

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING – County of Santa Cruz MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

JUNE 15, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM-5:00 PM HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

1400 EMELINE, BLDG K, ROOMS 206-207 SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
THE PUBLIC MAY JOIN THE MEETING BY CALLING (831) 454-2222, CONFERENCE ID 478 205 512#

Xaloc Cabanes	Valerie Webb	Michael Neidig	Antonio Rivas	Jennifer Wells Kaupp
Chair	Member	Member	Member	Member
1 st District	2 nd District	3 rd District	4 th District	5 th District
Laura Chatham	Stephen T. Busath	Hugh McCormick	Celeste Gutierrez	Jeffrey Arlt
Member	Member	Member	Member	Secretary
1 st District	2 nd District	3 rd District	4 th District	5 th District

Felipe Hernandez				
Board of Supervisor Member				
Tiffany Cantrell-Warren	Karen Kern			
Behavioral Health Director	Behavioral Health Deputy Director			

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The public may attend the meeting at the Health Services Agency, 1400 Emeline Avenue, Room 207, Santa Cruz. Individuals interested in joining virtually may <u>Click here to join the meeting</u> or may participate by telephone by calling (831) 454-2222, Conference ID 478 205 512#. All participants are muted upon entry to prevent echoing and minimize any unintended disruption of background sounds. This meeting will be recorded and posted on the Mental Health Advisory Board website.

If you are a person with a special need, or if interpreting services (English/Spanish or sign language) are needed, please call 454-4611 (Hearing Impaired TDD/TTY: 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format

Si usted es una persona con una discapacidad o necesita servicios de interpretación (inglés/español o Lenguaje de señas), por favor llame al (831) 454-4611 (Personas con Discapacidad Auditiva TDD/TTY: 711) con 72 horas de anticipación a la junta para hacer arreglos. Personas con discapacidades pueden pedir una copia de la agenda en una forma alternativa.

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

ID	Time	3:00 Regular Business		
1	15 Min	 Roll Call Public Comment (No action or discussion will be undertaken today on any item raised during Public Comment period except that Mental Health Board Members may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed. Limited to 3 minutes each) Board Member Announcements Approval of March 16, 2023, April 20, 2023, and May 18, 2023 minutes* Secretary's Report 		
		3:15 Standing Reports		
2	15 Min	Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Felipe Hernandez		
3	15 Min	Behavioral Health Report – Karen Kern, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health		
4	10 Min	Ad Hoc Committees		
5	5 Min	Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate for Advocacy, Inc.		
		4:00 Presentation		
6	40 Min	Veteran Services and Mental Health - Travis Deyoung, Santa Cruz County Veterans Advocate		
		4:40 New Agenda Items		
7	15 Min	 Vote for Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary of the Mental Health Advisory Board* Discussion and vote on letter regarding Sweeps, camping and parking bans and clearing of the San Lorenzo Park Benchlands* 4:55 Future Agenda Items 		
		5:00 Adjourn		

Italicized items with * indicate action items for board approval.

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD RETREAT IS ON:

JUNE 16, 2023 ♦ 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

1400 EMELINE, BLDG K, ROOMS 206-207

SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060





MINUTES - Draft

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MARCH 16, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM 1400 EMELINE AVE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ Microsoft Teams Meeting (831) 454-2222, Conference 311 318 08#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham,

Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes

Hugh McCormick, Stephen Busath, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez Excused: Karen Kern, James Russell, Jane Batoon-Kurovski, Arianna Lomeli Staff:

Ι. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.

II. **Public Comments**

- Nicholas Whitehead article in Growing Up in Santa Cruz stated that there is a 50% increase in attempted suicide in girls ages 12-17.
- Perry from Up 2 Peace provided update regarding the event on August 4th at 2pm on Cooper Street. They are moving forward and getting contacts.
- III. **Board Member Announcements**
 - April 26th, 7pm at Resource Center for Nonviolence several leaders in our community will be speaking about a world without violence including Chris Murphy, President of Santa Cruz Warriors, Faris Sabbah, Superintendent of Schools for Santa Cruz County, Brandon Kahl, Martial arts instructor and Human Rights Advocate, and Deutron Kebebew, Founder and President of MENtors.
 - The MHAB currently meets monthly except for the month of November. The board is considering to change the schedule with no meeting in December instead of November.

Business / Action Items IV.

A. Approve February 16, 2023 Minutes.

Motion/Second: Serg Kagno / Jeffrey Arlt

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura

Chatham, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes

Absent: Hugh McCormick, Stephen Busath, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez

Motion passed.

B. Change the Community / Publicity Committee from standing to ad hoc committee.

Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Jennifer Wells Kaupp

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura

Chatham, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes

Absent: Hugh McCormick, Stephen Busath, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez Motion passed.

C. Motion to accept letter regarding the Shelter and forward to Board of Supervisors.

Motion/Second: Serg Kagno / Laura Chatham

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura

Chatham, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes

Absent: Hugh McCormick, Stephen Busath, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez

Motion passed.

