
- The Innovation project is focused on bringing Santa Cruz County into greater alignment with the Crisis Now model that has four key components: High Tech Crisis Call Centers, Mobile Crisis Response Teams, Crisis Care Facilities, and Essential Principles & Practices.
- The presentation included information on the Program Updates, Implementation Review, Perceptions of phone line access; MCRT access; facility & system access; crisis disposition; appropriate level of care. Other information provided in the presentation were MCRT Client Characteristics, MCRT Incidents, MCRT Incident Characteristics, CSP Admissions, Incident Outcomes, Patient Outcome Review, Hospital Capacity, and EMS BH Calls for Service.

VII. Future Agenda Items

A. Site Visits

B. Director of SUDS to provide presentation on SUDS and Opiate Settlement Funds

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.