



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING – County of Santa Cruz
MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

JULY 21, 2022 ♦ 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

1400 EMELINE AVENUE, BLDG K, ROOM 207, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

THE PUBLIC MAY JOIN THE MEETING BY CALLING (831) 454-2222, CONFERENCE ID 655 132 162#

Xaloc Cabanes Chair 1 st District	Valerie Webb Member 2 nd District	Michael Neidig Member 3 rd District	Serg Kagno Co-chair 4 th District	Jennifer Wells Kaupp Member 5 th District
Laura Chatham Member 1 st District	Maureen McCarty Member 2 nd District	Hugh McCormick Member 3 rd District	Antonio Rivas Member 4 th District	Jeffrey Arlt Secretary 5 th District

Marlize Velasco, Member-At-Large

Supervisor Greg Caput Board of Supervisor Member	Erik G. Riera Behavioral Health Director
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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN THE
MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

The public may attend the meeting at the Health Services Agency, 1400 Emeline Avenue, Room 207, Santa Cruz. All individuals attending the meeting at the Health Services Agency will be required to use face coverings regardless of vaccination status. Individuals interested in joining virtually may click on this link: [Click here to join the meeting](#) or may participate by telephone by calling (831) 454-2222, Conference ID 655 132 162#. All participants are muted upon entry to prevent echoing and minimize any unintended disruption of background sounds. This meeting will be recorded and posted on the Mental Health Advisory Board website.

If you are a person with a special need, or if interpreting services (English/Spanish or sign language) are needed, please call 454-4611 (Hearing Impaired TDD/TTY: 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format.

Si usted es una persona con una discapacidad o necesita servicios de interpretación (inglés/español o Lenguaje de señas), por favor llame al (831) 454-4611 (Personas con Discapacidad Auditiva TDD/TTY: 711) con 72 horas de anticipación a la junta para hacer arreglos. Personas con discapacidades pueden pedir una copia de la agenda en una forma alternativa.

AGENDA

3:00 Regular Business

- a. Roll Call / Introductions
- b. Public Comment
(No action or discussion will be undertaken today on any item raised during this Public Comment period except that Mental Health Board Members may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed. Limited to 3 minutes each)
- c. Board Member Announcements
- d. *Approval of June 16, 2022 minutes**
- e. *Adoption of AB361 – Resolution Authorizing Teleconference Meetings**
- f. Secretary's Report

3:15 Standing Reports

- a. Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Greg Caput
- b. Behavioral Health Director's Report – Erik G. Riera, Behavioral Health Director
 1. Close MHSA Public Comment – Lauren Fein, Program Manager
 2. Overview of Substance Use Disorder Services (SUDS) – Anthony Jordan, SUDS Director
- c. Committees
 - Standing
 1. Budget Committee
 2. Ideal Crisis System
 3. Community/Publicity
 - Ad Hoc
 4. Peer Support Certification
 5. 9-8-8
- d. Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate

4:40 New Business / Future Agenda Items

- a. *Approval of Revised Bylaws*
- b. *Define board member trainings*

5:00 Adjourn

*Italicized items with * indicate action items for board approval.*

**NEXT REGULAR MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING IS ON:
AUGUST 18, 2022 ♦ 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
1400 EMELINE AVENUE, BLDG K, ROOM 207, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
TELEPHONE CALL-IN NUMBER (831) 454-2222; CONFERENCE ID # - TO BE ANNOUNCED**

MINUTES – Draft

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.

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.

County of Santa Cruz
Substance Use Disorder Service Overview

Anthony Jordan, MPA, CADC III (CA)
Director of substance use disorder services
HSA behavioral health

Substance
Use
Disorder
Services
(SUDS)

Division of BH that provides substance use disorder (SUD) prevention, intervention and administrative oversight to the community

Both in-house service provision and contracted services with community-based organizations

Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System Overview

Statewide waiver in partnership with federal government to expand Substance Use Disorder Services 2015-2021

