

**MINUTES – Approved
September 15, 2022**

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

AUGUST 18, 2022 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

1400 EMELINE AVE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ

Microsoft Teams Meeting (831) 454-2222, Conference 199 467 037#

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

- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
- II. Public Comments - None
- III. Board Member Announcements - None
- IV. Business / Action Items
 - A. Approve July 18, 2022 Minutes.

Motion/Second: Greg Caput / Valerie Webb
Ayes: Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput
Nays: None
Not Present: Antonio Rivas (joined meeting at 3:26pm), Jennifer Wells Kaupp (joined meeting at 3:15pm)
Motion passed.
 - B. Adoption of Assembly Bill 361 – Resolution Authorizing Teleconference Meetings
Motion/Second: Serg Kagno / Michael Neidig
Ayes: Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput
Nays: None
Not Present: Antonio Rivas (joined meeting at 3:26pm), Jennifer Wells Kaupp (joined meeting at 3:15pm)
Motion passed.
 - C. Approve Revised Bylaws.
Motion/Second: Valerie Webb / Serg Kagno
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput
Nays: None
Motion passed.

- D. Approve Board member trainings to include attendance of behavioral health related groups, meetings, and activities.
Motion/Second: Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Antonio Rivas
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput
Nays: None
Motion passed.

V. Reports

A. Secretary's Report

1. Attendance information for committees is needed for tracking purposes.
2. August 31, 2022, 4:30-6:00pm is International Overdose Day at Aptos Village County Park.

B. Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Greg Caput

Watsonville Hospital update - the County borrowed \$25 million from different agencies to purchase the hospital. The loan will be paid off in two months as the county will receive a \$25 million check from the state of California by the end of September.

C. Committee Updates

1. Standing Committees

- a. Budget – identified the mission, vision, and goals.

Mission: Acquire the knowledge and skills for making forward thinking and knowledgeable recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, Behavioral Health Director and public health stakeholders on budget related items in support of an excellent continuum of care.

Vision: The budget committee is well informed on funding structures at the Federal, State, County and local levels, in the pursuit of creating an excellent and cost-effective behavioral health care system for everyone in Santa Cruz County.

Goals: 1) Hold meetings with legislators at the Federal, State, County and local levels to understand structures, processes and procedures, and expected outcomes for funding, 2) Make strong recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and others as appropriate, 3) Support any recommendations with presentations by experts.

- b. Ideal Crisis System – redefined goals of the committee:

1. To invite collaboration with community partners to evaluate our current crisis services
2. Educate the community on the “Roadmap to the Ideal Crisis System” and on potential programs from other parts of the country
3. Recommend next steps for supporting, improving, and adding to our current services including short-term and long-term solutions.

- c. Community Engagement/Publicity – the committee is focused on being a bridge to the community and the MHAB, informing folks that the MHAB is here to advocate on their behalf. The committee is passionate about connecting with people who have mental health issues in the jail system. The committee will pursue meeting with Friends Outside to see what they have been doing for folks in jail, find out where the gaps are, and possibly meet with Chief Deputy Daniel Freitas.

2. Ad Hoc Committees
 - a. Peer Support Certification – SHARE training started two weeks ago. Three different trainings throughout the day, 60 hours, learning about Medi-Cal billing. MHCAN running in-person trainings. More trainings in the future.
 - b. 988 – no meetings. Andrea Tolaio stated that they are steadily receiving an increasing number of calls and requests more publicity on 988 services.

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

July report was provided, and George was in attendance for this meeting.

George stated that at the end of the report, there are record numbers of cases who will continue to have follow-up throughout the month. George also reported that there are currently two big issues:

1) Encompass stopped doing payee services years ago and was taken over by Benefits Management Corporation. George stated he received several calls that the Benefits Management Corporation is not responsive to folks not getting money on time. [Per board member, payee issues should be directed to BH Director Erik Riera as he is the point person for any challenges with the payee system].

2) At Telecare, food vendor they use has been bankrupt. According to one client, Telecare has been providing fast food to feed people. The quality of food has declined, and people are experiencing constipation, diarrhea from the fast food.

E. Presentation – Overview of Mental Health Services at County Jail

Devon Corpus, WellPath Mental Health Coordinator; Lt. Brian Cleveland, Sheriff's Office; Christina Wold, WellPath Health Services Manager

The presentation included topics on:

1. Comprehensive Services
2. Health Care Services
3. County Mental Health Support
4. COVID
5. Intake Process
6. Getting Services Started
7. Discharge Planning
8. Present Challenges
9. WellPath Statistical Review information

[Please click here to view the presentation slides.](#)

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.