

**MINUTES – Approved  
March 16, 2023**

**MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

FEBRUARY 16, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
1400 EMELINE AVE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ  
Microsoft Teams Meeting (831) 454-2222, Conference 624 238 186#

**Present:** Antonio Rivas, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Stephen Busath, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez  
**Absent:** None  
**Staff:** Karen Kern, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
- II. Public Comments
  - Richard Gallo from Access CA – announced slots are available for peers to join the CA Association of Peer Professional, which is a statewide organization for peers. Regarding the MHSA 3-year plan, Richard stated it is critical that the County makes sure they get adequate feedback about gaps in services in the mental health community, which includes the unhoused who utilize the service center in Santa Cruz, MHCAN, NAMI Santa Cruz.
  - BJ Nadeau – stated that the County failed to include treatment as an intervention, so when the County received the SAMHSA grant, they contracted with the applied crisis training to provide gatekeeper, assessing, and mitigating risk trainings, all critical tools and strategies, but they are not treatment for suicidal thoughts and behaviors.
  - Nicholas Whitehead – presented two issues:
    - 1) CARE Court – he requested to discuss at a future meeting if haven't discussed in previous meeting.
    - 2) Homeless at the Benchlands – County moved them out due to flooding, however he stated it was not carried out in a humanitarian way. Nicholas requested to put this item on future agenda.
  - Perry Spencer from Up To Peace – stated they are cultivating change in the way people think and speak. Perry is reaching out to MHAB for advice on how to connect with mental health issues. He announced the pop-up Art Café will be held on August 4<sup>th</sup> at 3pm on Cooper Street.
  - Steve Dille, Executive Director of the Veterans Art Project – Steve stated the project is an innovation funded statewide project by MHSOAC and is partnering up with Up To Peace. He is looking for Santa Cruz County veterans who are artists and will participate in zoom meetings and artist trainings. He stated that working in the art space is a means for mental health and wellness and the arts centered tools help veterans thrive.
  - Tonya, Director of Advocacy for the Veterans Arts Projects – stated that art is the new healing to modality and veterans need the human interaction, opportunities to be around other veterans. The arts and pop-up cafes provide an opportunity to hear the veterans stories.

- Dean Kashino, Retired Physician – asked what the County plans are for implementation of CARE Court. He also asked about the accounting plans and how it will be implemented.
- III. Board Member Announcements
- AB361 no longer applies to meetings. Starting March 1, 2023, the board will be required to attend meetings in person.
  - Xaloc attended the Board of Supervisors meeting on February 14, 2023 to talk about the Data Notebook.
  - New Board Member – Stephen Busath is a 6-year resident in Santa Cruz County. He stated he is a police officer but not representing the agency.
  - MHCAN tour with Sarah Leonard is done. MHCAN is working on a project and hope they will do a presentation in the next few months. MHCAN can't provide certain services due to restrictions imposed by the City of Santa Cruz.
- IV. Business / Action Items
- A. Approve January 19, 2023 Minutes.  
 Motion/Second: Jeffrey Arlt / Antonio Rivas  
 Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Stephen Busath, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes  
 Abstain: Supervisor Felipe Hernandez  
 Motion passed.
- V. Reports
- A. Secretary's Report
- Attendance – no issues
  - Trainings – asking board members to consider alternate method of tracking trainings.
- B. Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Felipe Hernandez  
 Supervisor Hernandez introduced himself to the Board. He stated he was previously on City Council for 9 years, and almost 3 years on the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees. He is a Veteran of the Army and was at Desert Storm. Supervisor Hernandez stated that he wants to be involved with the MHAB and advocate for the veterans that are dealing with mental health issues and for the young people and Latino community as numbers have increased.
- C. Behavioral Health Report, Karen Kern, Adult Services Director
- 1) Adopting the Crisis Now model working with MHSOAC, who is offering free technical assistance to work with a consultant to see whether or not it would fit our community. Crisis Now focuses on three areas: receiving center, 24/7 mobile emergency response, call center. Opportunities for stakeholder feedback will be on Tuesday and Wednesday next week at noon. The meetings will include a quick presentation from our consultant Recovery Innovations International and additional information will be provided about where we are right now in our county with the receiving center, call center and mobile emergency response team that is currently operating.
  - 2) Crisis Continuum - Request For Proposal (RFP) came out. Currently going through the process of reviewing proposals for the crisis stabilization program and the psychiatric health facility.
  - 3) MHSA 3-year Plan is starting up. Hired RDA to assist with the plan. All information is available on the website.
  - 4) Andrea Tolaio provided statistics for 988.  
 Calls answered in Santa Cruz County: 1846 calls in 2021 and 2901 calls in 2022 (57% increase). Calls answered means they were engaged with responder. Incoming calls increased 93%, only 698 in 2021 and 5218 in 2022. In terms of responder hours on lifeline, 12,430 hours total in 2022. There are 61 volunteer responders, 14 staff responders and 7 administrative staff.

D. Committee Updates

1. Standing Committees

a. Budget

- Committee decided to contact other counties and entities to find out specifically how they are financially sustaining their crisis response programs. They will also ask what expenses they are encountering in the cost of equipment and supplies when they are trying to be reimbursed for services (medical, private insurance). The committee will request a copy of their financial report.
- Antonio is going to attend the Pajaro Valley Healthcare District Board meetings. Laura is going to get in touch with Ben Adam Clymer to get information on the financing of mobile crisis response.
- Jeff's personal request is to deny Kaiser Permanente's proposal to build a facility in Santa Cruz unless they have behavioral health services. Discussion on this topic will continue at the next meeting.

- b. Community Engagement/Publicity – Val recommends that the committee should be an ad hoc as the committee doesn't have ongoing items. As events come up, the committee will meet and engage at that time. The board will vote next month to change the status of this committee from standing to ad hoc.

2. Ad Hoc Committees

- a. Peer Support Certification – Hugh completed certification two months ago. He is waiting to take the exam in the next month. He is looking forward to continuing discussions with the people from the Department of Health Care Services, CalMHSA, NAMI and SHARE.
- b. 988 – no update.
- c. Ideal Crisis System – supporting Crisis Now events and getting the word out regarding next week's meetings on Tuesday, February 21st and Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12pm-1pm.

E. Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate

George was present at the meeting. January report was provided.

George reported that AB2275 is in effect and basically rewrites the 5150 section which provides additional rights for people on hold. If an individual is placed on a second 5150, a writ needs to be placed, and must have a hearing similar to 5250. ER's will be affected, parking lot 5150 must wait 12 hours. In 2022, 31 were placed on a second 5150.

VI. New Agenda Items

1. Retreat – meeting dates and possible topics to be discussed next month.

VII. Future Agenda Items

- 1. CARE Court
- 2. Kaiser and Mental Health Facility
- 3. Homeless at the Benchlands
- 4. Change Publicity Committee status to ad hoc

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.