

**MINUTES APPROVED –
March 15, 2018**

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

February 15, 2018

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

1400 Emeline Avenue, Room 206, Santa Cruz, CA

Present: Aimee Escalante, Bek Sabedra, Jim Roszell, Lynda Kaufmann, Rebekah Mills, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

Excused Absence: Hugh McCormick, Jodie Wells, Kathleen Avraham

Unexcused Absence: Charlotte Reyes

1. Public Comment

- Audience member attended Santa Cruz County Superior Court cases and shocked to see the number of individuals who were mentally ill and in custody were released back to the streets. She believes it is time to revisit the idea of opening up a psychiatric facility that includes housing. Jim Roszell responded that the nation has run out of money and hoping we can work on this issue and Twin Lakes Church is also working on it.
- Another audience member mentioned the money issue. 700 pages of appropriations. One bill that passed was \$365K for research effects of cocaine on Japanese quail. Who is watch dogging these appropriations?

2. Approved meeting minutes for January 18, 2018

AYES: Bek Sabedra, Jim Roszell, Lynda Kaufman, Rebekah Mills, Xaloc Cabanes

ABSTAIN: Aimee Escalante, Supervisor Greg Caput

ABSENT: Charlotte Reyes, Hugh McCormick, Jodie Wells, Kathleen Avraham

3. Standing Board of Supervisors (BOS) report, Greg Caput:

- Commented on how money goes to ridiculous things when it can be used for more important areas. About 30 years ago, the Golden Fleece Award was given to public officials for the most ridiculous appropriations of money in the country, maybe time to bring it back.
- New building project for Behavioral Health Center in Watsonville going well. Ready for groundbreaking. Worked out agreement and were able to save 6 winter pine trees (75 years old). The parking lot will go around the pine trees.
- Homeless Services in Watsonville – Salvation Army is keeping the shelter open in the winter months only. Day services in late spring, summer, and fall. Dinner is served every day of the week; 6 days out of the week served by different churches, and the Salvation Army will serve Sunday nights.
- Mental Health Services Budget presented at BOS Meeting – the financial information is an open book and available on the BOS website. Clarified we have to use the money that is budgeted within their specific mandate.
- The BOS will hear from the MHAB at a BOS meeting in the near future to inform them how this board is functioning.
- Working with vets that are ending up homeless. All kinds of money and programs to help them out, but not getting the help they are entitled to - we are addressing it.

4. Standing Behavioral Health (BH) Directors report:
- Announcement: Installing solar canopies on the Emeline campus. More parking will be closed. The MHAB may want to consider an alternate location for the meetings in March, April, and May.
 - Director's Update to the Mental Health Advisory Board (details available on the MHAB website):
 - SB906 Certification Bill
 - AB1136
 - AB1963 Opioid Addiction Bill
 - AB2214 Certification process for "Recovery Residences"
 - SB992 Residential Programs Discharge Plans
 - Governor's Budget
 - Watsonville Behavioral Health Office Building – everything is on schedule for August completion date.
 - Ongoing work with the City of Santa Cruz on a new site for the Homeless
 - New location on River Street for an organized and structured campground – scheduled to open February 28, 2018. 50 campsites for up to 100 individuals.
 - Whole Person Care Update

5. Sub-committee and Board Member Reports:

- Xaloc Cabanes - announced that both the Biennial Report and the Data Notebook have been submitted.
- Jail Committee Report, Rebekah Mills
 - Progress since January
 - First committee meeting held on Monday, January 22, 2018. Membership consists of three MHAB members and three community members.
 - Sharon and Carty Holland starting foundation in son's name, who died in jail as a result of being unable to move in a "restraint chair" for 46 hours, the culmination of a long struggle with severe mental illness that led him in and out of jail for almost over two decades. They are available as a resource for the Jail Committee.
 - Chief Carney started an officer-based "Crisis Support Program" which addresses needs before they escalate and takes away some workload from overworked mental health staff as well as other jail officers. Chief Carney interested in meeting with committee monthly, and expect to work collaboratively to learn about needs and share ideas for improvement.
 - Second full committee meeting held on Monday, February 12, 2018. Discussion on the committee's mission and vision statements and decided on 4 focus areas: learn about the roles and responsibilities of jail staff; improve communication between jail staff and support people of folks in jail with mental health issues; psychiatric medication availability and appropriateness for people in jail; and issues around people in jail found Incompetent to Stand Trial.