- V. Presentation Dr. Robert Ratner, Director of the Housing for Health Division Dr. Ratner stated there is a funding opportunity that was recently released by the State of CA called the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program. Santa Cruz County is set to receive up to just under \$10.2 million. Applications to secure this funding are due April 28th and the intention behind this program is to create bridge housing, which means temporary housing programs for people who are experiencing homelessness in our community, who are struggling with serious mental health or substance use disorders or both. The term bridge housing refers to housing that has services to help people get off of the streets in an unsafe situation, into a safe, welcoming environment with supports that are intended to help people move into more permanent housing long term. The money must be used as follows:
 - 25% of the funding for infrastructure
 - 75% of the funds for helping to operate the program and for services.
 - People who are referred to Care Court get priority for any bridge housing program slots that get created.
 - MHAB will write a letter of support.

VI. Mental Health Services Act 3-Year Plan Fiscal Years 23/24 – 26/27 Karen Kern, Adult Services Director

- The purpose of the three-year plan is to identify persistent mental health service gaps and develop strategies to address them over the next three fiscal years based on community needs assessment and stakeholder input. Karen stated they are wrapping up their community planning process, which included several focus groups and stakeholder meetings. They are collecting all the data and the plan is being prepared in draft form, which means that all individuals will have the opportunity to read through the plan and provide feedback. The draft plan will be posted on the MHSA website and feedback can be provided via email, telephone, or completion of the online form on the website. Public comment will open on Monday, March 20th and close at the next Mental Health Advisory Board meeting on April 20th.
- Reminder to all that the Mental Health Services Act funding through Prop 63 runs services in a few different buckets: 1) community services and support which funds some services through children's community gate, probation gate, child welfare gate, education gate and family partnerships. It also funds some crisis response, consumer peers, family support services, and some other community support services which include the family partnership at Volunteer Center, Community Connections, as well as MHCAN Peer Drop-in Center, Mariposa Center in Watsonville, and Second Story; 2) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funding which looks at suicide prevention, stigma and discrimination reduction and outreach for increasing signs of mental illness. It funds the Veterans Advocate Agency, County Office of Education, Senior Council, Triple P at First Five, as well as the Wellness Connect program for transitioning to youth, and suicide prevention efforts through Family Services Agency, and senior outreach for Family Services Agency, and NAMI and MHCAN for stigma and discrimination reduction.

VII. Reports

- A. Secretary's Report
 - Training that was completed last year does not count for 2023.
 - No issues with attendance.
 - No update on available training.

B. Behavioral Health Report, Karen Kern, Adult Services Director

1) Introduction of James Russell, Senior Behavioral Health Manager for Access and Community Crisis Continuum. James started his new role on March 6th and is in both North and South County offices. James has had a variety of employment experiences which led him into the behavioral health field specializing in crisis intervention, including substance use counseling, street outreach with the downtown outreach workers, forensic behavioral health and mobile crisis response. He completed a brief internship with Children's Behavioral Health, was a case coordinator on the MOST team, was a Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office mental health liaison, promoted to Supervisor for the mental health liaisons and FIT Teams, before promoting to the Behavioral Health Program Manager for Forensic Services and then the the Community Crisis Continuum. James enjoys roles that involve implementing new or improving upon existing programs and looks forward to implementing the State mandates covered in CalAIM and AB988.

- 2) Crisis Stabilization Program Update –the County is moving forward with building a new crisis stabilization program for youth with 8 beds at 5320 Soquel, hoping to open late 2024. At the same time, Telecare will not accept youth under the age of 18 starting March 27th. HSA is looking at a youth crisis stabilization receiving center as a temporary plan which will be ready as early as 5 months from now. The program will work with someone for a period of 24 hours before either a) finding alternative placement option in the community safety planning or b) they are going to be inpatient. The MERT team will continue to go into the ER to reassess within several hours of someone being there to see if we can safety plan and safely get them back out with their families or care team.
- 3) April 11th and April 12th Behavioral Health will be visited by the External Quality Review Organization, who reviews our mental health plan, DMC-ODS plan. This review includes the site visit, policy review, documentation review. They will meet with the consumers and do an overall compliance analysis to see where we are with our required metrics that we do for the plan for the State.

C. Committee Updates

- 1. Standing Committees
 - a. Budget did not meet due to no quorum. Informal conversations included: holding meetings in central location so commute is equal for everyone; how to create a persistent presence using social media and engaging the community more; and improving the use of letters of recommendation to the board and to the director by gathering more input and attending Board of Supervisors meetings when the letters are submitted to show additional support.
 - b. Community/Publicity Committee
 See Section IV.B. to see the votes changing the status of the
 Community/Publicity Committee from standing to an ad hoc committee.

2. Ad Hoc Committees

- a. Peer Support Certification no report.
- b. 988 there is currently a work group between 911, 988 and 211 which was presented at the Board of Supervisors meeting. United Way say that they have access to 400 services they can refer people to. There will be an April meeting to go over numbers, including a call for service numbers. Regarding 211, calls are not being put into Behavioral Health Service support statistics.
- c. Ideal Crisis System
 - Introduced to James Russell who is working on the Crisis Now project.
 - Looking at letters of recommendation and items related to mobile crisis as the goal of the committee is to coordinate with the Crisis Now project.
 - Next meeting will be on April 14th, 3:30-4:30pm via Zoom.
- D. Patients' Rights Report George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate George was present at the meeting. February report was provided.
 - Davi Schill was on an authorized leave during February.
 - Advocacy, Inc. continues to have 2 days / month furlough.
 - Benefits Management no oversight, transparency. Dozens of people are affected, eating out of garbage, no funds. Reached out to Santa Clara County

counterparts. Hard to hear about all impacted people not getting funds. Might reach out to Supervisors for help with benefit management.

