



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

**MINUTES – Approved
October 19, 2023**

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
1400 EMELINE AVENUE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ
Microsoft Teams (831) 454-2222, Conference 637 403 975#

Present: Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Stella Peuse, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez
Excused: Antonio Rivas, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Michael Neidig
Staff: Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, James Russell, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

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- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:04 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
 - II. Public Comments
 - Beverly Grove – provides Chaplain Services to the Santa Cruz County Jail and Juvenile Hall. She stated she is coordinating presentations for the new Inspector General that has responsibility for oversight of the Sheriff's Office and the jail. Beverly stated that they would like as many community organizations as possible to meet the Inspector General. She is currently setting up meetings via zoom or in person.
 - Richard Gallo – stated he attended the August 22nd rally and provided feedback that he was disappointed in how they allowed the bill to go as is instead of making recommendations to modify it or amend it. Richard also stated that folks need to educate themselves about the housing bond as it is tied with the Modernization Act and said the peer workforce movement was not included in CalAIM. Richard also stated he is not happy with the last innovation plan as it was not a community driven process and it is an oversight commission plan that should have not stepped in interfering with the CPP process.
 - QZ – provided written correspondence to the Board and stated he would like to know what happens next.
 - BJ Nadeau – stated that Bill McCabe, CEO of Family Services Agency described how the CANS model is heavily evidenced based which targets, identifies and treats the patient identified suicidal drivers. BJ also announced that for the first time in Santa Cruz County, there will be an American Foundation for suicide community walk, supporting those who have lost loved ones. It will be held in Scotts Valley at Sky Park on Saturday, September 30th. Sarah Galvez Tyson, who is chair of the program, lost her 24-year-old son to suicide.
 - III. Board Member Announcements
 - The Chair announced that California Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions is offering effective board member training. Board members can also access the recording on the website if they can't attend the live training.
 - The Chair provided clarification of ad hoc committees – they are 6 months or less.
 - The Chair reminded the board that when members of the board represent themselves as members of the MHAB in a public setting, the position taken shall represent the decision made and voted upon by the MHAB. Statements made should be clear on what the board's stance is versus an individual board member's stance. In summary, if board members are going to represent themselves as part of the board, they must be in line with what the board is saying, whether it is done in person or in writing.

IV. Business / Action Items

A. Approve August 17, 2023 Minutes as amended to include that George Carvalho will provide the information to Coral Brune's questions.

Motion/Second: Valerie Webb / Dean Kashino

Ayes: Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Antonio Rivas, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Michael Neidig

Motion passed.

V. Presentation: Centering Wellness: The Role of Schools in Addressing Behavioral Health
Santa Cruz County Office of Education Team:

-Farris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools

-Lauren Fein, Behavioral Health Director

-Hayley Newman, School Climate & Wellness Coordinator

-Dr. Michael Paynter, Student Support Services Director

- There are 4 divisions at the COE: Student Programs, Tech & Innovation, Business Services, Educational Service. The COE is state funded under the CA Dept of Education (not under the Board of Supervisors).
- Gaps are: Decentralized Service Delivery, Limited/Inequitable Access, Organizational Silos, Staff Burnout/Limited pool of clinicians, Complex and Inconsistent funding sources, Stigma.
- Ongoing Efforts:
 1. Staff Training - already trained 77 staff since March 2023 and trained a new cohort of Youth Mental Health First Aid instructors. The goal is to have 500 adults across the county trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid. In addition, partnered with Encompass who is offering trauma informed and resiliency training for school staff members.
 2. Case Management
 3. Training for Students - Teen Mental Health First Aid training for students in grades 10 through 12. One of the initiatives is to identify peer support programs like Hope Squad as well as honoring youth led mental health advocacy groups across the county.
 4. NAMI Training for Parents
 5. Wellness Centers at all Comprehensive High Schools
- The Companion Project - it is grant funded which is a collaboration between county Behavioral Health and the County Office of Education and serves students K through 12 within Santa Cruz Public Schools who have become disengaged from school, perhaps due to emotional well-being, behavioral health or substance use disorders. There are target groups that are focused on, but not limited to LGBTQ youth, youth as students in transition and those on the verge of truancy, suspension or expulsion and presenting with a high acuity behavioral health need. There were 200 referrals in the first year.
- Wellness Centers - can be accessed by students for various reasons: 1) in crisis, 2) emotional de-escalation, 3) need to be connected with an adult right away, 4) appointment with community partner who is using the office in the Wellness Center or with school site staff, 5) self-referral, 6) referring a friend, 7) brain break, a space for student to come use a coping skill or sensory tool to deescalate themselves to be ready to learn and go back to class, 8) health education for mental health, education and information.
- The goal is to have two school-based pilot wellness centers open by Spring 23-24 School Year. The long-term goal is to have a Wellness Center at every district high school and middle school County-wide.
- The Wellness Coordinator is typically a classified staff member who is trained in how to screen students the level of need the student needs at that time. They are also supporting students by giving them information that is in the Wellness Center. Other folks that are in a Wellness Center are wellness interns, counseling, social work, MFT interns, community-based partners, and wellness peer advocates.
- Moving forward, Billing and Sustainability
 1. The State will be announcing a new fee schedule called the Multi Payer School-Linked Fee Schedule which would allow schools to draw down both commercial and medical insurance for schools. Services include psychoeducation, screening & assessment, therapy, peer support and care coordination.

