



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

MINUTES – Approved
June 15, 2023

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

APRIL 20, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
1400 EMELINE AVE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ
Microsoft Teams Meeting (831) 454-2222, Conference 748 582 926#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham,
Michael Neidig, Stephen Busath, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez
Absent: Hugh McCormick (attended virtually), Valerie Webb
Staff: Karen Kern, James Russell, Jane Batoon-Kurovski, Arianna Lomeli

- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
- II. Public Comments
 - Nicholas Whitehead – stated that people who need treatment should have experiences with nature included.
 - Marina Archer – stated she is a social scientist in the field of social psychology who has had a lifelong interest in matters concerning mental health. She is requesting to be a Member-At-Large.
 - Richard Gallo - announced the CA Association of Mental Health Peer run organization known as Campo, is seeking peers for one of the projects that they are working on. Regarding SB43, the State is trying to change the definition of gravely disabled to also include substance abuse and Cal Voices is opposing this piece of legislation. Richard stated he addressed the State regarding the Community Planning Process (CPP) as it needs to continue under the MHSA. It needs consumer feedback, families' feedback about their loved ones needs, and gaps and services with the mental health services as they vary county to county.
 - Celeste Gutierrez – stated she is with Supervisor Hernandez' office and is looking forward to the Hope Squad presentation.
- III. Board Member Announcements
 - Serg Kagno no longer on the Mental Health Advisory Board, effective April 1st.
 - The Sheriff's Office showed a preview of a movie called The Bystander. It is about how to deal with the rape culture and how to support people and not being bystanders when they see things happening around them. The Chair stated he highly recommends all to watch this movie.
- IV. Business / Action Items
 - A. Change the status of the Budget Committee from Standing to Ad Hoc.
Motion/Second: Laura Chatham / Antonio Rivas
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Stephen Busath, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez
Abstain: Jeffrey Arlt, Michael Neidig
Absent: Hugh McCormick, Valerie Webb
Motion passed.

- V. Presentation – Scotts Valley High School Hope Squad
Student Presenters: Stella Peuse, Alexa Ruiz, Caitlin Mullin, Devon Bloom, Cesar Rodriguez-Romero, Karissa Woods, Toka Mohamed and Alex Baum
Christie Danner, Assistant Principal at SVHS provided an introduction. Over the past three years, the school lost a couple of students to suicide, and lost one student in a tragic car accident. The school felt a lot of loss and a lot of trauma, and they have been working hard to heal and recover and find ways to support the students. Discussions started last spring on what can be done at school to support students with their health and wellness. The overall theme is it is a shared responsibility between school, parents, community, medical professionals, and peers. They investigated different programs that were peer to peer based as they felt that would be the most powerful for the school that could be shared efforts and include the students, and for healing and support, and that is how HOPE Squad came about. Below is an outline of the students' presentation:

- A. How Hope Squad Helps
- B. Hope Squad Selection Process
- C. Hope Squad Members and Advisors
- D. Starting Up – Getting the Word Out
- E. Scotts Valley High School Hope Squad Roles
- F. Monthly Themes/School Wide Activities
- G. Hope Squad Meetings
- H. 1st Year School-Wide Activities
- I. Hope Week
- J. Reflections and Planning for Next Year

[Click here to view the presentation slides.](#)

- VI. Public Comment Closing
Mental Health Services Act 3-Year Plan Fiscal Years 23/24 – 26/27
Karen Kern, Behavioral Health Deputy Director
The MHSA 3-year plan drives the investment of MHSA dollars in the programs and services that support people in the community who are experiencing mental illness, and County Behavioral Health takes direction and makes decisions on what services to fund based on stakeholder feedback. The feedback received from the community is around the services that have been provided, what worked, what didn't work, what were the gaps, and what should be the focus.

