

**MINUTES – Approved
July 21, 2022**

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

JUNE 16, 2022 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

1400 EMELINE AVE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ

Microsoft Teams Meeting (831) 454-2222, Conference 549 399 093#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput, Marlize Velasco
Excused: Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig
Staff: Adriana Bare, Lauren Fein, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
- II. Public Comments
 - Sarah Leonard from MHCAN – stated that she hopes CORE funding is opened to not just MHCAN, but to Advocacy, Inc, to the toddler center, to suicide prevention and so many other valuable and essential services that were cut from the budget.
 - David Bianchi, Executive Director for Family Service Agency – stated that he values the partnership he has with County Behavioral Health which has been a long-term partnership for some of FSA's services. David said the loss of Community program funding is going to severely impact their counseling program and their ability to provide affordable counseling to people at \$35 or \$40 an hour. It is going to impact their peer counseling program for seniors, their suicide prevention program, their IU venture program that provides support to people and care facilities, their women care program, which is an emotional support group for women fighting cancer, and their support groups for adult survivors of child sexual abuse. He wanted to make the board aware that there will be a significant impact on future delivery for some of these services if additional funding isn't found.
 - Richard Gallo from CA Voices – stated that he went to the rally at the State Capitol to protest CalCARE and the lack of resources and housing within our county. Richard said it is going to impact the county, the ability to house people as there is nowhere for them to be housed as all the affordable houses are full and have long waiting lists. He also said that more than half of patients that are conserved at the psychiatric facilities are waiting, and includes step down programs, nursing facilities and other types of residential programs within the mental health community.
- III. Board Member Announcements
 1. Reminder to the board that any emails that may result in a vote or may need to take action on, cannot be sent to the entire board as it would appear it is the beginning of a conversation, thus violating the Brown Act. Such requests should be added on the agenda for discussion.
 2. Reminder to the board that representation as a board member is allowed if the topic has been discussed and agreed by the entire board. If topic is personal, board members should clearly state that he/she is representing himself/herself only.
 3. Jeff recommended to the board to read two articles in the Sentinel regarding Community Bridges and Family Services and the Core funding.

IV. Business / Action Items

A. Approve May 19, 2022 Minutes as amended.

Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Jeffrey Arlt

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Serg Kagno, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

Nays: None

Abstain: Valerie Webb

Excused: Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig

Motion passed.

B. Adoption of Assembly Bill 361 – Resolution Authorizing Teleconference Meetings

Motion/Second: Jeffrey Arlt / Valerie Webb

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

Nays: None

Excused: Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig

Motion passed.

V. Reports

A. Secretary's Report

1. No report.

B. Board of Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Greg Caput

1. CORE funding turned over to a committee about three years ago to overlook all the different aspects and programs. This year, their recommendation is to give money to new organizations and take away from older organizations. The reasoning is some of the older organizations did not submit applications.

2. Budget update – the County does not have a lot of reserve money. Budget Hearings will be on the 21st, 22nd, 23rd. Final adoption will be on June 28th.

3. Election results regarding the Pajaro River flood prevention – the public voted to self-impose \$200/year property tax assessment. This will provide 100 years of flood protection and will take 8 years to complete.

C. Behavioral Health Director's Report – Erik G. Riera, BH Director

- CA Development of Mobile Crisis Teams – the State will be developing a consistent model for mobile crisis services across each of the Counties in order to be able to access additional federal funding in the future. Santa Cruz County will participate in this initiative.
- Budget Hearings for the Health Services Agency is on June 21st at 10am, 701 Ocean Street or virtually via Zoom.
- Grant Position Hiring – Behavioral Health will go to the Board of Supervisors on June 28th in the morning session to request grant funded positions be shifted from temporary to permanent positions.
- Ongoing challenges – 1) key position vacancies; 2) continued high demand for services to Children and Families; 3) preparing for CalAIM and changes in policies, documentation standards, requirements around data sharing.

D. MHSA Public Comment – Lauren Fein, BH Program Manager

Lauren stated that at the April MHAB meeting, it was announced that the public comment period would be extended due to the possibility of using unspent MHSA funding on upcoming legislation for Care Courts, however, Behavioral Health will no longer explore that option. Public comment is open again because Behavioral Health wants to propose the use of unspent MHSA funds for the operations and capital costs for the Children's Crisis Stabilization and Residential Program. While the use of these unspent funds for these programs were proposed during the initial open comment period, the proposal to use the unspent funds specifically for operating costs and capital was not mentioned, therefore opening the comment period again. Public comment will close on July 16th.

- E. Overview of Budget – Adriana Bare, Senior Health Services Manager
Adriana provided a tour of the new Santa Cruz County Budget website, which includes the Strategic Plan, Department Budgets and Transparency Portal. She highlighted the areas of Access and Crisis, Mental Health Managed Care and Residential Mental Health. [Click here to view the slides of the Budget Presentation.](#)

F. Committee Updates

1. Standing Committees

- a. Budget – committee is still forming. Meeting day/time to be determined.
- b. Ideal Crisis System – created vision statement which is “We envision every individual and family in Santa Cruz County with behavioral health needs, receive the services they need, where, when, as often and for the duration and intensity necessary to achieve a stable and meaningful life.” The committee is working on a mission statement.
- c. Community Engagement/Publicity – committee is still forming. Meetings to be held on the first Friday of the month at 10:30am. Committee will reach out to the following organizations/groups to network: 1) Friends Outside; 2) inmates at the jail and 3) County Office of Education.

2. Ad Hoc Committees

- a. Peer Support Certification – two organizations will conduct trainings for peers. MHCAN has two 80-hour trainings, both are full and have a wait list. An organization called Share will be providing a free online advanced peer specialist training.
- b. 988 – the committee is communicating with Andrea Tolaio and James Russell regarding the challenges they are facing which is staffing and training, and getting positions filled. Jeff clarified that 988 is functioning already and it is a suicide and mental health crisis and substance use hotline.

G. Patients’ Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients’ Rights Advocate

- May report was provided, and George was in attendance for this meeting, however the meeting went past 5pm and was unable to provide a report.

VI. New Business / Future Agenda Items

- 2022 Data Notebook – volunteers are needed to assist with completing the data notebook. Topic this year is “Impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on 1) the behavioral health of vulnerable populations in CA and 2) the ability of county behavioral health departments to provide mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services in 2020 and 2021.”

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.