

**MINUTES – Approved  
February 16, 2023**

**MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

JANUARY 19, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
1400 EMELINE AVE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ  
Microsoft Teams Meeting (831) 454-2222, Conference 214 741 805#

**Present:** Antonio Rivas, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Xaloc Cabanes  
**Excused:** Stephen Busath, Valerie Webb  
**Staff:** Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Karen Kern, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
- II. Public Comments
  - Steve Dilley, Executive Director of the Veterans Art Project – announced they will be doing a pop-up art café with the local level entity Up To Peace on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Ludmila Boiko – stated she has been sending complaints since the end of November and no one is advocating for her.
  - Richard Gallo, Access CA – informed the CA Behavioral Health Planning Council regarding the issue with grandfathering in peer certification. He stated it seems there is a problem with the peers within the Santa Cruz County community.
- III. Board Member Announcements
  - New board member joining the MHAB next month - Stephen Busath
  - Upcoming MHCAN tour – attendees will be Serg, Laura, Xaloc, Michael and Hugh
- IV. Business / Action Items
  - A. Approve December 15, 2022 Minutes.  
Motion/Second: Jeffrey Arlt / Laura Chatham  
Ayes: Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Xaloc Cabanes  
Abstain: Antonio Rivas, Jennifer Wells Kaupp  
Absent: Stephen Busath, Valerie Webb  
Motion passed.
  - B. Adoption of Assembly Bill 361 – Resolution Authorizing Teleconference Meetings  
Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Jeffrey Arlt  
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Xaloc Cabanes  
Nays: None  
Absent: Stephen Busath, Valerie Webb  
Motion passed.
  - C. Approve to submit the 2022 Data Notebook  
Motion/Second: Jeffrey Arlt / Serg Kagno  
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura

Chatham, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Xaloc Cabanes

Nays: None

Absent: Stephen Busath, Valerie Webb

Motion passed.

V. Reports

A. Secretary's Report

- No issues with board member attendance.
- Trainings – completed hours of training should be updated on spreadsheet for tracking purposes.
- Training opportunities are available through the CA Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions website.

B. Behavioral Health Report, Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Interim Behavioral Health Director, HSA Assistant Director

1) Storm response update

Staff and patients were accommodated by switching over to Telehealth. In-person operations were maintained for Crisis, Access, and injection clinics. The County staffed three overnight shelters at the Santa Cruz Civic, Cabrillo College, and the Fairgrounds in Watsonville. At least 20 behavioral health staff were called in specifically to provide behavioral health support to visitors at those shelters. There were over 160 individuals at Cabrillo and Fairgrounds combined. There were many people experiencing homelessness in several shelters, and outreach staff as well as counseling staff were sent out and connected people to a wide range of services which included case management services, transportation, and peer support.

2) Temporary change – the first floor of 1400 Emeline is currently closed due to the inability to pump in outside air into the first floor of the building. Children's Behavioral Health staff, North County operations and services were moved into the remaining two floors of 1400 Emeline. GSD is still doing an evaluation of the HVAC system. There are two dedicated therapy rooms on the second and third floors for children and all staff determined to have a need to be in the building have a workspace.

3) Peer Support Specialist requirements

It is confirmed that a high school diploma or equivalent degree is required to be a Peer Support Specialist. This certification requirement is established by CALMHSA and it is not the decision of County Behavioral Health. The County is reviewing a draft scope of work received from CALMHSA that outlines what the expectations would be for the county if a peer support specialist certification program were to be administered.

4) Challenges at the leadership level – currently working with a thin management team. Of the ten Senior Leadership Team positions, two are vacant, four are served by Interim, and four are filled by permanent staff. Good news is the BH Program Manager for Crisis Services position has been filled. Danielle Long will be overseeing the mental health liaisons, MERT, MERTY and FIT teams.

Karen Kern – Adult Behavioral Health Services Director Update

- 1) AB2275 – working on scheduling a meeting to figure out what it means and looking into the scope of work for the Advocacy, Inc. contract. The hearing process is in place but may need to add additional time based on new laws.
- 2) A suggestion was made to add 988 information on staff's email signatures and voicemails. Behavioral Health is currently working on the script and will advise the MHAB when it will be implemented.
- 3) Met with Andrea Tolaio from 988 Call Center regarding volume, challenges, and barriers. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

- 4) Frames were ordered for 988 posters to be placed in the restrooms. There will be a follow up on the posters for city buildings.

C. Committee Updates

1. Standing Committees

a. Budget

Key points from the presentation by Elece Hempel, Director of Petaluma People Services: After over a year of operation, the SAFE program is a success and fully supported by Petaluma Police Department, Fire Department and Sonoma County Sheriff's Office. It has expanded to two cities and is looking at partnering with San Rafael on another program. Petaluma People Services Center has 72 complementary social programs that can integrate into the state to connecting clients with services.

b. Community Engagement/Publicity – no report.

2. Ad Hoc Committees

a. Peer Support Certification – Hugh said he is still trying to figure out the limits to pay, the number of peers that can be hired, and who can take advantage of peer support specialists in the County and State. Hugh will type up a report in the next month to submit to the MHAB, the County and other interested parties.

b. 988 – no report.

c. Ideal Crisis System – meetings will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, 3:30-4:30pm via Zoom or Teams. The objective of the group is to take action and support the behavioral health crisis now that Karen Kern is working on and collaborating with her. The committee is looking at composing and submitting the following letters of recommendation to the board:

i. Allocate funding in the FY23-24 budget for the 24/7 non law enforcement mobile crisis response.

ii. Allocate funding for FY23-24 budget for Crisis Response Center

iii. Expanding the 988 Call center, which pushes about 30% of their calls over to another call center.

iv. MHAB Board members will meet with the Pajaro Valley Health District Board before their next meeting on 01/27 to discuss the need for an acute care unit at the hospital. After that discussion, the committee will compose a letter of recommendation that will go to the Pajaro Valley Health District Board.

D. Patients' Rights Report – Davi Schill, Patients' Rights Advocate

Davi Schill was present at the meeting. December report was provided.

VI. New Agenda Items

1. Letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Benchlands and how the County can support the cities in clearing the benchlands in a positive way and support behavioral health.

-No letter will be submitted at this time as the benchlands flooded and had to be cleared out to keep people safe. Laura will connect with the people who planned the clearing of the benchlands for clarity on the process.

2. Approve to submit the 2022 Data Notebook (see Action Item IV.C above)

VII. Future Agenda Items

1. Retreat

2. Veterans Suicide and Seniors Suicide – what is the County doing, what are the statistics, what resources are provided to both populations.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.