VIII. New Agenda Items

- 1. Retreat will be on Friday, June 16, 2023, 10am to 3pm
- 2. Kaiser and Behavioral Health Unit Discussion

Jeffrey expressed at the last meeting that the MHAB should provide a letter of recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to ask Kaiser Permanente to provide some integrated behavioral health services. Jeffrey called Kaiser and has not heard back to confirm anything different than what they are publicizing, which is that it will have a 24-hour medical urgent care and there will be offices for 160,000 square feet, three story building. The draft letter is asking Kaiser Permanente as a health care provider coming into Santa Cruz County, that they provide behavioral health care services for their clients as they serve approximately 6000 people, and approximately 1200 of those people will have some kind of behavioral health needs with a couple hundred who will have serious mental health needs.

Discussion included a request for County staff to do a presentation on Kaiser and if a Kaiser Representative can be invited to the emergency meeting to explain and provide clarity on the services they will be providing. The Emergency Meeting will be on Thursday, March 23, 2023, 3pm to 3:30pm to vote on approving draft letter to be sent to the Board of Supervisors.

- 3. Santa Cruz Mental Health Advisory Youth
 - The MHAB wants youth to participate in the MHAB. Ideas include making formal requests with various groups such as NAMI, Twin Lakes Church, County Office of Education.
 - -Xaloc will reach out to Student Activities at the County Office of Education to share a flyer.
 - A representative from Monarch Services, who manages the Youth Mental Health Advisory Commission attended the MHAB meeting and she stated she will ask if youth from that group are interested in joining the MHAB.
- 4. Vote on Letter to Board of Supervisors

Background information: Serg witnessed somebody who works at the Veterans Hall building attack a homeless client who had been in the shelter by a nonprofit. Santa Cruz County contracts with the nonprofit, has an agreement with the building. There is no oversight or complaint system, there is no recourse, the person can't make a complaint that goes to the County. Intent is to make a system and process that protects people. Julie Macecevic, Executive Director of the Walnut Avenue Family and Women's Center has agreed to co-sign this letter.

See Section IV.C. to see the votes approving the letter.

IX. Future Agenda Items

1. Letter of Support regarding the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

MINUTES - Draft

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

APRIL 20, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM 1400 EMELINE AVE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ Microsoft Teams Meeting (831) 454-2222, Conference 748 582 926#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham,

Michael Neidig, Stephen Busath, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez

Absent: Hugh McCormick (attended virtually), Valerie Webb

Staff: Karen Kern, James Russell, Jane Batoon-Kurovski, Arianna Lomeli

I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.

II. Public Comments

- Nicholas Whitehead stated that people who need treatment should have experiences with nature included.
- Marina Archer stated she is a social scientist in the field of social psychology who
 has had a lifelong interest in matters concerning mental health. She is requesting to
 be a Member-At-Large.
- Richard Gallo announced the CA Association of Mental Health Peer run organization known as Campo, is seeking peers for one of the projects that they are working on. Regarding SB43, the State is trying to change the definition of gravely disabled to also include substance abuse and Cal Voices is opposing this piece of legislation. Richard stated he addressed the State regarding the Community Planning Process (CPP) as it needs to continue under the MHSA. It needs consumer feedback, families' feedback about their loved ones needs, and gaps and services with the mental health services as they vary county to county.
- Celeste Gutierrez stated she is with Supervisor Hernandez' office and is looking forward to the Hope Squad presentation.

III. Board Member Announcements

- Serg Kagno no longer on the Mental Health Advisory Board, effective April 1st.
- The Sheriff's Office showed a preview of a movie called The Bystander. It is about how to deal with the rape culture and how to support people and not being bystanders when they see things happening around them. The Chair stated he highly recommends all to watch this movie.

IV. Business / Action Items

A. Change the status of the Budget Committee from Standing to Ad Hoc.

Motion/Second: Laura Chatham / Antonio Rivas

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Stephen Busath,

Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez Abstain: Jeffrey Arlt, Michael Neidig Absent: Hugh McCormick, Valerie Webb

Motion passed.

V. Presentation – Scotts Valley High School Hope Squad

Student Presenters: Stella Peuse, Alexa Ruiz, Caitlin Mullin, Devon Bloom, Cesar Rodriguez-Romero, Karissa Woods, Toka Mohamed and Alex Baum

Christie Danner, Assistant Principal at SVHS provided an introduction. Over the past three years, the school lost a couple of students to suicide, and lost one student in a tragic car accident. The school felt a lot of loss and a lot of trauma, and they have been working hard to heal and recover and find ways to support the students. Discussions started last spring on what can be done at school to support students with their health and wellness. The overall theme is it is a shared responsibility between school, parents, community, medical professionals, and peers. They investigated different programs that were peer to peer based as they felt that would be the most powerful for the school that could be shared efforts and include the students, and for healing and support, and that is how HOPE Squad came about. Below is an outline of the students' presentation:

- A. How Hope Squad Helps
- B. Hope Squad Selection Process
- C. Hope Squad Members and Advisors
- D. Starting Up Getting the Word Out
- E. Scotts Valley High School Hope Squad Roles
- F. Monthly Themes/School Wide Activities
- G. Hope Squad Meetings
- H. 1st Year School-Wide Activities
- I. Hope Week
- J. Reflections and Planning for Next Year

Click here to view the presentation slides.

