

MINUTES – APPROVED
January 20, 2022

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

December 16, 2021

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Health Services Agency, 1400 Emeline Avenue, Room 207, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Microsoft Teams Meeting (916) 318-9542, Conference ID 198 606 85#

Present: Catherine Willis, Hugh McCormick, Jennifer Wells-Kaup, Laura Chatham, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

Absent: Antonio Rivas, Erika Miranda-Bartlett

1. Public Comments

- No public comments.

2. Board Member Announcements

- Board Members can add agenda items in the following ways: 1) raise the item during the meeting under Future Business; 2) if it is a time-sensitive item, contact Chair at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
- Suggestions on how the Board can achieve the goals set from the last retreat:
 - Consolidate some of the committees and narrow down efforts. Identify in the next retreat what the Board really wants to work on for the year, such as a priority list.
 - Set realistic goals.

3. Approved meeting minutes for October 21, 2021.

Motion by Supervisor Greg Caput to approve October 21, 2021 MHAB minutes with the recommended changes made by Serg Kagno (2nd point under Karen Kern, and the last point of the minutes regarding the Data Notebook). Second by Catherine Willis.

AYES: Catherine Willis, Hugh McCormick, Jennifer Wells-Kaup, Laura Chatham, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

ABSENT: Antonio Rivas, Erika Miranda-Bartlett

4. Secretary's Report

- Clarification on attendance
 - Board members may be absent from a meeting 4 times in a calendar year, which includes excused and unexcused absences.
 - 2 unexcused absences in a row is unacceptable and grounds for removal from the Board.
- Clarification on trainings – Board members must do at least 2 trainings per year and report to Secretary/Recorder for tracking purposes.

5. Standing Board of Supervisors (BOS) Report, Supervisor Greg Caput

- Purchased the West Marine building which will be the South County Service Center.
- Purchased the South County Park, 38 acres behind the fairgrounds. It will be an all-natural park, grass, fields for soccer and football, and a demonstration farm, where farmers will come out and show people farming techniques.
- Pajaro River Flood Protection 100-year plan - have over \$400 million to go ahead with the project that will protect the people from Murphy Road and Riverside all the way to the ocean by Pajaro Dunes.
- Watsonville Hospital went bankrupt but will stay open until the end of March. Pajaro Valley Health Trust is looking to buy it or get a nonprofit to buy it.

6. Behavioral Health Director's Report, Erik Riera
 - Update on the opioid settlement fund: CA is one of the many states suing the opioid manufacturers. They are finalizing a settlement agreement which will bring between \$16 to \$17 million to the County. Those funds will be split between the counties and local cities, however there are discussions with the cities to pool our funds, which will allow us to leverage them better to support services. The settlement will be over a period of 18 years. We will be working on a process to distribute those funds through a competitive RFP, so every year or every several years, will be working to release request for proposals that will allow local provider organizations to put in a proposal based on priority areas that are established by our stakeholders for funding.
 - County budget process has started and working with our local providers to establish some parameters around funding for next year, establishing due dates and timelines with them and with our County Administrative Office.

