

**MINUTES – Approved
May 19, 2022**

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

APRIL 21, 2022 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

1400 EMELINE AVE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ

Microsoft Teams Meeting (916) 318-9542, Conference 416 793 331#

Present: Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput
Absent: Antonio Rivas
Staff: Erik G. Riera, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
- II. Public Comments
 - Richard Gallo, Access CA – concerned that peer support was not included in the Santa Cruz County plan with the MHSA funding. Richard is also opposing a BOS agenda item regarding the state contracting with Kaiser to provide Medicaid Services with Kaiser. Two major concerns: 1) lack of access to mental health services and treatment provided by Kaiser with Kaiser members, 2) lack of providing durable medical equipment.
 - Corinita Reyes – works for Peer Empowerment Partnership. She is the Bay Area local trainer and available to help support peers and other mental health organizations that utilize peers with the SB803 roll out. Corinita said individuals can reach out to her at corinita.camhpro@gmail.com if support is needed in learning about SB803 or support is needed with organizing around SB803.
- III. Board Member Announcement – Maureen McCarty appointed as the newest Mental Health Advisory Board Member.
- IV. Business / Action Items
 - A. Approve March 11, 2022 Retreat Minutes as amended.
Motion/Second: Jeffrey Arlt / Valerie Webb
Ayes: Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput
Nays: None
Absent: Antonio Rivas
Motion passed.
 - B. Approve March 17, 2022 Minutes.
Motion/Second: Serg Kagno / Supervisor Greg Caput
Ayes: Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput
Nays: None
Absent: Antonio Rivas

Motion passed.

C. Election of Officers

The MHAB unanimously voted the following Officers for the next year:

- Chair – Xaloc Cabanes
- Co-Chair – Serg Kagno
- Secretary – Jeffrey Arlt

D. Approve to ask and advise the Director of Behavioral Health to work with the MHAB on the implementation of the Roadmap to the Ideal Crisis System and on the July 2022 988 implementation through collaboratively designing and convening both a series of Town Halls to educate the community, and a workgroup including all relevant county departments, all of the jurisdictions in the county, nonprofits, service providers, those receiving behavioral health services, their families and the community.

Motion/Second: Serg Kagno / Jennifer Wells Kaupp

Ayes: Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

Nays: None

Absent: Antonio Rivas

Motion passed.

E. Approve letter as amended with a recommendation that the Board of Supervisors takes some action in response to the Criminal Justice Council. The 2021 report states that all law enforcement is in favor of having a separate entity handle mental health crisis, however there is a gap of not having 24/7 non-law enforcement service.

Motion/Second: Laura Chatham / Jennifer Wells Kaupp

Ayes: Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

Nays: None

Abstain: Maureen McCarty

Absent: Antonio Rivas

Motion passed.

V. Reports

A. Secretary's Report – Laura and Valerie reported they have attended a training this year. Reminder to the Board that committee reports submitted to the Secretary should include what the committee has done and who attended the committee meetings.

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

1. Update on the 100-year protection plan for the Pajaro River - \$400 million lined up from Federal and state governments. Supervisor Caput said in order to receive the \$400 million, we have to come up with the maintenance fee once the river and the levees are fixed. The maintenance fee will be paid for by people in the floodplain near the Pajaro River, the amount for a typical residential property is about \$200 per year, which will be an ongoing maintenance fee for approximately 3000 homes in that area.
2. Supervisor Caput shared that he received a letter about a month ago from the State of CA Treasurer / Chair of the CA Health Facilities Financing Authority, Fiona Ma informing the County was approved for a grant in the amount of \$7.6 million to fund a new Crisis Residential Treatment Program for children and youth.
3. Watsonville Hospital Update – Supervisor Caput said it will cost around \$60 million to purchase, operate and staff it. There is currently \$46 million from Stanford Children's Hospital, Dominican Hospital, Driscoll's, Santa Cruz County, Monterey County, Community Health Trust of the Pajaro Valley, Kaiser, Central Coast Alliance for Health and City of Watsonville. Approximately \$15 million short and deadline is August 1st.

