

**MINUTES – APPROVED**  
**May 20, 2021**

**MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

March 18, 2021

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, Jennifer Wells Kaupp; Lynda Kaufmann, Serg Kagno, Stephan DuBose, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

**Absent:** Catherine Willis

1. Public Comments

- Adrian from Second Story – asking if the County is choosing to opt in or opt out of peer certification.

2. Approved meeting minutes for January 21, 2021.

Motion by Antonio Rivas to approve January 21, 2021 MHAB minutes. Second by Valerie Webb.

AYES: Antonio Rivas, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Serg Kagno, Stephan DuBose, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

ABSENT: Catherine Willis

ABSTAIN: Lynda Kaufmann

Approved meeting minutes for February 18, 2021.

Motion by Stephan Dubose to approve February 18, 2021 MHAB minutes. Second by Serg Kagno.

AYES: Antonio Rivas, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Serg Kagno, Stephan DuBose, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

ABSENT: Catherine Willis

ABSTAIN: Lynda Kaufmann

3. Secretary's Report – Serg Kagno

- Per last year's retreat, agreed to focus on committees, to be more organized and track committee meetings attendance and trainings.

[Click here to view the New Rules from Retreat 2020.](#)

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

- Working on making sure COVID vaccine sites are running smoothly.
- Youth suicides on the rise due to schools not in session. Young people not connecting with friends/classmates; some younger than 15 years old.
- Talking to school board next week. K-12 returning to school by April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Positive outlook in our County as COVID numbers are low.

5. Standing Behavioral Health Director's Report, Erik Riera – no report.

## 6. Standing Reports

- a. MHSAs Advisory Committee (Members: Lynda Kaufmann, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Antonio Rivas)
  - Draft of MHSAs report included a lot of feedback from last year's workshops and included NAMI survey responses.
  - Committee needs to meet about the status of the committee. It should be a community steering committee, not a subcommittee under the MHAB.
  - Recommend the MHAB members to review the MHSAs report and submit comments before the April 15th meeting as the report will be approved at the April meeting.
  
- b. Site Visit Committee – (Members: Serg Kagno, Hugh McCormick, Valerie Webb)
  - Committee completed the mission and vision statements.
    - Mission / Goals:
      - a. Inspect, support, report (to MHAB and BOS), advocate/represent.
      - b. To provide information and in-depth analysis on existing mental health programs and services in Santa Cruz County.
    - Vision:
      - a. We envision therapeutic services which support community members to health and thrive.
      - b. We envision those services to be accessible, equity-ish, Trauma-Informed, holistic, compassionate, and respectful.
    - Objectives:
      - a. One visit every month, with a report.
  - Arranging a virtual Telecare site visit at the end of the month.
  
- c. County Behavioral Health Budget Committee (Members: Antonio Rivas, Stephan DuBose)
  - No report.
  
- d. SUDSC/MHAB Merger Committee (Members: Xaloc Cabanes, Lynda Kaufmann, Jennifer Wells Kaupp)
  - Have not received correspondence, no update.
  
- e. Community Engagement Committee – (Members: Valerie Webb, Catherine Willis, Stephan DuBose)
  - Completed 1-page newsletter to be posted on the MHAB webpage.
  - Next community and outreach newsletter to be more collaborative effort.
  - Purpose of committee will be shared next month.
  - Discussions on highlighting a schedule of events in the calendar year.
  
- f. Mental Health and Law Enforcement Committee (Members: Hugh McCormick, Serg Kagno, Jennifer Wells Kaupp)
  - Committee completed the mission and vision statements.  
[Click here to view the mission and vision statements.](#)
  - NAMI had their 3-year Strategic Plan Zoom Community meeting which includes their recommendation of Mental Health liaisons being available 24 hours. Committee will be reaching out to them to have conversations about their recommendation.

7. Patients' Rights Report – by George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate

[Click here to view the February report.](#)

- Discussing and making plans to go back into facilities in person. Plan is to take a facility a day. Advocates have been vaccinated and will be wearing PPE.
- Plan to do in-person hearings at Telecare facility when our County is in orange status.
- Advocacy, Inc website has been revised: Advocacy-Inc.org
- Continue to make sure all clients in the health care facilities are aware of our services by placing postcards into the admission packets.
- Scheduling hearings is chaotic because of backup throughout the state before Covid, and Covid has made it worse.
- Clarification regarding how complaints are handled - Each person's complaint is reviewed individually. Depending on the type of complaint and how far they want to go to resolve the issue, they could go to the county, to the state, or other entities. It is the client's decision on what they want as the next step.

8. New Business

- a. New Committee – Nominating Committee will meet to discuss officers of the Board for the next year. The board will vote on the officers at the next meeting. Committee members are Antonio Rivas, Lynda Kaufmann, and Jennifer Wells Kaupp.

9. Future Business

- AB1976 Laura's Law and AOT. Effective 07/01/21 – if county does not actively choose to opt out, it implicitly enacts AOT.

Motion by Lynda Kaufmann to adjourn. Second by Erika Miranda-Bartlett. Meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.