2. The COE is looking at other possibilities for the workforce of mental health counselors and clinicians, with a few initiatives coming down from the State: Wellness Coaches, Peer to Peer, and Community Health Workers.
3. The COE is also looking at working with the alliance and seeing how the COE can become an enhanced care management provider so that medical beneficiaries are able to provide that next level of service.

[Click here to view the presentation slides.](#)

VI. Address Board Members and Public concerns regarding RI International
Georgea Madeira, Senior Principal Consultant, and lead consultant on the MHSOAC Project
Jamie Sellar, Chief Strategy Officer

- RI International is currently in nine US states as well as Australia, providing mostly about 75% of facility-based crisis services. The rest is either warm lines, some mobile team support, do traditional/non-traditional outpatient programs, residential, a few other inpatient programs, mental health urgent care centers. RI has about 1500 employees, about 700 of whom are going to identify as having lived experience and see about 30,000 people in their programs. RI is one of the largest trainers of folks toward peer certification in the world. RI trained over 17,000 people to become eligible for their state certification to be a peer employment.
- In the course of 30 years, there are four negative reviews in the Better Business Bureau: two happen to be about the training programs (one about somebody who hadn't been through and one who had some difficulty getting his credentials); a mother of a guest who was not able to come in and take his stuff without him giving permission; and an employee who wanted RI to sign off that they were eligible for their basic supervised employment toward their licensure, which RI was willing to do.
- In 2019 SAMHSA, the federal government approached RI and said they would like RI to write, to be the lead agency providing the national guidelines for behavioral health crisis care. RI agreed with the understanding that there is a heavy focus on the crisis system which has to have strong call centers, impeccable mobile teams that work where people live, work and play and facility-based crisis that is an alternative to jails and emergency departments.
- In 2020, SAMHSA published their national guideless for Behavioral Health Crisis Care. The core of what they do is trying to strengthen communities and a sustainable model that is going ahead and be able to integrate crisis care so that nobody has to get care in the back of a police car, in a jail, in an ambulance or wait for potential lifesaving care.
- Reasons for counties leaving - when this plan was first offered, a lot of counties in the beginning took the opportunity to receive a no cost assessment. Various reasons for leaving included: Lost key personnel during the initial phase of this project and the county didn't have any resources to continue; one county had two main people resign at the same time; another county didn't have enough inn funds to complete this project.

VII. Reports

A. Secretary's Report

- No attendance issues.
- Training – reminder that Hugh, Celeste, and Jennifer need to renew their Ethics training.
- Available training – CA Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions training on October 20th and on October 21st on how to be an effective board member.
- Reminder to board members that any training that is watched or attended that has to do with MHAB responsibilities will be given credit (don't need a certificate of completion).

B. Board of Supervisors Report - Supervisor Felipe Hernandez

Supervisor Hernandez provided an update on the MHSA reform and the housing bond, and said the State is going to try to combine both on the ballot measure. As Supervisor

Hernandez previously mentioned, 1/3 of it is going to support housing programs, about \$6 million annually will be diverted from mental health programs into housing. This ballot measure is going to be on for March 2024.

- C. Behavioral Health Report - Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Director of County Behavioral Health
- The CAO's response to the Grand Jury Report was received by the Board of Supervisors at the September 12th meeting with some additional direction. The additional direction was to direct staff to conduct a salary survey for the Mental Health Client Specialist and Senior Mental Health Client Specialist classifications and other positions with a high vacancy rate within the Behavioral Health division, and then return to the BOS with an update from the Health Services Agency Recruitment and Retention Committee by the end of 2023. Tiffany stated there will be ongoing action to address the workforce challenges in Behavioral Health.
 - In the MHAB's response to the Grand Jury Report, the MHAB recommended they be included in the oversight committee of the interim facility while the new facility for youth is being built at 5300 Soquel Avenue. Tiffany stated there is no oversight committee for the development of that facility and suggested providing the MHAB with an update every month. The current update is Behavioral Health is working with Watsonville Community Hospital (WCH) to be the diversion point for youth who are on a 5585 hold. The idea is that youth who are on a 5585 hold would be admitted to the WCH Emergency Department (ED), the ED staff would attend to their medical screening and then there would be a behavioral health team that's embedded in the ED that provides the behavioral health assessment, intervention, and safety planning. The proposal is that the behavioral health team is going to be a contractor, which they are working to identify that contractor right now. That service would be provided for 12 hours a day, seven days a week, 8am to 8pm and that behavioral health team would consist of 1 licensed clinician and 1 unlicensed staff person during those 12 hours daily. The staff would engage with the patient and then also provide services and disposition recommendations. If the hold needs to be rescinded, the County MERTY team can respond to rescind the hold. If the patient is determined to require inpatient placement, then it would be the behavioral health team and that contractor who is taking the lead to have that discharge plan to identify another psychiatric youth facility that they can be admitted to.

D. Ad Hoc Committees

The board did not have time to discuss the Ad Hoc Committees. Discussion to be held next month.

E. Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate

A report was provided; however, George could not attend the meeting due to a prior commitment.

VIII. New Agenda Items – none.

IX. Future Agenda Items – none.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.