- C. Behavioral Health Director's Report – Erik G. Riera, Behavioral Health Director
1. Update regarding funding from the State for the Children's Crisis Residential Treatment Program – Erik said even though a huge portion of the funds were received, it is not enough to complete the project. There is another round of funding coming out in June from a separate funding source, and the BH division intends to apply for it, which is the BHCIP program. If additional funds are not received, then a scaled down project will be considered for a children's crisis residential program.
 2. Adult Crisis Residential Program funding update – Erik said that although the state initially allocated \$2 billion, allocation for the Central Coast is only \$15.9 million. The application that was submitted was for the full funding amount to build the program. The department will hear sometime this summer whether the application was successful or not.
 3. Erik mentioned that the division is currently going through an external quality review audit with Behavioral Health Concepts. As the managed care plan for the Medi-Cal program, the division has to go through an independent quality review, 2 per year for mental health services and for drug Medi-Cal services. In the future, the MHAB will be invited to participate in the review process.
 4. Mental Health Services Act Annual Update
The public comment period on the MHSA plan will be extended specifically for a new proposal that has come out from the governor's office around CARE Court. CARE Court is currently working its way through the CA Legislature to develop a process to engage individuals who have a severe psychiatric disorder, a psychotic disorder, or a psychotic disorder that is the result of substance use, and engage them through the criminal justice system (courts compel the individuals to receive treatment if they are unwilling to do so). The provision within the current legislation establishes strict sanctions on counties who fail to successfully adopt the program, up to \$1000/day. The reason for extending the MHSA public comment period is because if legislation goes forward, Behavioral Health is going to need funding to support the implementation of this program and that may mean taking funds from other programs as the legislation provides no funding to county behavioral health to implement the program.
- D. Committee Updates
1. Standing Committees
 - a. Budget – Laura and Jeff met with Adriana Bare. They are still going through orientation, focusing on WIC5604, item #2, any county agreements entered into pursuant to section 5650. Jeff has connected with Theresa Comstock from CALBHB/C for guidance and best practices on how to be productive. Still working on a set meeting date.
 - b. Ideal Crisis System – Meetings will be hybrid, still in the forming stage. Nothing formal at this time.
 - c. Community / Publicity – Antonio and Val have not yet connected to schedule when the committee is going to formally meet.
 2. Ad Hoc Committees
 - a. Peer Support Certification – Hugh said MHCAN is taking the lead on training. Another update will be provided next month.
 - b. 988 – Jeff is chair of committee. Goal is to increase the public awareness of the 988 services and make regular recommendations to the BOS for expansion of 988 related services, and actively support Andrea Tolaio and James Russell.
- E. Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate
- No report.

VI. Closing Public Comment for MHSA Annual Update 2022-2023 – Cassandra Eslami, Director of Community Engagement

Due to the CARE Court proposal and the upcoming legislation around CARE Courts, the public comment period for MHSA will be extended to add more information around the unspent funding and how it could be used, if necessary, on CARE Courts. Public comments will remain open and will delay the annual update to the state by a couple of months to ensure that the County is adequately prepared for CARE Courts.

Public Comments:

1. Serg Kagno, Board Member – My feedback would be that it's really useful in trying to get feedback from somebody who isn't totally aware of how all the different programs work comparing 2021 to 2022, having those numbers is really helpful. The numbers of the contracts for the full program types like aggregate, those were compared. But for the contract COST for each program, that was not separated and compared, and that would just be really useful information if I was to give feedback about it - to see how a program did, according to their intentions and then the next contract is whether it's increasing or decreasing.

VII. Overview of 988 – Andrea Tolaio, Program Director of Suicide Prevention Services Program, Family Service Agency of the Central Coast and James Russell, Program Manager for the Community Crisis Continuum, Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health

Effective July 16, 2022, 988 will be the new three-digit dialing code connecting people to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The presentation slides with an overview of 988, the Family Service Agency and the Suicide Prevention Program can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.