

MINUTES – APPROVED
February 21, 2019

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

January 17, 2019

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

1400 Emeline Avenue, Room 206, Santa Cruz, CA

Present: Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Holly Heath, Hugh McCormick, Kathleen Avraham, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

Excused Absence: Aimee Escalante, Jodie Wells, Lynda Kaufmann

Unexcused Absence: Bek Phillips, Rebekah Mills

1. Public Comments
 - Sylvia Caras – Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) money: \$10 million coming into the County as emergency money that needs to be spent within 2 years. Also, if approved in the Governor’s budget, \$100 million statewide specifically for Behavioral Health.

2. No quorum. Approval of December 20, 2018 minutes deferred to February 21, 2019 meeting.

3. Standing Board of Supervisors (BOS) report, Supervisor Greg Caput:
 - Attended Regional Transportation meeting regarding the traffic on Highway 1, rail trail, and bicycle road connecting approximately 32 miles between Davenport to Monterey. Voted yes to move forward on all three items.

4. Standing Behavioral Health (BH) Directors Report, Erik Riera:
 - Watsonville Behavioral Health office is 95% done, however no power. Projected completion date – April 2019.
 - Staffing Updates
 - Quality Improvement Director Karolin Schwartz retired end of December after 37 years with the County. New Quality Improvement Director is Cybele Lolley. Cybele has a lot of experience working in different community settings and is very focused on improving the overall system in the County.
 - Children’s Director Karen Anderson-Gray also retired in December. In the process of filling the position and hope to announce the new Children’s Director by the next meeting.
 - Data Notebook – County staff can assist and provide comments on the Data Notebook Report.
 - Response to Sylvia Caras comment: We are not directly involved with HEAP and CESH funding stream since it is additional funds from the state targeting homeless services, particularly housing the homeless in emergency shelters.
 - Grant opportunity with California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA). Applying for funds to expand our mobile crisis services for children in South County. Currently don’t have MERT Team or ACCESS Team in South County. Also, discussions underway with the City of Watsonville to expand our law enforcement Mental Health Liaisons program in Watsonville.
 - 5150 Transports – Marty Riggs, Behavioral Health Program Manager
 - Currently there are three types of transportation in the event of a 5150 Hold:
 - Locked Cab
 - Ambulance Service
 - Law Enforcement

- Proposing possibility of using secure cars by converting three cars that we already own. Instead of a cage barrier, there will be a plexiglass barrier with the idea that it will reduce stigma, create continuity of care so the clinician writing the hold can also transport the person, reduce wait times for transport for consumers and clinicians, and a warm hand off when they are dropped off to the crisis center at Telecare.
- Comparable county to Santa Cruz is San Luis Obispo (SLO) County. SLO has been using secure cars for a while and report it is an asset to the services they are providing, and there are no significant incidents of any kind.
- In the process of formalizing a protocol, and then do a training. Plan is to start conservative with MERT staff and liaison staff, and then possibly expand to other clinicians.
- If it is not a parent/child issue, the parent can ride along.
- Utilize the secure transport if individuals meet the following criteria: no active medical concerns, under 65 years old, not actively under the influence, cooperative, not verbally or physically aggressive, assessed safe transport, and not a flight risk.

5. Ad Hoc Committee and Standing Committee Reports:

a. Jail Committee Report

- Working with Pam Rogers-Wyman to create a Jail Introduction Folder to provide to family members and friends of individuals incarcerated. Draft of packet should be available by the next board meeting.

b. Community Engagement Committee Report

- River Street Camp Closure – Summary
 - A city-run homeless camp will close at the end of November after a nine-month run, replaced with an indoor winter shelter program halved from previous years
 - River Street Camp, where nearly 50 tents on a city-owned dirt lot, opened March 1 as an emergency stopgap measure to relocate dozens of people that had been sleeping in a highly visible San Lorenzo Park encampment.
 - Brent Adams operator of the Warming Center Program, “said he was concerned about living conditions near the Gateway Plaza.”
 - Last year, a hepatitis A outbreak that spread through Santa Cruz and was concentrated in the city’s homeless population prompted the city and county to take steps
 - The city of Santa Cruz’s pivot to close the camp, came shortly after the Salvation Army Santa Cruz Corps agreed to run a 60-bed North County winter shelter site at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 7263 building on Seventh Avenue in Live Oak
 - Shull said the decision to close the River Street Camp was made jointly by the Homeless Action Partnership executive committee,
 - Made up of representatives from the city, Santa Cruz County, and Scotts Valley and Capitola.
 - The interagency group has divided up the camp’s 75,000- to \$90,000-a-month cost since July 1. The city’s 2018-2019 budget includes a \$171,448 line item for a winter shelter — the same

amount as the city set aside last year — in addition to \$100,000 for an interim homeless facility.

Long-term vision

-officials announced the campsite's pending opening, the city laid out an ambitious three-phase plan to move people from the city lot to a leased temporary homeless shelter site to an eventual permanent new shelter location.

- The timeline for the second stage was repeatedly pushed back -If the camp (River Street) were to have remained open through the winter, along with the VFW site, the North County would be able to shelter about 110 beds.
- That option was short-circuited, however, by funding considerations, Shull said. "We've already been offering 50 to 60 people a place to be for five extra months.
- "So, it was budget and finances. It wasn't affordable to be operating two or three different sites."

c. MHSA Advisory Committee – no report

d. Membership Committee – no report

e. Site Visit Committee – no report

6. Unfinished Business

a. Calendar of MHAB Members Presentation Topics

- July - Holly Heath, Topic: Trauma
- August – Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Topic: Diversity and Cultural Competency

b. 2018 Data Notebook – due March 31, 2019

The MHAB will work with the Behavioral Health Director to obtain the information needed to complete the report.

7. New Business

a. ADAC Commission

ADAC is holding a retreat this Saturday and the focus will be on their purpose. ADAC is interested in collaborating and potentially merging with the MHAB. ADAC will reach out to the MHAB Chair with updates and potentially hold an informal meeting to explore a merger. ADAC members will probably attend MHAB meetings to get a better feel for the work the board does and how the meeting is organized.

b. Advocacy for Housing in Neighborhoods

Idea is to educate, advocate and convince neighborhoods of the positive impact of having a Second Story in a neighborhood. More discussion to be held at next month's meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Kate Avraham. Second by Hugh McCormick. Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.