VI. Public Comment Closing

Mental Health Services Act 3-Year Plan Fiscal Years 23/24 – 26/27

Karen Kern, Behavioral Health Deputy Director

The MHSA 3-year plan drives the investment of MHSA dollars in the programs and services that support people in the community who are experiencing mental illness, and County Behavioral Health takes direction and makes decisions on what services to fund based on stakeholder feedback. The feedback received from the community is around the services that have been provided, what worked, what didn't work, what were the gaps, and what should be the focus.

<u>Click here to view the presentation slides of the MHSA 2023-2026 Three-Year Plan:</u>
<u>Public Comment Closing.</u>

Public Comments:

- 1. Antonio Rivas
 - Page 34, possibly add another section or add the group Veterans. He wants veterans to be labeled.
 - Page 35, add the word culture. This will help people be aware of culture.

2. Rebecca

• Dissatisfaction with treatment facilities. They can be viewed as unsafe places, abusive, and need to be run better.

3. Laura Chatham

• (In response to Rebecca) Those she has spoken to who are homeless or are close to homelessness say some get services and some don't.

4. Nicholas

- Perhaps being open to alternate fields of hypnosis, dietary changes, and supplements to care for patients.
- Focus on personal engagement for patients.

5. Xaloc Cabanes

Confusion, not clear how folks from different incomes can become a part
of this discussion or be interested in it, due to different financials guiding
health care paths.

VII. Reports

A. Secretary's Report

- No attendance issues.
- Laura and Jeffrey completed trainings in 2023.
- Upcoming training CalBHBC will provide training on how to have an effective Board/Commission.

B. Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Felipe Hernandez

- The Board of Supervisors recently passed the 10-year agreement called Access to Care from Kaiser. There was some discussion about aligning contracts with different healthcare providers, but ultimately, the board wanted to have input at the 5-year interval.
- The Governor has \$2 billion housing plan which is a general fund housing plan.
 It is still under discussion how this plan is going to happen but the concern is that it is going to cut into MHSA funding, up to about 20-35% of our local funding.
- C. Behavioral Health Report, Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Behavioral Health Director Tiffany formally introduced Karen Kern as the new Deputy Director of Behavioral Health. She shared that Karen was selected amongst a very competitive pool of candidates because she brings the qualities that are necessary to take county behavioral health into the new CalAIM healthcare delivery system. Karen joined county behavioral health in 2020 as the Director of Adults Behavioral Health, and since then has led a transformation within that unit towards a recovery-oriented model. Prior to coming to Santa Cruz County, Karen worked at various Federally Qualified Health Clinics in Portland and in Oakland, in roles as the Director of Substance Use Disorder Services and also Quality Assurance and Compliance. She has a degree in social services, a master's in public administration and a certificate in alcohol and drug counseling.

D. Committee Updates

- 1. Standing Committees
 - a. Budget
 - The committee discussed changing the status of the committee from standing to ad hoc. Justification is that a standing committee is burdensome, inefficient, and not flexible. The committee members unanimously agreed to become ad hoc and focus on the MHSA funding and program. The goal of the ad hoc committee is to support the annual update of the MHSA.
 - Other update: Antonio attended the Watsonville Community Hospital Board meeting. Antonio had a conversation with one of the board members and he mentioned the possibility of building a behavioral health building on the land next to the hospital.

2. Ad Hoc Committees

- a. Peer Support Specialist Certification Hugh said he is contacting local agencies, and everyone is excited but a little leery about all the emerging details regarding the entire process. The report is coming along, and it should be beneficial for counties and organizations and peers throughout the state. Hugh said he hopes to finish and print the report by the next board meeting.
- b. 988 the committee met with Andrea Tolaio and discussed the convergence of the Crisis Now Project (5-year project); AB988 (5 years to accomplish); MHSA (3-year focus).
- c. Ideal Crisis System the committee had a discussion with James and reviewed 35 questions. Jeffrey went to Tucson to look at their Crisis Response System. The committee is looking forward to working with Karen regarding the Crisis Assessment Plan. The goal is to support Behavioral Health with the Crisis Now Project. More information in May.
- d. Community / Publicity no report.

- E. Patients' Rights Report Davi Schill, Patients' Rights Advocate Davi Schill was present at the meeting. March report was provided.
 - Furlough days have been revoked. Davi thanked everyone, especially Karen Kern, who helped to ensure that all the people served have access to an advocate full time.

VIII. New Agenda Items

- 1. Nomination Committee The vote for Chair, Co-chair, and Secretary was postponed to next month.
- 2. Vote on Letter of Support for Dr. Ratner regarding the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program no draft letter to review.

