



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

MINUTES – Approved
April 18, 2024

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MARCH 21, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
1400 EMELINE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ
Microsoft Teams (831) 454-2222, Conference ID 311 280 892#

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

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- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:05p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
 - II. Public Comments
 - Public member shared her personal experience with the system in Santa Cruz County.
 - III. Board Member Announcements
 - The Chair announced that the board should vote to submit the Biennial Report if no one wants to update the content in the report.
 - IV. Business / Action Items
 - A. Approve February 15, 2024 Minutes.

Motion/Second: Dean Kashino / Antonio Rivas
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Artl, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes
Nays: None
Absent: Laura Chatham, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Supervisor Hernandez
Motion passed.
 - B. Approve the Biennial Report with changes as discussed (see item VI.B)

Motion/Second: Dean Kashino / Antonio Rivas
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Artl, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes
Nays: None
Absent: Laura Chatham, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Supervisor Hernandez
Motion passed.
 - V. Reports
 - A. Secretary's Report
 - All training should be completed by the end of March.
 - No issues on attendance.
 - CalBHBC website has training announcements.
 - B. Presentation: Handle with Care Registry
Supervisor Manu Koenig, 1st District
Jacob Ainsworth, Operations Chief of the Sheriff's Office
 - The Handle with Care Registry is a program which allows anyone with a family member who suffers from mental illness to provide law enforcement with detailed information about this person such as particular triggers and calming methods so that when law

enforcement responds to calls for service, they are better equipped to deescalate the situation.

- Family members are able to register loved ones and provide detailed information that is then attached to the residence where the individual lives. If there is a call for service at that residence, dispatch can immediately send the responding officers' information over the computer screen which says there is a "handle with care" resident that lives there. This is not broadcasted; no name is put out.
- The program name has been used in the school systems that are directly related to mental health for younger children, so another possible name for this program is Creating Awareness Responding Effectively (CARE).
- The information in the system would expire after a year, and then there will be work for staff to go back and update the information.
- The link to register individuals will be posted on the home page of the Sheriff's website.
- There are no boundaries for this registration system. They are looking at dementia patients as well.
- Feedback from the board and public: 1) Handle with Care is a better name; 2) make sure that those registered are comfortable with the registry that is being put out about them; 3) like the idea of yearly refresher to ensure that information is updated and still consistent with what was reported a year earlier; 4) providing the person the opportunity to opt out entirely.

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

The February report was provided. George was present at the meeting and addressed previous questions:

- Previous reports had a record number at the end of the report. The old record keeping program is no longer in use and now using Google Sheets, which doesn't generate an automatic record number. If board members are interested in additional information, then they should provide the month/date/incident/facility to George for him to look into it.
- George will do a presentation at a future meeting to address programs that are offered by Advocacy, Inc., etc.
- Other clarification items regarding current report:
 1. It is rare that Willowbrook get abuse reports, however in the past year there has been an uptick.
 2. There are approximately 22-25 hearings per month or 300 hearings/year, some are repeat. Most clients are within the following facilities: Willowbrook, Opal Cliffs, El Dorado, Telos, Front Street, Wheelock, Telecare.
 3. The advocates can do random and unannounced visits.

D. Presentation: Overview of County Substance Use Disorder Services (SUDS) Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Health Plan – Casey Swank, Substance Use Disorder Services Director

- The number of people served each year has continually gone up, except for 2021 due to COVID, which impacted the ability to serve clients at certain levels of care, specifically residential, but they did transition as quickly as possible to offer telehealth services.
- The drug of choice for Santa Cruz County Medi-Cal beneficiaries for adults in order from most to least utilized are: 1) opioids, 2) alcohol, 3) stimulants, 4) cannabis. The primary substance for youth is cannabis at about 60%, alcohol is the second most abused by youth, followed by stimulants being the third, and opioids being the last.
- The race and ethnicity breakdown of persons who are engaged in treatment/services - the majority is white and second largest population is Mexican American/Chicano.
- The client base gender for Fiscal Year 20-23 is 62% male and 38% female which is consistent with prior years.
- The ASAM continuum shows the different levels of care. The ranges are early intervention to outpatient to intensive outpatient, and then residential treatment

level 3.1, withdraw management is 3.2 (withdrawal management is the new word for detox) and then 3.5 level of care residential which is a higher intensity need.

- The most impacted service is the residential programs. There are four providers for both youth and adults. There are 96 beds available for adults in our community. The Camp, located in Scotts Valley, is the youth withdrawal management and residential treatment provider. The Camp is not a Medi-Cal provider, but want to prioritize youth so they are paid private pay prices to support youths who have Medi-Cal.
- Prevention activities for 2024 include education and outreach to parents and caregivers; SUD prevention education in schools; peer education models; curricula for mental health needs, including emotional modulation and resilience skills; promote youth Wellness centers; data tracking and reporting; and convening across organizations to improve coordination of policy efforts.

E. Behavioral Health Updates: Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Director of County Behavioral Health

- Update on 5300 Soquel Ave building
Demolition has begun. Reviewing Construction proposals.
Request For Qualifications for an operator has closed. They are in conversation with a potential operator of BH services. Anticipate the Youth CSP to open late summer 2025, and the Crisis Residential Program after that.
- Update on Youth Diversion project
The WCH ED Youth Diversion Project is almost operational, Pacific Clinics has hired their full-time staff. The final hurdles are a credentialing process for those staff to practice in the WCH ED. They hope to be operational between mid-April to May 1st.
- Mobile Crisis Response
The focus right now is to comply with State mandates under BHIN 23-025 and this means their initial implementation of 24/7/365 services will be lightly staffed. The county teams will provide daytime coverage and 24/7 licensed support (a BHIN requirement) and Family Service Agency will provide swing and night shift coverage. BH is pushing for early May, but this will be dependent on hiring and staff retention and coordinating training. Regarding Mobile Crisis Response, they are about to make offers to two additional staff for MERT and MHL positions at the County. Family Service Agency is in the hiring process to implement services.

F. Update on committees – postponed to next meeting.

VI. New Agenda Items

- A. School District Update – postponed to next meeting.
- B. Approved draft Biennial Report with the following changes:
 1. Add the MHAB has Youth Representation
 2. Add that Hayley Newman trains all teachers in the County on Mental Health First Aid.
- C. Discussion and vote on the revised Bylaws to include the SUDS Commission and change name from MHAB to Behavioral Health Board – postponed to next meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.