

MINUTES – APPROVED
April 16, 2020

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

February 20, 2020

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Health Services Agency, 1400 Emeline Avenue, Room 206, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Present: Antonio Rivas, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Kate Avraham, Lynda Kaufmann, Rebekah Mills, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

Excused Absence: Joanna Whitcup, Serg Kagno

1. Public Comments

- Richard Gallo, ACCESS Ca – 1) CA Peer Run Warm Line, 24 hours/day, 7 days/week (855) 845-7415. Warm line managed by MH Association of San Francisco. Originally started in the city/county of San Francisco, then expanded to the Bay area, now state-wide 3-year project. Announce to the community this service is available (can help with unnecessary ER visits and in certain situations, eliminate law enforcement involvement). 2) Attended February 11th outreach meeting – very pleased with good turnout. 3) Western Recovery is doing 2-day consumer workshop conference in Los Angeles in March, flyer to be shared with the MHAB. 4) Adult Stakeholder Meetings - noticed attendance of all 4 workshops is encouraged. Unable to attend workshops in Watsonville since it takes too much time to get there using public transportation – inconvenient. 4) Issue with homelessness that governor proposed about forced treatment – individuals who are homeless does not mean they are solely disabled (there are other reasons).
- Lynda Kaufmann – Pam Rogers-Wyman is retiring. Suggest attending retirement party and provide a letter or certificate of recognition for all her work the past 27 years.
- George Carvalho, Patients Rights' Advocate – program trying to incorporate more time out in the field, which includes going to the South County Clinic and more time at 7th Avenue. Ramifications – not in the office as often and administrative responsibilities may be affected. Open for feedback how this change is perceived and/or your experience with this new model.

2. Approved meeting minutes for January 16, 2020.

Motion by Kate Avraham to approve January 16, 2020 MHAB minutes. Second by Erika Miranda-Bartlett.

AYES: Antonio Rivas, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Kate Avraham, Lynda Kaufmann, Rebekah Mills, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

ABSENT: Joanna Whitcup, Serg Kagno

NAYS: 0

3. Public Hearing: Mental Health Services Act Annual Update 2019-2020

Cassandra Eslami, Chief of South County Behavioral Health Services & Community Engagement / County of Santa Cruz MHSA Coordinator

- Highlight of new programs or changes in programs in 2019-2020
 - Addition of Mobile Emergency Response Team (MERT) for South County with the opening of South County Behavioral Health building
 - Waiting for the completion of the Mobile Health Office. It is a Mercedes Benz sprinter van which will be updated to have an office inside to provide mobile emergency response services to youth in South County. It will also operate out of the South County Behavioral Health Office Building.
 - Held three large MHSA Stakeholder meetings in 2019, and one smaller meeting on the Cabrillo campus in Watsonville around the Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan. The three larger meetings provided a lot of feedback around peer services,

- specifically Second Story. As a result, one of the program updates is continued funding and support for peer services around Second Story.
- Continuation of Mental Health liaisons – clinicians that are embedded with the local law enforcement jurisdictions (Watsonville Police Department, Santa Cruz Police Department, Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office)
 - Prudent Reserves – provided more financial information around all the programs, expenditures and revenues through MHSA.
- Key points of annual update are summarized and can be viewed by [clicking here](#).
 - Clarification items/comments:
 - 18 Stakeholder meetings did not include programs in the County that are Tier One or safety net programs including ACCESS, MERT, MH Liaisons, some FSP programs, and Second Story. All are considered core services and was not on the list because feedback was not accepted around discontinuing. In the four work groups, each program will come forward and present their current data and evaluations around their evidence-based practices and any modalities or tools used to show outcomes. The workgroups will be asked to talk about what funding they receive and what funding the workgroups would like to see and receive.
 - Regarding unspent money: the work groups will look at the funding for every program and talking about when the programs are requesting increases or what an increase could look like, and where that money would come from. The individuals at the workgroups will make the recommendations.
 - Attending all four stakeholder meetings is recommended since it is a continuous thread. All the contract providers could not come in one day to share their evaluative summaries and narratives. One workgroup builds off the previous workgroup. If individuals cannot attend all four meetings, it may be difficult for them to make recommendations since all the programs have not been heard. Suggestion for individuals who can’t make it to all four work groups is to attend the Focus Groups (same avenues for feedback).
 - Money spent on specific programs is available on the MHSA website and will also be available in the workgroups.
 - Individual attended a meeting and felt that it was confusing, did not understand what was being voted on, there was no opportunity for discussion of the programs, and appears to be forcing people to make a choice. Individual also did not understand the process (which will be funded, which will be discontinued) and not clear how programs are funded. Individual did not see a well-rounded way for people in the community to participate, especially Spanish-speaking community.
 - Individual expressed disappointment in the process for the first two meetings – not much opportunity to speak about concerns, services that are lacking, services that are important or needed to be expanded other than a worksheet which is very guided, but now understands that it will be addressed at the workgroups. Concerned regarding Second Story which was guaranteed funding through 2021 vs the 3-year plan. Information is confusing with the mixed messages and in reality, Second Story is half funded.
 - 7th Avenue Facility – 99 bed facility, and only 9 or 10 beds are contracted with Santa Cruz County. Folks are conserved at other facilities out of county. Suggestion is to connect with those folks through the PG office through the conservators to include them on the discussions as well.
 - MHSA Subcommittee recently had two individuals from the County explain the funding. Will make sure to include presenters in future MHSA committee meeting announcements.
 - For those who cannot attend the meetings, individuals may provide their feedback by going to website at www.santacruzhealth.org/mhsa. On the right side, click on “Submit a Public Comment”, which will open an email field (don’t need email address to submit). All comments go directly to Cassandra Eslami. Also, in the reception lobbies are Happy or Not Kiosks where there is a free text

field for individuals to provide comments about services, etc. If comment is regarding MHSA, it will be included in the process.

