



**MINUTES – Approved  
December 15, 2022**

**MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

OCTOBER 20, 2022 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

1400 EMELINE AVE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ

Microsoft Teams Meeting (831) 454-2222, Conference 889 159 047#

**Present:** Antonio Rivas, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput  
**Excused:** Jennifer Wells Kaupp  
**Staff:** Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Karen Kern, Lauren Fein, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
- II. Public Comments
  - A member of the public shared her story of how her daughter continues to be neglected.
- III. Board Member Announcements
  - Chair reminded the Board that the committee meetings are official meetings, and inappropriate language should not be used.
- IV. Business / Action Items
  - A. Approve September 15, 2022 Minutes.

Motion/Second: Supervisor Greg Caput / Maureen McCarty  
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput  
Nays: None  
Absent: Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham (joined the meeting at 3:26pm)  
Motion passed.
  - B. Adoption of Assembly Bill 361 – Resolution Authorizing Teleconference Meetings  
Motion/Second: Valerie Webb / Maureen McCarty  
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput  
Nays: None  
Absent: Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham (joined the meeting at 3:26pm)  
Motion passed.
- V. Reports
  - A. Secretary's Report
    - The Secretary provided a summary of completed trainings for each Board member.
    - The Secretary reminded the board that the CALBHB/C newsletter includes announcements for training opportunities.

- B. Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Greg Caput
- South County Park is still \$1.7 million short. There are plans to apply for grant money and people can contribute to purchasing the park. Timeframe to come up with \$1.7 million is 1 year and 2 months.
  - Pajaro River Levee – there was a kick-off celebration of the fully-funded \$400 million project and in attendance were Assemblyman Robert Rivas, Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, and Senator Alex Padilla.
  - Supervisor Caput is working on writing a county ordinance for private businesses to open their restrooms to the public. Supervisor Caput is requesting a letter from the MHAB to support this ordinance.
- C. Behavioral Health Report, Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Interim Behavioral Health Director/HSA Assistant Director and Karen Kern, Director of Adults Behavioral Health

Tiffany introduced herself to the board. She is the HSA Assistant Director since August 2021 and also the Interim Behavioral Health Director. In her role as Assistant Director, she has been looking at the assistance of care within the Health Services Agency, which includes three FQHC clinics. Most recently, she worked on the huge initiative that set up the Pajaro Valley Healthcare District and the purchase of the Watsonville Community Hospital out of bankruptcy. Tiffany announced the Behavioral Health Director job announcement will be made available next week and is requesting the board to share within their networks to cast a wide net to find the next director.

D. Committee Updates

1. Standing Committees

- a. Budget – The budget committee will narrow their goals and select a few contracts to compare with the Roadmap for the ideal crisis system. Goals include: 1) meeting with government representatives; 2) board members to meet with their respective Board of Supervisor; 3) make strong recommendations to building a toolkit which includes a plan, framework, and reviewing costs.
- b. Ideal Crisis System – The committee discussed having a panel presentation in January/February, taking presenters from each segment of services and try to combine it during the ICS committee meeting. The desired outcome of the presentation and panel discussion would be to get a framework or plan to improve services.
- c. Community Engagement/Publicity – Maureen stated there was a quorum but tabled most of their items as they felt it was important to have the committee Chair's input. They continued the discussion on having a behavioral health services information table at the Watsonville Farmers Market.

2. Ad Hoc Committees

- a. Peer Support Certification – Hugh finished 80 hours of training. Hugh said he will provide a final report on his experience and what the future holds for the peer specialist certification.
- b. 988 – Andrea Tolaio mentioned to the committee that they don't have the capacity to meet calls. About 30% of calls are abandoned so they flow over to San Francisco. They have had about a 60% increase in calls since July, which is about 15% higher than the average for the nation.

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

George Carvalho was present at the meeting and provided the September report.

George reported on the following:

1. Doubling inpatient capacity is a patients rights issue. If there is an increase in beds, then there should be increased funding to support the Patients' Rights Advocate program. Currently, the Patients' Rights Advocates has a 2-day furlough per month. Also, George stated he is advocating for unlocked, not locked facilities.

2. In response to the MHAB attending an information fair – George requests that Advocacy, Inc participate to talk about what Patients' Rights Advocates do.
3. Issue regarding Benefits Management Corp – George stated the issue is still ongoing. Received three phone calls that they are not getting money and their rent is not getting paid.

Karen Kern, Director of Adults Behavioral Health clarified that the County is not associated with Benefits Management Corporation. The County offers check distribution only through MHCAN at the County facilities as security is onsite, however, Benefits Management Corporation is not connected with the County.

VI. Future Agenda Items

1. Letter of appreciation for former Behavioral Health Director Erik Riera – Valerie to draft letter.
2. Letter of appreciation/recommendation for former Member-At-Large Marlize Velasco – Valerie to draft letter.
3. 2022 Data Notebook – Chair will ask for an extension to submit report.
4. Letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the benchlands – Serg to draft letter.
5. Letter of support regarding private businesses opening their restrooms to the public.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.