IX. Future Agenda Items

- 1. SB43
- 2. Vote on Member-At-Large
- 3. Trailer Bill AB988

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

MINUTES - Draft

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MAY 18, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

1430 FREEDOM BLVD, SUITE A, ATRIUM, WATSONVILLE Microsoft Teams Meeting (831) 454-2222, Conference 643 359 355#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham,

Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez

Excused: Stephen Busath, Xaloc Cabanes

Absent: Hugh McCormick

Staff: Karen Kern, James Russell, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:16 p.m. by Secretary Jeffrey Arlt.

II. Public Comments

- Public member stated that he was banned from MHCAN for one year for taking notes as it was against HIPAA. He also complained against staff as they recently closed the kitchen and staff meetings are no longer open to the public.
- Rachel Sotos asked what the relationship is between the MHAB and the National Association of Counties (NACo). She said there is a lot of unanimity about what might be recommended next steps for stronger policy in the counties and wondered if there's any daylight between what Santa Cruz County is thinking and the National Association of Counties, and she is particularly concerned because there's so much corporate sponsorship in relationships with the National Association of Counties.

III. Board Member Announcements

Supervisor Hernandez' response to Rachel Sotos' public comment: The Board of Supervisors are members of NACo. Zach Friend and Bruce McPherson currently attend the NACo meetings and said he will be attending the NACo conference in July. Supervisor Hernandez also stated that he will be attending general workshops with the CA State Association of Counties (CSAC), which is the sister organization of NACo.

IV. Business / Action Items

A. Approve March 16, 2023 Minutes

Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Laura Chatham

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb,

Supervisor Hernandez

Abstain: Celeste Gutierrez

Absent: Hugh McCormick, Jennifer Wells Kaupp (joined at 3:31pm); Stephen Busath,

Xaloc Cabanes

Motion did not pass due to absences. The March minutes will be placed on the June agenda for another vote.

B. Approve April 20, 2023 Minutes

Motion/Second: Michael Neidig / Antonio Rivas

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig,

Supervisor Hernandez

Abstain: Celeste Gutierrez, Valerie Webb

Absent: Hugh McCormick, Jennifer Wells Kaupp (joined at 3:31pm); Stephen Busath,

Xaloc Cabanes

Motion did not pass due to absences. The April minutes will be placed on the June agenda for another vote.

C. Vote to support the MHSA Innovations Crisis Now Plan as presented.

Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Michael Neidig

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura

Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Supervisor Hernandez

Noes: Celeste Gutierrez

Absent: Hugh McCormick, Stephen Busath, Xaloc Cabanes

Motion passed.

V. Reports

A. Secretary's Report

- No attendance issues.
- Reminder to board members to log in completed trainings in the spreadsheet.
- Training opportunity on a YouTube site called 5 Lanes. It is posted weekly and associated with Crisis Now.
- B. Board of Supervisors Report Supervisor Felipe Hernandez -No report.
- C. Behavioral Health Report 2023 to 2026 MHSA INN Plan: Crisis Now James Russell, Director of ACCESS and Crisis Services

James presented on the county's Mental Health Service Act Innovation plan. He stated that Behavioral Health is seeking the MHAB's approval to present this plan to the Board of Supervisors for their approval.

The presentation covered:

- 1. MHSA Innovations -background
- 2. Primary Purpose
- 3. Primary Problem Crisis Continuum Barriers
- 4. Why Crisis Now? System Barriers and Crisis Now Strategic Solutions
- 5. What Santa Cruz County has now and what Santa Cruz County needs
- 6. Implementation Plan
- 7. Evaluation Plan
- 8. Budget

Click here to view the presentation slides.

Karen Kern added that Recovery Innovations International (RI International) is providing the project management of this multi-county project with Santa Cruz County and Calaveras County. They are working with the Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission who oversees and administers the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). RI International will be working with the County and the Commission to understand how a Crisis Now model works in different types of jurisdictions. The goal is to ramp up services over three years. The County will start off with the mobile crisis response by expanding teams, looking at metrics, and refining the budget. The goal is to get the approval from the MHAB to bring this to the Board of Supervisors at the June 27th meeting.

The MHAB discussed and voted to support the MHSA Innovation Crisis Now Plan as presented (see Section IV.C).

D. Ad Hoc Committee Updates

- 1. Budget
 - Discussed changes to MHSA. There are concerns around Governor Newsom modernizing MHSA and moving funds into housing. Also, the Fee-for-Service reimbursement impacts services that is funded through MHSA.
- 2. Peer Support Specialist Certification no report.
- 3. 988 the committee completed their objective to support the rollout of 988 (July 16th is the one-year anniversary). There will be a report in June regarding the rollout of 988.
- 4. Ideal Crisis System the committee has an action item regarding the Sobering Center at 265 Water Street, which was approved by the BOS to rebuild it.
- 5. Community / Publicity no report.
- E. Patients' Rights Report George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate George did not attend the meeting. April report was provided.
- VI. Presentation: Building Hope and Safety, Santa Cruz Grant and Suicide Prevention Activities Carly Memoli, Program Director, Applied Crisis Training and Consulting, Inc.
 -This presentation is rescheduled to the August 17th Meeting.
- VII. New Agenda Items
 - Vote Member-At-Large: Marina Archer
 The MHAB received clarification that a Member-At-Large must be a former board member, therefore Marina Archer does not qualify to be a Member-At-Large. As a result, the board discussed updating the definition of a Member-At-Large in the bylaws at a future meeting.
 - 2. Discussion and vote on letter regarding Sweeps, camping and parking bans and clearing of the San Lorenzo Park Benchlands.