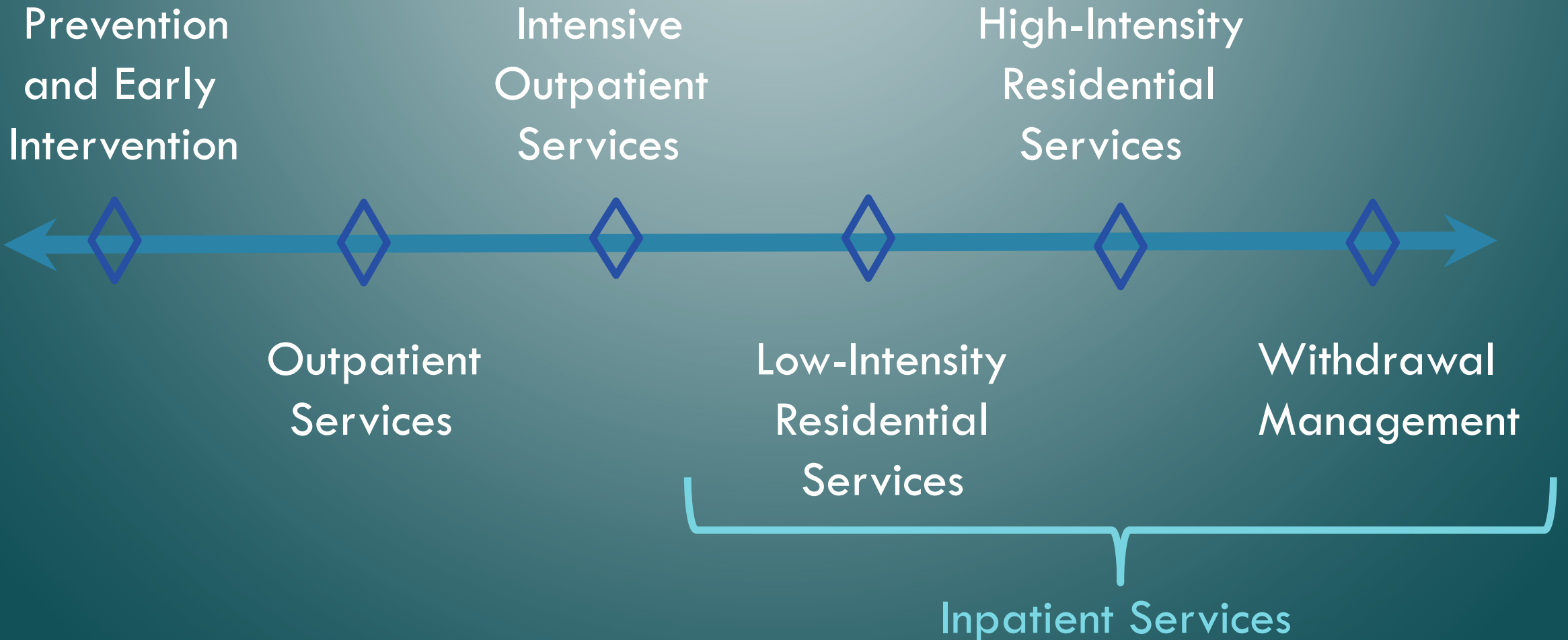
CalAIM is a multi-year initiative by DHCS to improve the quality of life and health outcomes of our population by implementing broad delivery system, program and payment reform across the Medi-Cal program. 2022 – 2026

Driven by American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria

Services available to all County residents with active Medi-Cal



CONTINUUM OF CARE



Contracted Community- Based organizations

United Way

The Camp

Encompass Community Services

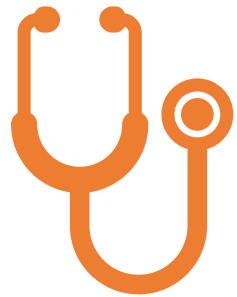
Janus of Santa Cruz

Sobriety Works

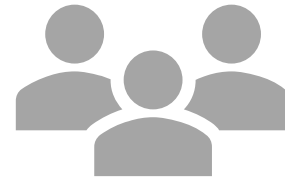
Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance

New Life

Internal Outpatient SUD Services



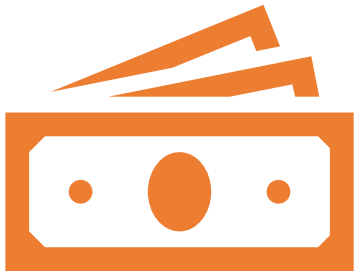
Outpatient



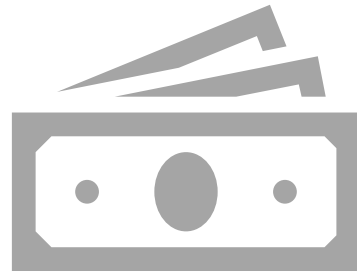
Eight staff

- 1 staff-focus on AB 109
- 1 staff-assigned to the Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement Service (HOPES)
- 3 staff-focus on FCS
- 3-staff focus on DMC ODS outpatient services
- 1-Intake coordinator

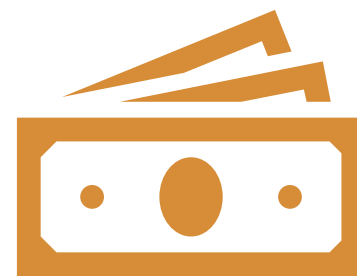
Service Funding



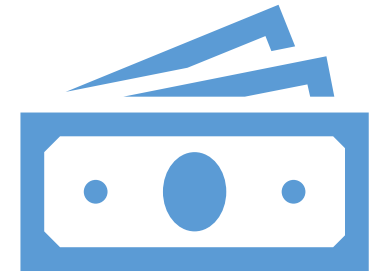
Federal



Realignment



Grant/other
funding
stream



Medi-Cal

Budget Overview

FY21/22 Adopted Budget

- FFP-\$9,158,444
- Federal Funds-\$1,913,019
- State General Funds-\$1,783,807
- Realignment-\$2,209,744

