



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

**MINUTES – Approved
February 15, 2024**

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

JANUARY 18, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
1400 EMELINE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ
Microsoft Teams (831) 454-2222, Conference ID 859 546 544#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Stella Peuse, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez
Excused: Hugh McCormick
Staff: Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, James Russell, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

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- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:08 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
 - II. Public Comments
 - Mark Warner – friend had a stroke due to the action of SCPD towing his vehicle which caused high blood pressure, clot, then stroke. Current housing doesn't allow him to have interactions with wife, and where he is currently living does not allow help from medical people.
 - III. Board Member Announcements
 - Biennial Report – need pictures of Stella, Jenny, and Celeste. Received extension to submit the report next month.
 - The Mental Health Advisory Board will merge with the SUDS Commission in approximately three months to become the Behavioral Health Board.
 - IV. Business / Action Items
 - A. Approve November 16, 2023 Minutes
Motion/Second: Jeffrey Arlt / Celeste Gutierrez
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez
Nays: None
Absent: Hugh McCormick
Motion passed.
 - B. Approve the 2023 Data Notebook with the changes outlined in section VI.A.
Motion/Second: Dean Kashino / Antonio Rivas
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez
Nays: None
Absent: Hugh McCormick
Motion passed.

C. Proposition 1

Postpone the Proposition 1 discussion on supporting/opposing to the next meeting.

Motion/Second: Dean Kashino / Valerie Webb

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Dean Kashino, Valerie Webb

Abstain: Jennifer Wells Kaupp

Absent: Hugh McCormick

Nays: Celeste Gutierrez, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez

Motion failed.

Oppose Proposition 1

Motion/Second: Laura Chatham / Michael Neidig

Ayes: Celeste Gutierrez, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig

Abstain: Antonio Rivas, Dean Kashino, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Valerie Webb, Supervisor Hernandez

Absent: Hugh McCormick

Nays: Xaloc Cabanes

Motion failed.

D. Approve the letter recommending prioritizing the tax allocation in Santa Cruz County go to Behavioral Health Services.

Motion/Second: Dean Kashino / Jennifer Wells Kaupp

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez

Nays: None.

Absent: Hugh McCormick

Motion passed.

E. Approve the letter regarding the need for a Crisis Response Center commensurate with the needs of our client population.

Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Michael Neidig

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez

Nays: None.

Absent: Hugh McCormick

Motion passed.

V. Reports

A. Secretary's Report

- No attendance issues.
- Training – Board members have until April 1st to complete the requirement.
- Recommend looking for trainings on Prop 1. Other option is to go to the Legislatures Analysts office and look at the information they have on Prop 1.

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

The December report was provided, and Davi was present at the meeting. Davi reported that they didn't get any complaints or abuses in December.

C. Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Felipe Hernandez

- There was a transition of leadership at the BOS: Justin Cummings is Board Chair and Felipe is Vice-Chair.
- Toured the old Bay Federal building by the Sheriff's Headquarters and everything is on time for the Behavioral Health building for the youth.
- Veterans Hall Building – at some point, it will be leased to the city. There is a collaboration with Community Health Trust, who has been awarded a grant to do a Wellness Center for youth.

- D. Behavioral Health Report: Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Director of County Behavioral Health
- 5300 Soquel Avenue site for the Childrens Crisis Residential Program and Childrens Crisis Stabilization program is moving forward. There will be action at the board meeting on the 30th, directing the Community Development Infrastructure Department to release bids to make a notice to contractors in early February, open bids on March 6th, and then return to the board on or before June 4th to enter into a contract with a group that would begin construction on the facility.
 - Update on the Watsonville interim diversion project for youth experiencing a crisis: The crisis stabilization program operated by Telecare is not accepting youth in that facility, so youth are being directed to Emergency Departments (ED). BH is implementing a preferred ED for youth. It is going to have some specific staffing of behavioral health clinicians who work with youth in crisis, which is set to open in early February at Watsonville Community Hospital. They are in contract negotiations with Pacific Clinic, who is currently an outpatient contract provider for children's services. Staff will include the full ED medical staff, one licensed BH clinician on site for 12 hours, 8am-8pm and one BH support staff who is not licensed but is trained and knowledgeable. There will be two staff for 12 hours, 7 days per week.
 - BH is working on increasing their ability to provide direct services that are billable through the Medi-Cal system because that is one of their primary sources of revenue to cover the expenses of running the specialty mental health plan and the drug Medi-Cal plan. There have been huge payment reform changes which are difficult and not good. The budget situation is bad, and contractors are hurting. It is a difficult change, but they are trying to provide a lot of support by having learning communities that will start up next week for contractors to try to elevate best practices.

Mobile Crisis Response Update – James Russell, Director of Access and Community Crisis Continuum Services

- Moving ahead with the Crisis Grant Innovation Project. Family Services Agency is the first contract provider and is in the process of hiring staff. They have a program supervisor who will start on Monday in addition to hiring other positions. They expect to do onboarding for those positions and then do an onboarding with the MERT team as BH continues to tweak how MERT responds to things. They are working through all their policies and procedures to make them more in line with national standards and with the standards around meeting people where the crisis is at, when the crisis is occurring and not dictating.
- There are some State mandates that have criteria which include the use of a dispatch tool, which will be incorporated into the electronic health record. Family Services Agency will get into that electronic health record, utilizing those tools which have safety factors.
- By April, there will be two teams in the afternoon, one in Watsonville and one in Santa Cruz which will supplement the current MERT team services. BH will handle the daytime initially and then the contract agency will handle the afternoon with an on-call from BH licensed staff. Also, there will be one team in the contract agency that will do the overnight portion, which would meet 24/7.
- The State mandate for response time is 1 hour within the city and 2 hours to a rural setting. County BH goal is 15 minutes within the city.
- There are three years of solid funding, which means BH has two years to get this up and running, to demonstrate it works and meets the needs of the community.
- BH will be attending town halls, minimum of two town halls per month for the 3-year period.
- BH will continue to have ongoing monthly meetings where local law enforcement, Emergency Department and Telecare gather to network together to figure out what is working, what is not working for that part of the crisis continuum.

VI. New Agenda Items

A. Reviewed and discussed Data Notebook. Changes to draft include:

- 1) Page 13 – remove I.
- 2) Page 10 - #1: add Santa Cruz
- 3) Page 30 - #29 add Administrative Aide, #30 add staff liaison name, #31 add Chair's name.

B. Proposition 1

The board members agreed to add Proposition 1 to next month's meeting agenda.

C. Reviewed and discussed the draft letter recommending a large portion of the tax allocation in Santa Cruz County go to Behavioral Health Services.
See section IV.D for voting results.

D. Reviewed and discussed the draft letter regarding the need for a crisis receiving center in Santa Cruz County. See section IV.E for voting results.

E. Possible MHAB Meeting Locations

- Contracted agencies
- Scotts Valley
- San Lorenzo Valley
- Consider the technology and parking at the various locations.
- Goal is to have 4 in Watsonville and 4 in Santa Cruz

VII. Future Agenda Items

A. Discussion on supporting/opposing Proposition 1

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.