7. Presentation: Overview of Children's Behavioral Health - Lisa Gutierrez-Wang, Director of Children's Behavioral Health
 - Provide the following services: Crisis Intervention; Psychosocial Assessment; Plan Development; Individual Therapy, Family Therapy, and Group Therapy; Collateral contacts with family and non-family supports; Psychiatric Care; Case Management; Intensive Care Coordination (ICC); Intensive Home-Based Services (IHBS); Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS); Family Partners
 - Children's Behavioral Health Teams:
 - a. Community Gate – takes referrals that come in directly from the community, received through our 800 access line. Provides phone navigation and referral to those seeking BH services for children and youth with Medi-Cal.
 - b. School (ERMHS) – Children's BH is contracted with PVUSD to provide Educationally Related Behavioral Health Services to Special Education eligible students with an Individualized Education Plan.
 - c. Education/County Office of Education (COE) – Education Gate allows schools to directly refer Medi-Cal beneficiaries to our services, when the youth and families and the school based social-emotional counselors think these students need a higher level of care. COE Gate provides needed Behavioral Health services to students who have not been successful in traditional public schools and attend Alternative Education sites.
 - d. Child Social Services (DFCS) – provide clinical services to children and youth from birth to age 21 who are involved with the Human Services Department's Division of Family & Children's Services.
 - e. Juvenile Justice (Probation) – probation officers may directly refer youth and families for outpatient services. BH Clinicians work within Juvenile Hall to provide assessment, treatment and supportive services 7-days/week to the youth who are detained at Juvenile Hall.
 - CANS Data – data is collected using an instrument called the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool. This tool is administered, or data is collected in this tool during the initial intake, and then readminister/update the tool every 6 months. This identifies the needs of our youth coming into the system and receiving care as well as their strengths and being able to really look at the changes across time.
 - Trauma Informed Systems (TIS) Improvement Project – working in partnership with an organization called Trauma Transformed. We have set up a structure of committees within Children's Behavioral Health to promote our trauma informed systems work: Cultural Humility Committee; Safe and Welcoming Spaces Committee; The Love and Chocolate Committee; Clinical Growth Committee.

- 2022 Initiatives
 - a. Learning Communities on: specific interventions like narrative therapy or internal family systems; specific focus on very young children ages 0 to 5; trauma informed interventions.
 - b. Preparing for CalAIM – looking at Medi-Cal reform and making sure the Children’s Behavioral Health management team are prepared to be able to communicate those changes to prepare our staff for implementation.
 - c. Staff Sustainability and Wellness – will continue to be a focus and even more so though the pandemic.
 - d. Integrating data through a Trauma-Informed lens – making sure our staff have access to the CANS data and know how to interpret it for their own clients, and then for supervisors for their larger caseloads that they’re managing. We are trying to use data to have clinical conversations, and to also talk about sustainability of our services.

[Click here to view the Children's Behavioral Health presentation.](#)

8. Standing Reports

- a. MHSA Advisory Committee (Members: Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Antonio Rivas)
 - No report.
- b. Site Visit Program Ad Hoc Committee – (Members: Serg Kagno, Hugh McCormick, Valerie Webb)
 - No report.
- c. Budget Committee (Member: Antonio Rivas)
 - No update.
- d. Community Engagement Committee – (Members: Valerie Webb, Catherine Willis, Laura Chatham)
 - No report.
- e. Law Enforcement and Mental Health Ad Hoc Committee (Members: Hugh McCormick, Serg Kagno, Catherine Willis, Jennifer Wells Kaupp)
 - Committee voted on advocating for the Road Map to the Ideal Crisis System. It has a way to create a group to include County staff, multiple departments, city staff, nonprofits, and community members to do an evaluation for the gaps in our crisis system and a path on how to address those gaps. With the assistance of Jeffrey Arlt, we connected with one of the co-authors, and Dr. Kenneth Minkoff will present at our February 17th meeting.

9. Patients’ Rights Reports – by George Carvalho, Patients’ Rights Advocate

- Working to change and modify reports so that it’s more transparent and more informative. Also, making sure the information is both linear and continual from month to month.
- Request from Board Member – committee will compile list of questions about the current report and email to advocate, which will get pasted at the top of next month’s report stating the reason why an event happened.

10. New Business

- a. Approval of Informational letter regarding Behavioral Health Program – no discussion and will be removed from future agenda.
- b. Letter of support regarding Oversight Committee of Sheriff's Office – Laura Chatham to write draft letter and present at the next meeting for review.
- c. 2021 Data Notebook – Chair to ask for another extension to submit as the officers need to meet with the BH Director to discuss prior to presenting to the entire board for approval/vote.
- d. 2021 Biennial Report – requesting all board members to provide information for the report.

Motion to adjourn made by Serg Kagno. Second by Jennifer Wells Kaupp. Meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.