



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

**MINUTES – Approved
August 15, 2024**

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

JULY 18, 2024 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
SHERIFF'S OFFICE HEADQUARTERS
5200 SOQUEL AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ
(IN-PERSON MEETING ONLY)

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

-
- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:04p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
 - II. Public Comments
 - Becky – mentioned the Project Oasis Ranch which offers free art and nature therapy, animals, gardening, etc. for all people for support of mental health, especially for the underserved youth.
 - Public member mentioned a 3-story building will be built for the homeless behind Housing Matters. Still addressing the mental disability and confused on how the program works.
 - Damien – shared his personal story on how he lost so much and believes there has to be some structure.
 - Robert – brought article which states that 5150 is expected to worsen under CA law. Concern throughout the state due to increased funding that is available through Prop 1 to treat people in facilities. Treatment is forced drug and forced incarceration, conservatorships and concerned about the local impact in terms of the protections people have. Not clear what kinds of protections people get.
 - Richard Lewis – people in mental health programs, take one block in Watsonville and in Santa Cruz and think about serving everyone not just mental health.
 - Public member stated there should be stations with Narcan around town so that they are accessible. Because of constant sweeps, they lose documents, and then can't get Medical, etc. Sweeps should be controlled and possessions to be safe guarded and not destructed.
 - Mark – from Santa Cruz Free Guide stated that approximately 1/3 of Santa Cruz High School students are now unhoused, they graduated to the streets throughout Santa Cruz County.
 - Public member stated that the MHAB has the power to advise and encouraged the MHAB to have subcommittees to get more of this information to advise and hopefully make an impact.
 - Troy – stated the death toll in Santa Cruz County this year is 144, while last year there was a total of 142 homeless deaths for the entire year.
 - Athena – stated that mental health should be centered around poverty. Poverty is a mental health crisis.
 - III. Board Member Announcements
 - July 2, 2024: second anniversary of 988.
 - Chair invited to participate in an interview with Santa Cruz Voices.

- IV. Business / Action Items
 - A. Approve June 20, 2024 Minutes.
 - Motion/Second: Dean Kashino / Antonio Rivas
 - Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes
 - Nays: None
 - Motion passed.
 - B. Accept the letter of recommendation with the changes as discussed requesting the Board of Supervisors to direct the BH Department to work with Police Department to reduce the way the raids/sweeps are conducted on the unhoused folks.
 - Motion/Second: Celeste Gutierrez / Antonio Rivas
 - Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes
 - Nays: None
 - Motion passed.
- V. Reports
 - A. Secretary's Report – Secretary absent, no report.
- VI. Standing Reports
 - A. June Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate
 - The June report was provided. George did not attend the meeting.
 - B. Behavioral Health Director's Report – Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Director of Behavioral Health
 - Update on 24/7/365 mobile crisis response services - Family Service Agency will start swing shift August 5th and expanding night shift coverage by August 19th. Coverage of licensed professionals (County staff) is currently being negotiated with the Union.
 - Fiscal Update Summary
 - Current CalAIM reimbursement rates are 36% higher in neighboring Bay Area Counties than in Santa Cruz
 - IMD expenses will continue to increase
 - Productivity levels increased 20-36% across all County-staffed outpatient non-medical services, and 4% in medical services
 - Cost to County will increase:
 - As FFP services increase, 50% local match required
 - Unfunded mandates (capital projects maintenance, SB43, Care Court, IST) will incur costs
 - Prop 1 will reduce MHSA funding for community-based and early intervention services by 30%, which is \$8-9M based on this year's MHSA distribution
 - C. Crisis Now Academy Update – deferred to the next meeting.
- VII. New Agenda Items
 - A. Vote on letter requesting the Board of Supervisors to direct the BH Department to work with Police Department to reduce the way the Raids (sweeps) are conducted on the unhoused folks
 - The board discussed the draft letter and voted to submit with the changes as discussed. See Section IV.B.
 - C. Vote on the updated Santa Cruz County Code 2.104 – to be discussed at the retreat.
- VIII. Future Agenda Items
 - Mike and Dean will do a presentation on the role of psych meds and involuntary treatment.
- IX. Adjournment
 - Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.