- Providers are asked to share their data and evaluations at these meetings and will join workgroups so they can share their programs and address questions as they come up. Consumers were invited to join the workgroups, in addition to families of consumers, and anyone who considers themselves as stakeholders.
- Focus groups are being recorded and transcribed. Information will be gathered and posted on website.

Motion by Lynda Kaufmann to approve draft of MHSA Annual Update. Second by Erika Miranda-Bartlett.

AYES: Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Kate Avraham, Lynda Kaufmann, Rebekah Mills, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

ABSENT: Joanna Whitcup, Serg Kagno

ABSTAIN: Antonio Rivas

4. Standing Board of Supervisors (BOS) Report, Supervisor Greg Caput
 - Meeting with Board of Supervisors & Mental Health Advisory Board very informative. Goal is to meet yearly.
 - February 11th BOS Meeting - Grand Jury was present. Kate Avraham recognized. The request to change the language of the Strategic Plan was officially approved.

5. Ad Hoc Committee and Standing Committee Reports:
 - a. Jail Committee Report
 - New Chief of Corrections: Paul Ramos
 - Continue to update jail orientation packet
 - Hugh to follow up on whether jail staff will be outsourced, and not use County staff

 - b. Community Engagement Committee Report – Chair: Kate Avraham
 - MHAB table at the Calciano Symposium, Friday, February 28, 2020, 8:45am to 3:45pm, Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk Coconut Grove Grand Ballroom.

 - c. MHSA Advisory Committee – Chair: Lynda Kaufmann
 - Revisit when meetings happen – suggest quarterly 2-hour meetings, 4pm-6pm
 - Goal is to become a community steering meeting and not a subcommittee of the Mental Health Advisory Board.

 - d. Membership Committee – Chair: Hugh McCormick

Motion by Erika Miranda-Bartlett to put the Membership Committee on hold. Second by Supervisor Greg Caput.

AYES: Antonio Rivas, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Kate Avraham, Lynda Kaufmann, Rebekah Mills, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

ABSENT: Joanna Whitcup, Serg Kagno

NAYS: 0

- e. Site Visit Committee
 - Behavioral Health Court Site Visit scheduled on March 5, 2020, 10:00am-12:00pm
 - Participated in videoconference with Telecare Administration regarding CSP & PHF visit. Telecare Admin will respond in writing and will be added to the MHAB report.

- f. SUDC/MHAB Merger Committee
 - Current SUD Commission needs to meet later in the day (can't meet 3pm-5pm)
 - Goal is to have a SUD Commission member attend the MHAB meetings, and a member from the MHAB (the Chair) attend the SUD Commission meetings on a regular basis.
 - SUDC meetings – majority of their focus is having representatives of recovery and people who have contracts with alcohol and drug addiction treatment programs present their programs, ensuring they are fulfilling their duties.
- 6. Patients' Rights Report – prepared by George Carvalho. [Click here to view the January report.](#)
 - The Mental Health Advisory Board appreciates George Carvalho's provision of data.
- 7. Unfinished Business
 - a. Measure G and Funding for Mental Health
 - Approximately a year ago, voters approved the additional sales tax on Measure G and part of it was supposed to be spent on Mental Health. It wasn't clear which mental health programs were being funded with that money. What does the community want the Board to advocate for?

Motion by Rebekah Mills to add Measure G and Funding for Mental Health on the agenda to: 1) write a letter to make sure there is an increase in MH funding because there is an increase in revenues for Measure G, and 2) review the outdated BH strategic plan and decide what to advocate for. Second by Erika Miranda-Bartlett.

AYES: Antonio Rivas, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Kate Avraham, Lynda Kaufmann, Rebekah Mills, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput
ABSENT: Joanna Whitcup, Serg Kagno
NAYS: 0

Websites that conduct general surveys in the community (to help with the review of the BH Strategic Plan and identify areas that continue to be of concern):

- CA Healthy Places Index Map: <https://healthyplacesindex.org/>
- CA Schools Dashboard: www.caschooldashboard.org
- Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project:
<https://www.appliedsurveyresearch.org/scccip/>

- 8. New Business/Future Agenda Items
 - a. Nonprofit Wage Equity Alliance - presentation at a future meeting (date to be determined).
 - b. Telecare issue due to shortage of long-term facilities
 - o Discussed at the videoconference meeting. Erika to follow up and make sure Telecare investigates the issue and addresses it in their written response.
 - c. Second Story Warm Line (24/7): (831) 688-0967

Motion to adjourn made by Rebekah Mills. Second by Antonio Rivas. Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.