 The Board discussed the letter and agreed that it should include the Watsonville Sweep.
 - The Board discussed the letter and agreed that it should include the Watsonville Sweep. The revised letter will be reviewed and discussed at next month's meeting.
- VIII. Future Agenda Items
 - 1. Member-At-Large revision in bylaws
 - 2. Discussion and vote on revised Sweeps Letter
- IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Summary

This is a May 2023 Patients' Rights Advocate Report from the Patients' Rights Advocacy program. It includes the following: telephone calls, reports, and emails. It includes a breakdown of the number of certified clients, the number of hearings, and the number of contested hearings. It also includes a breakdown of Reise Hearing activity, including the number of Riese Hearings filed, the number of Riese conducted, and the number that were lost.

Record 13885

Telecare

On May 2, 2023, this writer received a call from a patient at the Telecare facility. The caller complained that the staff did not file a writ with the court. This writer placed a call to the medical director to obtain further information. The medical director informed me that it was her understanding that a person could not file a writ until after the Certification Review Hearing. This writer informed her that patients have the right to file a, "by-pass writ," without going to the Certification Review Hearing. This writer also made a complaint to Santa Cruz County Mental Health.

Record 13887

Telecare

On May 2, 2023, this Advocate* responded to a phone call placed by the mother of a client. The mother was concerned that her son may be inappropriately discharged. This Advocate* spoke with the client and received permission to advocate on the client's behalf and received permission to speak with the mother. This Advocate with the Medical Director who was willing to speak with the treating Psychiatrist to allow the client to remain on a voluntary basis while waiting for appropriate placement

Record 13888

El Dorado Center

On May 1,2023, this writer* received a referral from the Long-Term Ombudsman program. The LTC Ombudsman received a report from a county mental health case coordinator. The case coordinator was seeking help obtaining placement for a client. After investigating the matter, the Patient's Rights Advocate* concluded that the PRA program could not supply placement assistance.

*Ms. Davi Schill

Record 13922

7th Avenue Center

On May 19, 2023, the writer received a message from the Unit Coordinator of the 7th facility about an incident of resident-to-resident abuse, male to male altercation. This writer tried to speak with both parties, but both refused to. This writer also placed a call to the conservator to decide whether the staff reported this incident to the conservator to inquire whether the facility is supplying proper care. The conservator said staff did not report the incident, but she believes the facility supplies proper care. The conservator did not know whether her client had been informed of his right to contact local law enforcement. The conservator will communicate about this lack of due diligence on the part of the facility and return to 7th avenue administration and call back to my office when this is done.

Record 13942

7th Avenue Center

On May 31, 2023, this writer received a referral from the Long-Term Care Ombudsman about placement assistance for a resident of the 7th Avenue Center. This communicated with the LTC Ombudsman that the PRA does not provide placement assistance but would interview the resident to decide whether support from the Patients' Rights Advocate may be called for. This writer spoke with the resident. He informed me that he was seeking another place like the 7th Avenue Center or a transfer to the Telecare facility. This writer inquired whether he had made his wishes known to the staff and his conservator. The resident said that they would not listen to him but had not yet voiced his wishes. I asked if he could make his wishes known. He said that he could. This writer will meet with the resident this week (6/8/23) since the issue has not been resolved.

ADVOCACY INC.

TELECARE CLIENT CERTIFICATION AND REISE HEARING/PATIENTS' RIGHTS REPORT

April 2023

Fourth Quarter

1. TOTAL NUMBER CERTIFIED	39
2. TOTAL NUMBER OF HEARINGS	35
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTESTED HEARINGS	17
4. NO CONTEST PROBABLE CAUSE	22
5. CONTESTED NO PROBABLE CAUSE	3
6. VOLUNTARY BEFORE CERTIFICATION	
HEARING	
7. DISCHARGED BEFORE HEARING	3
8. WRITS	1
9. CONTESTED PROBABLE CAUSE	14
10. NON-REGULARLY SCHEDULED HEARINGS	0

Ombudsman Program & Patient Advocate Program shared 0 clients in this month (shared = skilled nursing resident (dementia) sent to behavioral health unit or mental health client placed in skilled nursing facility)

The following is an account of activity May 1, 2023, through May 31, of representation to clients held at Telecare (Santa Cruz Psychiatric Health Facility) facing Reise Hearings.

Total number of Riese petitions filed: 5

Total number of Riese Hearings conducted: 5

Total number of Riese Hearings lost: 5

Total number of Riese Hearings won: 0

Total number of Riese Hearings withdrawn: 0

Hours spent on cancelled Reise hearings: 0 hours

House spent on all Reise hearings: 8.5

*Riese appeal: 0

Hours spent on all Riese Hearings included those hearings that were cancelled by the hospital: 8.5

Respectfully submitted,

Davi Schill, PRA

George N. Carvalho, PRA

Santa Cruz County Veteran Advocate Travis Deyoung



Able to meet veterans where they are in the community. Assist any veteran with any need.