- Upcoming
 - Meeting with Jail Behavioral Health Supervisor Robert Annon to establish a basis for collaboration with jail mental health staff
 - Tour of the Main Jail pending
 - April meeting will include a panel of “support people” who have tried from the outside to support people in jail experiencing mental health issues. May meeting will have a panel of people who have been in jail experiencing mental health issues.
 - Committee will work together for one year and provide a written report to the MHAB in January 2019
- Current or Anticipated Needs:
 - Would like to have Jail Committee Meeting webpage on the County Behavioral Health Website, linked to/from the MHAB webpage
 - Seeking two volunteers to join the Jail Committee; one who has worked in a jail providing mental health services and another who has worked as a Correctional Officer
 - Anyone who would like to act as a resource for this committee is welcome to attend monthly meetings or contact Rebekah Mills
- Bylaws - Aimee Escalante and Jodie Wells on committee. Bylaws were sent to County Counsel for approval. She has not heard back that they were approved. Aimee indicated no changes to the Bylaws, just the wording/phrasing. Aimee said once approved, the MHAB will take a vote.

6. Presentation: Monterey Mental Health Commission, Rebekah Mills

In comparison to the SCCMHAB, the Monterey Mental Health Commission has the following:

- More members - 17 voting members, 1 member is law enforcement
- Different leadership structure – Chairperson, Chairperson-Elect and Past Chairperson. Chairperson-Elect shadows Chairperson for a year before assuming the duties of Chairperson
- Detailed rules about attendance and how arranged absences need to be communicated in advance
- A lot of details about how their committees operate
- They meet only 10 months of the year, not 11
- Agenda differences – identifies each item as “action” or “information” and who will be leading the discussion on each topic; information items from the Behavioral Health Director and Board of Supervisor reports are at the end of the meeting and each Commissioner has an opportunity to share at the very end of the meeting; announce the next three meeting dates and locations on the agenda
- Processes – “Executive Committee” meeting the week before the full Commission meeting to take actions preparing for the full Commission meeting; announced dates, times and locations of all the 2018 meetings in their January meeting; handed out list of possible meeting topics for 2018

for Commission members to vote on; had a handout of “Guidelines” to welcome members of the public and provide relevant information about the Commission; provided snacks for the public.

7. Xaloc Cabanes – name change from MHAB to Behavioral Health Advisory Board. Board Clerk will check in with the state to confirm name change is possible. After confirmation, then will discuss how to roll out name change.

8. Unfinished Business:

- a. MHAB Strategic Plan

Motion made by Aimee Escalante to have a group email of potential items that the Board can vote on at the next meeting and potential dates for retreat.

Second by Bek Sabedra.

AYES: Aimee Escalante, Bek Sabedra, Jim Roszell, Lynda Kaufman, Rebekah Mills, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Charlotte Reyes, Hugh McCormick, Jodie Wells, Kathleen Avraham

- b. MHSA Stakeholder Process

- Erik Riera sent out email to the MHAB members that included the Board of Supervisors letter and accompanying materials for the submission of the MHSA 3-Year Plan
- Rebekah Mills – shared that Monterey County has Ad Hoc Committees after the 3-Year Plan is submitted
- Erik Riera mentioned town hall meetings, to include break-out sessions of smaller groups to discuss potential focus areas. The goal is to drill down to the core issues and propose solutions for those needs.
- Motion made by Xaloc Cabanes for a MHSA Planning Committee to address outreach, planning, and dollars spent. Co-chairs are Bek Sabedra and Lynda Kaufman. Second by Rebekah Mills and Lynda Kaufman

AYES: Aimee Escalante, Bek Sabedra, Jim Roszell, Lynda Kaufman, Rebekah Mills, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Charlotte Reyes, Hugh McCormick, Jodie Wells, Kathleen Avraham

9. Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.