[Click here to view the presentation slides of the MHSA 2023-2026 Three-Year Plan: Public Comment Closing.](#)

Public Comments:

1. Antonio Rivas
 - Page 34, possibly add another section or add the group Veterans. He wants veterans to be labeled.
 - Page 35, add the word culture. This will help people be aware of culture.
2. Rebecca
 - Dissatisfaction with treatment facilities. They can be viewed as unsafe places, abusive, and need to be run better.
3. Laura Chatham
 - (In response to Rebecca) Those she has spoken to who are homeless or are close to homelessness say some get services and some don't.
4. Nicholas
 - Perhaps being open to alternate fields of hypnosis, dietary changes, and supplements to care for patients.
 - Focus on personal engagement for patients.
5. Xaloc Cabanes
 - Confusion, not clear how folks from different incomes can become a part of this discussion or be interested in it, due to different financials guiding health care paths.

VII. Reports

A. Secretary's Report

- No attendance issues.
- Laura and Jeffrey completed trainings in 2023.
- Upcoming training – CalBHBC will provide training on how to have an effective Board/Commission.

B. Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Felipe Hernandez

- The Board of Supervisors recently passed the 10-year agreement called Access to Care from Kaiser. There was some discussion about aligning contracts with different healthcare providers, but ultimately, the board wanted to have input at the 5-year interval.
- The Governor has \$2 billion housing plan which is a general fund housing plan. It is still under discussion how this plan is going to happen but the concern is that it is going to cut into MHSA funding, up to about 20-35% of our local funding.

C. Behavioral Health Report, Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Behavioral Health Director

Tiffany formally introduced Karen Kern as the new Deputy Director of Behavioral Health. She shared that Karen was selected amongst a very competitive pool of candidates because she brings the qualities that are necessary to take county behavioral health into the new CalAIM healthcare delivery system. Karen joined county behavioral health in 2020 as the Director of Adults Behavioral Health, and since then has led a transformation within that unit towards a recovery-oriented model. Prior to coming to Santa Cruz County, Karen worked at various Federally Qualified Health Clinics in Portland and in Oakland, in roles as the Director of Substance Use Disorder Services and also Quality Assurance and Compliance. She has a degree in social services, a master's in public administration and a certificate in alcohol and drug counseling.

D. Committee Updates

1. Standing Committees

a. Budget

- The committee discussed changing the status of the committee from standing to ad hoc. Justification is that a standing committee is burdensome, inefficient, and not flexible. The committee members unanimously agreed to become ad hoc and focus on the MHSA funding and program. The goal of the ad hoc committee is to support the annual update of the MHSA.
- Other update: Antonio attended the Watsonville Community Hospital Board meeting. Antonio had a conversation with one of the board members and he mentioned the possibility of building a behavioral health building on the land next to the hospital.

2. Ad Hoc Committees

- a. Peer Support Specialist Certification – Hugh said he is contacting local agencies, and everyone is excited but a little leery about all the emerging details regarding the entire process. The report is coming along, and it should be beneficial for counties and organizations and peers throughout the state. Hugh said he hopes to finish and print the report by the next board meeting.
- b. 988 – the committee met with Andrea Tolaio and discussed the convergence of the Crisis Now Project (5-year project); AB988 (5 years to accomplish); MHSA (3-year focus).
- c. Ideal Crisis System – the committee had a discussion with James and reviewed 35 questions. Jeffrey went to Tucson to look at their Crisis Response System. The committee is looking forward to working with Karen regarding the Crisis Assessment Plan. The goal is to support Behavioral Health with the Crisis Now Project. More information in May.
- d. Community / Publicity – no report.

E. Patients' Rights Report – Davi Schill, Patients' Rights Advocate

Davi Schill was present at the meeting. March report was provided.

- Furlough days have been revoked. Davi thanked everyone, especially Karen Kern, who helped to ensure that all the people served have access to an advocate full time.

VIII. New Agenda Items

1. Nomination Committee – The vote for Chair, Co-chair, and Secretary was postponed to next month.
2. Vote on Letter of Support for Dr. Ratner regarding the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program – no draft letter to review.

IX. Future Agenda Items

1. SB43
2. Vote on Member-At-Large
3. Trailer Bill - AB988

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.