Phone: 831-588-0589







Santa Cruz County Veteran Services Office



Address:
842 Front St,
Santa Cruz
Next the post office
downtown

Hours: Monday – Thursday 8-12 & 1-5

WATSONVILLE OFFICE

18 W Beach St, Watsonville, CA 95076



Monday – Thursday By appointment only



A Holistic Approach To Wellbeing



Assisting all Veterans





- Any period of service
- Any type of discharge
- Any length of service
- Any veteran for any need

VETERAN SERVICE DAY AT THE VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING





EVERY WEDNESDAY (9AM-3PM)

846 FRONT ST, SANTA CRUZ, CA NEXT THE POST OFFICE DOWNTOWN.

VETERAN SERVICE DAY AT THE VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING



- -WALK IN HOURS AT VETERAN SERVICES OFFICE
- -VA MEDICAL OUTREACH TEAM
- -HOUSING RESOURCE GROUP
- -SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER GROUP
- -HOT LUNCH AND FOOD PANTRY
- -EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Employment Services for Veterans

Employment Development Department (EDD)

Veterans Rehabilitation Services Inc. (VRSI)



Housing Programs in Santa Cruz





Supportive Services for Veterans and Families-SSVF (case management, financial assistance)





Paget House (60-90 Emergency housing)

Housing Programs in Santa Cruz



HUDVASH (Sect 8 voucher for veterans)



Veterans Transition Center (transitional housing up to 2 years)

Branches of the VA



- > Benefits (Monetary benefits)
- > Healthcare
- Vet Centers (Readjustment counseling for combat veterans and MST victims)
- Cemeteries

VA Benefits

(monetary benefits)

VA Disability

NSC Pension

VA Education Benefits

Survivors Benefits

VA Healthcare

Basic Eligibility

- Honorable & General Discharge type
- Duty requirement:
 Before September 7,1980 90 days
 After September 7,1980- 24 months

Title 10 (Reservist/National Guardsmen called to active duty by Federal Executive Order)

VA Healthcare

Palo Alto(main hospital)

-3801 Miranda Ave, Palo Alto

Capitola Clinic

-1350 41st Ave, Suite 102, Capitola

Monterey Clinic

-201 9th Street, Seaside

San Jose Clinic

-80 Great Oaks Blvd

VA Healthcare Outreach team is available every Wednesday at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Santa Cruz



Mental Health Programs – VA Palo Alto Inpatient Mental Health Care

- Acute Psych Care Bldg MB520 (5150 and Detox)
 - Hospitalization with pathways to residential programs
- Men's Trauma Recovery Program (PTSD, MST)
 - Residential program up to 6 months
- Woman's Trauma Recovery Program
 - Residential program up to 6 months



Mental Health Programs – VA Palo Alto Outpatient Mental Health Care

- Psychiatric and psychological counseling
 - At the VA and through community care options
- Treatment for co-occurring disorders
- PTSD Intensive Outpatient program
- Peer Support programs
- Women's Counseling Center



Substance Abuse Treatment Programs Inpatient/ outpatient

- Addiction Treatment Services (ATS)
- Intensive Outpatient services
- •Foundation of Recovery (FOR) 28 day
- •First Step 90 Day
- •VA contracts for residential care-
 - The Camp in Scotts Valley



Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Poly Trauma Rehabilitation Program (PTRP)

•Acute - Residential- Outpatient

Spinal Cord Injury / Disorder Unit (SCI/D)

Spinal Cord, MS, ALS, CVA,



Mental Health Programs – VA Palo Alto Compensated Work Therapy

Compensated Work Therapy

•The CWT Program provides job development and counseling services to Veterans with a wide range of barriers to employment, which may include medical and/or mental health disorders, homelessness, and any combination thereof.



Mental Health Programs – VA Palo Alto

Homeless Veterans Rehabilitation Program (HVRP)

•6-month residential program aimed at providing homeless veterans the skills necessary to function self-sufficiently in society. Residents attend training classes, participate in therapy and support groups, and attend community meetings.



VET CENTER

•Counseling services for combat veterans, Military Sexual Trauma (MST) survivors, and bereavement

•1350 41st Ave., Suite 102 Capitola, CA 95010





Vets 4 Vets Santa Cruz



Vets 4 Vets Santa Cruz

Events- bowling tournaments, member meetings, chili cook off, documentary showings with panel discussions, Art Events, etc.

Emergency Assistance funds- food, clothing, transportation, etc.

Volunteer coordination- home repairs, rides, moving assistance, home visits, etc.

Veteran Suicide Prevention Services



The suicide rate for Veterans is 1.5 times higher than that of the general population. Comparing the rate among women Veterans to non-Veteran adult women, the rate is 2.5 times higher.

Veterans who misuse drugs or alcohol are more than twice as likely to die by suicide than other Veterans

Veteran Suicide Prevention Services



Among U.S. adults who died from suicide in 2020, firearms were more commonly involved among Veterans (71.0%) than non-Veterans (50.3%).

Of the on average 16.8 Veteran suicides per day in 2020, approximately 39.7% (6.7 per day) were among Recent Veteran VHA Users16 and 60.3% (10.1 per day) were among Other Veterans.

