



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION

MINUTES – Approved

October 16, 2025

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY, 1400 EMELINE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ 95060

MICROSOFT TEAMS (831) 454-2222, CONFERENCE ID 692 928 216#



Salud Mental y
Tratamiento del Uso
de Sustancias

Present: Antonio Rivas, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Kaelin Wagnermarsh,
Michael Neidig, Rachel Montoya, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Kimberly De Serpa
Absent: Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Valerie Webb
Staff: Meg Yarnell, Brenda Campbell, Amy Rhoades, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

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- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:04 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
 - II. Public Comment – 1 addressed the BHAB via Microsoft Teams.
1 addressed the BHAB in the conference room.
 - III. Board Member Announcements
 1. Strategic Plan Survey 2026-2032 has section on BH – request survey be made available to clients who participate in programs sponsored by the county to get their point of view.
 2. This month is Suicide Prevention Month and prevention of substance use.
 3. BH division and CEO office working with MHCAN board regarding the closure of MHCAN.
 4. New Behavioral Health Advisory Board member: Rachel Montoya
 - IV. Approve August 21, 2025 Minutes
Motion / Second: Dean Kashino / Antonio Rivas
Ayes: Rivas, Kashino, McCormick, Arlt, Wagnermarsh, Neidig, Cabanes, De Serpa
Nays: None
Abstain: Montoya
Result: Approved
 - V. Secretary's Report
 - September is Suicide Prevention and SUDS Month
 - 09/20 11am-2pm: Assemblymember Gail Pellerin hosting Care Fair at 701 Ocean Street
 - CalBHBC training on October 17-18 in Burlingame and Zoom
 - Crisis Jam every Wednesday morning at 9 am on YouTube
 - BHAB has 2 TAY vacancies ages 16-25
 - VI. Patient's Rights Report – George Carvalho, Advocate
August report was provided. George attended the meeting.
 - New children's facility: minors will have rights to reach out to Advocacy, Inc. to make regular visits. No arrangement or contract for reimbursement has been made.
 - Reaching out to Jimmy Panetta's office regarding executive orders doing away with Housing First Initiatives and how that might affect Santa Cruz County.
 - Submitted inquiry on the county website asking for direction on how providers can navigate the system in the current new environment. Haven't received response yet.

- One facility put up information for ICE agents informing who to contact, etc. Good idea for all contracted facilities.
- Ann Butler sold Front Street, Inc. to Pacific Care, LLC.
- Reached out to 7th Avenue to get information on any changes regarding hirings, policies and procedures, etc. Confirmed same as before.

VII. Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Kimberly De Serpa

- Gail Pellerin's CARE Fair on Saturday at 701 Ocean Street parking lot. Folks in the 28th District that are being honored include Michael Beebe, Beverly Henninger, Amelio Ruvalcaba, Debra Sloss.
- Children's Crisis Center – will have bilingual staff, multicultural staff. 60 staff will be hired for the new facility.

VIII. Behavioral Health Director's Report – Meg Yarnell, BH Adults Services Director

- Announcement: Meg Yarnell is the new Deputy Director of Behavioral Health effective September 29, 2025.
- Hope Forward | Esperanza Adelante Youth Crisis Center ribbon cutting held on September 17th. Services are anticipated to commence December 2025.
- Adult Behavioral Health Highlight – CARE Program
Hired Adrian Bernard, MH Client Specialist to support/provide services for CARE clients. Additional details about CARE: 14 of the 18 petitions referred to BH, 9 are active CARE participants, and 5 were dismissed.
- Children's Behavioral Health (CBH) Highlight
CBH team was recognized for developing Key Message Statement: "Children's Behavioral Health is an essential access point for behavioral health services in Santa Cruz County, ensuring youth and families are connected to an appropriate level of care. 100% of youth/caregivers who call asking for help get support to connect to the services they need. 98% of youth who qualify for our services receive an appointment within 10 days."
- SUDS Highlights
The Camp in Scotts Valley was recently Drug Medi-Cal certified for 71 adult residential beds as well as outpatient service provision. Those services will be available in November 2025. This expansion will allow to have on demand treatment available for every level of care for the first time in Santa Cruz County's history of Drug Medi-Cal. Currently have on demand treatment available for youth at all levels of care.

CARE Presentation – Meg Yarnell, BH Adults Director and Brenda Campbell, Forensics Services Program Manager

- Purpose is to transform the Medicaid system to a more equitable and integrated person-centered system, focusing on vulnerable people, which is the core of the justice initiative. The justice initiative is closing the gaps for people leaving the jail without insurance or care coordination, getting the folks that are in custody connected to Medi-Cal earlier.
- Objectives of Providing Services Prior to Release: increase Medi-Cal coverage, improve access, improve coordination and communication, increase investments, improve connections, provide intervention and reduce post-release acute care utilizations.
- Covered Pre-Release Services within 90 days of release: Reentry case management services; physical and behavioral health clinical consultation services through telehealth or in-person; lab and radiology services; medications

and medication administration; medications for addiction treatment (MAT) including counseling; and services provided by community health workers with lived experience.

- Pre- and Post- Release Care Management to Support Re-Entry
 - Enhanced Care Management (ECM) – working with the Sheriff's Office and NaphCare to figure out how to do the ECM.
 - BH Linkages – will have a pilot on a small population in the jail to link them to BH services. Working on a tool for the jail to use to show what level of care they should go to.
 - Warm Handoff Requirement – share transitional care plan and conduct a pre-release care management meeting.
- The initiative is working in Santa Cruz through Medi-Cal enrollment; target services; behavioral health coordination, Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Reentry planning.
- Partners include Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, NaphCare, Central CA Alliance for Health, Department of Probation, Encompass and Front Street.

IX. Site Visit Ad Hoc Committee Update – Kaelin Wagnermarsh

Jail Site Visit summary:

- Problem for inmates is lack of places for them to go after being released from jail. No step-down program to go to due to no programs or maximum capacity. Incompetent to Stand Trial – can't stabilize someone until they hear from the court. New jail facility is needed. Planned to section off area for high needs individuals who have BH issues.
- Impression that NaphCare is doing better than WellPath. Goal is to develop the house across the street into a center with representatives from other agencies so when person is released, they walk across the street and get plugged into the system. They are using Telepsych as they are having trouble getting health providers.
- 1500 bookings per year since the Sobering Center. About 80% of inmates are on some type of medication and 40-60% of them are on psychotropic meds.
- Next site visit – 7th Avenue on October 15th, 12-1pm. Telecare site visit will be held in November and Rountree site visit will be held in December.

X. Review and discussion of Mike Beebe's Report

- Goal is to identify additional sources of funding. Preliminary work is trying to identify the scope and scale of the services that need to be funded. Getting preliminary information and the goal is to identify additional sources of funding and cost savings.

XI. New Agenda Items

1. Data Notebook – this year's focus is on Wellness Centers. Discussion and review of report responses to be held next month.

XII. Future Agenda Items – MHCAN update, social media presence, Sheriff's Office to share their challenges and what is needed at the jail.

XIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.