

**MINUTES APPROVED –
December 19, 2019**

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

October 17, 2019

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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

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

Excused Absence: Antonio Rivas

1. Public Comments

- Individual from MHCAN – asking for amendments to contract, specifically the elimination of security guards.
- Sarah Leonard – requesting the MHAB to write a letter to the Planning Department supporting the following amendments: 1) to have a Second Harvest Food Bank delivery to MHCAN once a month 2) to be released from the requirement of having a security guard.
- Grace Butler – peer at MHCAN. Would appreciate having Second Harvest deliver food. Security guards are not needed.
- Helen – support MHCAN. Don't need security guards, need food from Second Harvest.
- Mike – peer at MHCAN. No reason to have a security guard.
- Miles – been with MHCAN for 7 years – given opportunities for growth, need food bank.
- Carol Williamson – NAMI invited the new state of CA advisor on mental health, Dr. Thomas Insel to present at the next meeting on November 20, 2019, 6:30 p.m. at Peace United, 900 High Street, Santa Cruz.
- George Carvalho – growing issue at Telecare (CSP): shortage of long-term facilities throughout the State, impacting Telecare facility. Staff is writing serial 5150's – involuntary detention for 3 days. Place is filling up, and people are taking longer to get long term treatment. People are staying longer than the maximum 24 hours.

2. Approved meeting minutes for September 18, 2019.

Motion by Rebekah Mills to approve September 18, 2019 MHAB minutes. Second by Serg Kagno.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: Antonio Rivas

Approved meeting minutes for September 19, 2019.

Motion by Lynda Kaufmann to approve September 19, 2019 MHAB minutes. Second by Serg Kagno.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: Antonio Rivas

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

- Dana McRae, County Counsel retiring at the end of the year. New County Counsel will be announced soon.

4. Standing Behavioral Health (BH) Directors Report, Erik Riera

- Communication update regarding grievance – the County has connected with Maria Correia.
- Open house for the new Watsonville Behavioral Health Building – no date yet.

Presentation on Behavioral Health Court and Specialty Courts – Jasmine Najera, Forensic Services Program Manager and Katherine Mayeda, Collaborative Court Manager, Superior Court of California, County of Santa Cruz

- Behavioral Health has a long-established collaborative partnering with criminal justice partners. There are jail staff working with individuals with mental illnesses and in crisis. There is a discharge planner who goes to court to get individuals out of custody into appropriate placements in the community or reunification with family members. There are also 7 MH liaisons assigned to various law enforcement jurisdictions.
- Full-service partnership team (MOST Team) – coordinate individuals who have a mental illness and have been charged with a crime, end up going on probation and qualify for services. The team is housed at 1400 Emeline with the Probation employees, so individuals can receive all services at one location.
- In 2014, there was a collaborative effort to meet (Probation, Behavioral Health, District Attorney's office, Public Defenders office, the Courts, and the Sheriff's Office), modeled after Santa Clara County and San Francisco County Behavioral Health Court. Eventually received first Behavioral Health Court Grant and advocated to have staff person hired by the Courts who is a clinician and can assess individuals for Behavioral Health Court. Additionally, hired peer navigator to work with the MOST team.
- Currently, there are multiple collaborative courts and multiple clinicians and case managers funded through a grant managed by the courts. Most recently funded a Forensic Access position – a Behavioral Health Clinician housed in the courts who is receiving referrals for individuals, screening them and determining their appropriate level of care. The clinician can also do Access assessments in the jail, so individuals in custody don't have to wait for weeks for an Access assessment. Goal is to increase efficiencies and decrease the wait time for the client and all parties involved. The timeline of 4-8 weeks diminished to 1-2 weeks of getting people connected with services. The Forensic Clinician is in the Courts Monday through Friday, 8am – 12pm.
- 4 collaborative courts (1 judge per court) within criminal courts: Veterans Court, Behavioral Health Court, Re-Entry Court, PACT Court. All have different criteria to qualify for the courts. Role of the court clinician is to screen to see if someone qualifies for a collaborative court and which court is appropriate for them.
- Benefits of court having case managers - they are a neutral party and able to work with the county, and providers in the community in order to meet the needs of individuals. Case managers do not bill Medi-Cal, so there is more time to provide intensive services for the participants. PACT court partners with the HOPES Team in order to provide services to individuals in the community. Also, funding is available for treatment and sober living environments for people who are participants.
- There is a huge emphasis on training our partners. There are numerous meetings with attorneys to educate them on mental health and substance use. Now endeavoring in traumatic brain injury and how individuals can be supported.
- Also working closely with SAMSA on how we can decrease mental health and substance use within the criminal justice system. A report will be distributed in the next month showing gaps and recommendations. The report is posted on the court website for review.
- New law with Mental Health Diversion – collaborating with all partners to see how it works in the criminal justice system in Santa Cruz County.

5. Ad Hoc Committee and Standing Committee Reports:

- a. Jail Committee Report – Chair: Rebekah Mills
 - Jail Information Packet completed in collaboration with Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health and the Sheriff's Office.
 - Committee will continue to the end of the year.
- b. Community Engagement Committee Report – Chair: Kate Avraham
 - November 20, 2019, 6:30 p.m. at Peace United, 900 High Street, Santa Cruz – NAMI meeting with guest presenter Dr. Thomas Insel
 - Plan to have a presence at the Watsonville Behavioral Health Office Grand Opening.
- c. MHSa Advisory Committee – Chair: Lynda Kaufmann
 - ACCESS CA MHSa training on November 20, 2019 and November 21, 2019 at Health Services Agency, 1400 Emeline Avenue, Rooms 206-207, Santa Cruz.
- d. Membership Committee – no report.
- e. Site Visit Committee – no report.

6. Unfinished Business

- a. Nomination for Co-Chair Position: Erika Miranda-Bartlett. Unanimously voted as co-chair.
- b. 2019 Data Notebook
Discussion of changes on pages 10, 27, 28.

Motion made by Lynda Kaufmann to approve the 2019 Data Notebook as amended. Second by Erika Miranda-Bartlett.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: Antonio Rivas

- c. Substance Use Disorder Commission and Mental Health Advisory Board merger update
 - Requirements for MHAB and SUDSC are not the same
 - Discussed different meeting times (4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, or 5:00 pm – 7:00pm)
 - Form ad-hoc committee at next meeting (consist of MHAB board members and SUDSC members)
- d. Discussion of Measure G and Funding for Mental Health – postponed.

7. New Business/Future Agenda Items

- a. Patient's Rights Report – discussion postponed.
- b. Biennial Report – Board to answer questions distributed at today's meeting.
- c. MHCAN Request – Letter of support regarding special use permits. Draft letter at December meeting. Kate and Rebekah to talk to Sarah Leonard prior to meeting to obtain facts surrounding the request.

Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Greg Caput. Second by Lynda Kaufmann. Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.