



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

**MINUTES – Approved
November 16, 2023**

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

OCTOBER 19, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
1430A FREEDOM BLVD, ATRIUM, WATSONVILLE
Microsoft Teams (831) 454-2222, Conference 446 941 593#

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

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- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:06 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
 - II. Public Comments
 - Richard Gallo – stated he felt bad for ASL interpreter at last meeting who interpreted 2 hours straight. He also stated that voters need to be educated on voting down Proposition 1, MHSA modernization tied with housing bond. Richard said the actual impact of dismantling the mental health services act for other purposes like Care Court is not the purpose for that funding. Jeffrey clarified that Proposition 1 is SB326 combined with the other \$6 million bond.
 - III. Board Member Announcements
 - The Chair expressed his appreciation to the MHAB members for going to BOS meetings, specifically Antonio for attending and Jeffrey for his statements made at the BOS meeting.
 - The Chair appointed Dean to attend the Children’s Crisis Continuum meetings.
 - IV. Business / Action Items
 - A. Approve September 21, 2023 Minutes
 - Motion/Second: Valerie Webb / Jeffrey Arlt
 - Ayes: Celeste Gutierrez, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez
 - Nays: None
 - Abstain: Antonio Rivas
 - Absent: Dean Kashino, Jennifer Wells Kaupp
 - Motion passed.
 - B. Approve MHAB Mission Statement and Goals
 - Motion/Second: Supervisor Felipe Hernandez / Antonio Rivas
 - Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Hernandez
 - Nays: None
 - Absent: Dean Kashino, Jennifer Wells Kaupp
 - Motion passed.

V. Presentation: Watsonville Trauma Response MDT

Meredith Flores – Social Worker/Program Coordinator of the Watsonville Police Department

- The pilot program received funding early last year, but just activated in July.
- Watsonville Police Department collaborates with Monarch Services for domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking; the Community Action Board for housing resources; and Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, Inc. for counseling services for families.
- Serve residents in Watsonville: children, youth, and adults impacted by trauma.
- Most of the referrals go to Meredith after the police officers respond to a call. Meredith reviews and identifies the people that were involved and refers them or tries to connect them to the resource that is more appropriate.
- Traumatic events include Criminal Calls and Non-Criminal Calls
- This a grant-funded program which just recently got extended to 2025. To date, 41 cases have been referred to PVPSA (agency that has received the most referrals for adult mental health counseling). Community Action Board received 4 referrals and Monarch Services received 3 referrals. 25 have been Spanish speaking only.
- Cross training has been provided through this grant. MDC partners and officers have cross trained in suicide prevention, attended a presentation from Monarch on what to look for on trauma informed care and also did a mindful based stress management training for sworn officers and partners.
- 173 individuals have been referred to the MTD, but only 28% have been connected to services.

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

VI. Presentation: SB326 – Possible impacts on County Mental Health and associated programs/partners

Hugh McCormick, Mental Health Advisory Board Member

Hugh provided information on SB326 which has been combined with AB531 as Proposition 1 on the March 2024 primary election ballot, to be effective 2026. AB531 is a \$6.36 billion bond measure supporting homelessness support for people in CA. Hugh stated it appears some of the prevention and early intervention services that are funded by the county, Medi-Cal and everything through the MHSA may impact us an organization. A lot of the funding categories established by MHSA are going to be written by Newsom's Behavioral Health Services Act. Newsom says funding buckets, similar to the categories in MHSA, are being written for the BHSA, including a new focus on full-service partnerships and elimination of innovation grants, and less money for prevention and early intervention services. It is going to shift around \$870 million from established programs in CA counties, eliminate to support homeless services.

Hugh stated that SB326 allocates \$1 billion to fund homelessness in CA in addition to the \$6.38 billion that AB531 is already giving to fight homelessness. All that money is going to be taken away from services that have been established for the last two decades by the MHSA and counties that have been working, for example peer services. Hugh said he will do research covering every aspect of it and provide an unbiased report. He will also add an entire AB531 section on Proposition 1 since it can't pass without SB326.

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

VII. Reports

A. Secretary's Report

- No attendance issues.
- Training – reminder that Hugh, Laura, and Jennifer need to renew their Ethics training.
- Upcoming training – CA Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions training on October 20th on community engagement and sharing community involvement through the planning process, and on October 21st is the training on how to be an effective board member.
- The Secretary thanked Richard Gallo for informing the MHAB of upcoming trainings.

B. Board of Supervisors Report - Supervisor Felipe Hernandez

Supervisor Hernandez reported that the BOS had a consent item that individuals had an opportunity to speak on at the meeting on the commission's report. Antonio informed the MHAB that the discussions included providing a \$75 stipend per meeting for board and commissions members. Discussions also included money for travel. The final decision will be in December, effective in January/February next year. The BOS voted unanimously to move forward. Other discussions included adding youth on Commissions/Boards, rotating meeting locations, and staff support.

C. Behavioral Health Report - Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Director of County Behavioral Health
Tiffany provided the timeline and status of the Crisis Now Implementation:

- 1) Received the Crisis Grant Award which is \$2.4 million from the Department of Social Services for the Crisis Grant. It is from October 1st, 2023 through March 31, 2026 and it is to pilot non law enforcement or behavioral health response to behavior health crisis. It would allocate \$2.2 million to Family Services Agency to cover salary and benefits for program related costs as they would be a key partner to enabling Behavioral Health to expand mobile crisis response to more hours.
- 2) There is a new mandate from the state which requires 24/7/365 mobile crisis response by January 1, 2024.

Next steps:

- 1) Submit a mobile crisis implementation plan in response to the new mandate.
- 2) Finalize by December all the Board of Supervisors needed approvals for the innovation project and for the Crisis Grant.
- 3) Execute contracts with RI International as well as Family Services Agency for the global crisis response in December.
- 4) Work with partner agencies, which includes EMS transport and all the municipalities in the County of Santa Cruz to provide services starting in January. Effective January, mobile crisis response would move to seven days, 8am-6pm. In February, FSA teams would be implemented in Watsonville and Santa Cruz, covering 3pm-1am. Later in 2024, more FSA teams would be rolled out to cover mobile crisis from 12 midnight to 8am.

D. Ad Hoc Committees

The board expressed interest in keeping the following ad hoc committees:

- Site Visit
- Peer Support
- Publicity/Community Engagement

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

The September report was provided; however, George could not join as he had to attend a hearing.

VIII. New Agenda Items

- A. 2023 Data Notebook – focus is on individuals without shelter and services for them. The Chair informed the board that he hopes to have responses by the next meeting so the board can vote to approve it as it is due at the end of November.

IX. Future Agenda Items

- A. Biennial Report is due to the BOS in January 2024. The Chair announced that this report includes what the MHAB has done to advocate, educate and support Behavioral Health.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.