Veteran Suicide Prevention Services



In 2001, Veterans between the ages of 35 and 54 had the highest suicide rates, among both Veteran men and Veteran women. In 2020, suicide rates were highest among Veterans between the ages of 18 and 34

Veteran Suicide Prevention Services



In 2020, the suicide rate among White Veterans was more than twice the rate among Black or African American Veterans.

Among Veteran VHA Users, suicide rates were elevated for residents of rural areas, as compared to urban areas

Veteran Suicide Prevention Services



Emergency room/ psych care at the VA

Veterans Crisis Line
- Dial 988

Gun Locks

Community Support

Journey 4 Change

-preventing suicide through community action and awareness





Journey 4 Change

-preventing suicide through community action and awareness







A real world Story

VETERAN SERVICE DAY AT THE VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING



EVERY WEDNESDAY

846 FRONT ST, SANTA CRUZ, CA

To the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors:

A recent study <u>published April 10,2023 in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)</u> confirms recent findings made by our county's Deputy Health Officer and Director of Emergency Medicine, that contrary to popular opinion, involuntary displacement is bad for public health. Researchers say practices such as encampment sweeps, bans, move-along-orders and cleanups that forcibly relocate individuals away from essential services will lead to substantial increases in overdose deaths, life threatening infections and hospitalizations.

In coordination with the National Healthcare for Homeless Council, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Foundation of the CDC, a multidisciplinary group of researchers developed a simulation model projecting the long-term health effects of involuntary displacement of people experiencing homelessness who inject drugs using data from 23 U.S. cities. They used city- and national-level data to closely model what the population looks like in real life including their overdose risk and mortality. They then modeled two scenarios over a 10-year time period: no continual displacement and continual involuntary displacement of this population.

In hundreds of different projections, the model showed no feasible scenario, in any city, where continual involuntary displacement improves health outcomes. Instead, the practice would likely result in a significant increase in morbidity, mortality and a shortened life expectancy, the study said.

"Our research shows that these widespread practices that forcibly displace people are clearly impacting the health of this population, particularly when it comes to increasing their overdose risk, so much so that it actually decreases the life expectancy of the entire population," says <u>Josh Barocas</u>, <u>MD</u>, associate professor at the <u>University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus</u> and corresponding author.

"Modeling studies like ours give us a sense of whether we're headed in the right or wrong direction. Our study showed that displacement could directly result in a quarter of deaths of this population. This tells us that the practice of forcibly displacing people is taking us in the wrong direction if we want to solve issues around homelessness and substance use disorders."

Researchers also found displacement increased overdose deaths, hospitalizations, injection-related infections, and hindered access to medications for opioid use disorder along with other detrimental impacts.

"It's estimated that more than 500,000 people are experiencing homelessness in the U.S. and understanding the toll practices such as camping bans and sweeps take on such a substantial population is critical to emphasizing the need for care and services versus literally being swept aside," says Barocas. "We hope these results inform future policies that actually mitigate the long-term health consequences in this population before it's too late."

An article dated 01/12/22 from the Pajaronian noted how the County's Public Works Departments in coordination with the Sheriff's department displaced people at a camp near Riverside Road in Watsonville without providing any specifics about what shelter beds were offered to those displaced.

An article dated 12/19/22 from Santa Cruz Lookout noted the spike in overdose deaths in Santa Cruz in September 2022 and considered the probability that the spike might be connected to the clearing of the San Lorenzo Park Benchlands that began in September 2022.

The fact of the unsafe flooding conditions at the Benchlands when the atmospheric rivers hit does not absolve the city of wrongly destroying the camp because they might have provided a safe place to send people rather than concentrating them in the Benchlands for months before they swept the Benchlands.

Having these actions take place on both sides of the county is concerning. Especially taking into consideration that most people who are experiencing homelessness have high levels of adverse childhood experiences and having local government institutions further traumatize them does not aid in the healing process.

As the County Mental Health Advisory Board, it is our mission to advise public policy makers throughout the county on what good public health policies look like, with respect to mental health. Because of these recent findings, we must advise our county supervisors and cities within the county against the implementation of policies that seek to increase involuntary displacement; policies like camping bans, sleeping bans, parking restrictions on oversized vehicles, and similar policies which seek to increase involuntary displacement, are perpetuating negative public health outcomes.

We hope to instead encourage local policy makers to focus their efforts on positive, resource-based interventions, that improve the health outcomes of those living in tents, vehicles, or other makeshift structures.

Sincerely, Santa Cruz County Mental Health Advisory Board

Link to University of Colorado study 4/10/23 and Lookout Article 12/19/22:

https://news.cuanschutz.edu/news-stories/study-shows-involuntary-displacement-of-people-experiencing-homelessness-may-cause-significant-spikes-in-mortality-overdoses-and-hospitalizations?hs amp=true

https://lookout.co/santacruz/civic-life/story/2022-12-19/fentanyl-epidemic-santa-cruz-overdoses-opioids-benchlands

Riverside Road homeless camp dismantled - The Pajaronian

Microsoft Word - ACEs Fact Sheet Final Update.docx (nhchc.org)