2023 Objectives



Implementing CalAim initiatives



Continue to address service gaps:

Implementing peer delivered services



Exploring and removing access barriers



Expanding Training on EBP utilization



Improving the continuum of care for youth SUDS

Questions



Patients' Rights Advocate Report

June 2022

Name of the facility: Telecare

Telecare:

Name of facility: **Telecare**

On June 6, 2202, the Patients' rights program received a phone call from a client at the Telecare Psychiatric Health facility. The client did not identify her or himself but complained about the way they were detained. This writer attempted to speak with this person later, but they did not wish to speak with this writer. I did attempt to inform them about the certification review hearing but was unable to do so. This resident did indeed have his 5250 hearing and was later discharged to step down facility

Telecare:

On June 13, 2022,

On June 13, 2022, this writer received a phone call from a client at the Telecare CSP (Crisis Stabilization Program) requesting to speak with an Advocate. This writer returned the call to my client. He stated that he was scared but was no longer scared. My client was unable or unwilling to tell me why he was scared or what had changed so that he was no longer scared. I thanked him for reaching out to me. I informed the client that I did not work for the county nor for the telecare facility and that anything he said to me would remain confidential. The client thanked me and hung up.

Telecare

On June 17, 2022, this writer received a phone message from a client at the Telecare Psychiatric Health facility as well as a community member. The client was required by court order to take the prescribed medication and was complaining about receiving I.M. (intramuscular) medication. This writer returned the call and was informed that he had already been discharged from the facility.

Telecare

On June 9, 2022, the Patients' Rights program received a referral from the Long-Term Ombudsman program. The Long-Term Ombudsman received a cross report from Santa Cruz Adult Protective Services. The reporting party complained that a patient had been improperly discharged. After a lengthy investigation which included a review of county mental health and Telecare policies, as well as applicable California Mental Health law as well as interviews with Santa Cruz Mental Health Staff, The Patients' Rights program did not substantiate the complaint.

7th Avenue Center

On June 6, 2022, this writer received a phone message from a resident of the 7th Avenue facility. He called to complain that 7th Avenue staff placed him on a level hold for destruction of property. The resident stated that he was mad at another resident but took out his anger on the property instead. I inquired if there may not be some other way of taking out his anger, or perhaps not becoming angry at the other resident. The resident requested that I speak with his mental health worker so that his level may be restored quickly. I informed the resident that I would do so. The resident and this writer then strategized about how to make the best appeal to the mental health worker. Later, this writer placed a call and was informed that the resident did not submit a request for a level change. I informed the resident of this requirement and requested that he keep me informed about the progress. This issue remains ongoing.

Willowbrook

During this writer's routine monitoring of the Willow Brook facility, on June 27, 2022, this writer was approached by a resident of the Willow Brook facility. The resident complained that another resident had harassed her. The resident stated that she had reported multiple incidents to staff, but that staff had not been responsive. She also complained that other residents were using the community bathroom next to her room. The resident gave permission to speak with the facility administrator. This writer spoke with the administrator and advocated for her to speak with the resident to accommodate the resident's concerns. This writer attempted to speak with the resident to follow up. However as of this note, I have been unable to do so, but will continue to reach out to the resident...This issue remains ongoing.

ADVOCACY INC.
 TELECARE CLIENT CERTIFICATION AND REISE HEARING/PATIENTS' RIGHTS
 REPORT
 June 2022
 Fourth Quarter

1. TOTAL NUMBER CERTIFIED	26
2. TOTAL NUMBER OF HEARINGS	25
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTESTED HEARINGS	9
4. NO CONTEST PROBABLE CAUSE	16
5. CONTESTED NO PROBABLE CAUSE	1
6. VOLUNTARY BEFORE CERTIFICATION HEARING	0
7. DISCHARGED BEFORE HEARING	1
8. WRITS	0
9. CONTESTED PROBABLE CAUSE	8
10. NON-REGULARLY SCHEDULED HEARINGS	

Ombudsman Program & Patient Advocate Program shared 0 clients in this month

(shared = skilled nursing resident (dementia) sent to behavioral health unit or mental health client placed in skilled nursing facility)

**The usual scheduled hearing days are Tuesdays and Fridays. Due to the pandemic and the shortage of bed availability throughout the state of California hearings can be scheduled throughout the week to accommodate legal requirements that hearings must occur no later than one week of hospitalization.*

The number of hearings providing representation to clients held at Telecare (Santa Cruz Psychiatric Health Facility) who are facing Reize Hearings.

Total number of Riese petitions filed: 6

Total number of Riese Hearings conducted: 6

Total number of Riese Hearings lost: 6

Total number of Riese Hearings won: 0

Total number of Riese Hearings withdrawn: 0

Hours spent on Riese Hearings Conducted: 3 hours and 30 minutes

Total amount of time spent on all hearings: 3 hours and 30 minutes

Respectfully submitted,

George N. Carvalho, PRA (Patient Rights Advocate)