



County of Santa Cruz

*Serving the Community ~ Working for the Future*

California

# Director's Update Mental Health Advisory Board

Erik G. Riera, Director

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## Key Issues we are following

- SB 906 Peer Certification Bill
  - Repeat of a prior bill to establish a certification process for peer and family support services
  - Not clear whether or not this will also open up a pathway for these services to become reimbursable under Medi-Cal.
  - Will likely include a clause to include peer staff who are already working within a community mental health center
- AB 1136
  - Development of a database to provide real time availability of inpatient psychiatric beds and substance use disorder treatment beds
  - Could be very complex in terms of implementing- how will this data be shared and how much staff time will be required to update the information
  - How long will this take to implement?



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## • Key Issues, continued

- AB 1963 Opioid Addiction Bill
  - Incentives for providers, including medical providers, to become certified medication assisted treatment (MAT) providers through increased reimbursement rates.
- AB 2214 Certification process for “Recovery Residences”
  - Applies to sober living environments (“SLE’s)
  - Would require these to be certified by one of two recognized certification bodies
  - The provider would have to cover the cost of certification unless the County provided funds to offset this expense
  - Intended to address some providers across the state from deficient programs and taking advantage of clients



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## • **Key Issues, continued**

- SB 992 Residential Programs Discharge Plans
  - Would require that residential programs establish a continuum of care plan at the time of discharge.
- Governor's Budget
  - \$100M in the proposed budget to expand competency restoration diversion programs for individuals who are being held on felony charges and have been found incompetent to stand trial.
  - Goal is to divert from the criminal justice system
  - Question as to why they don't continue the existing MIOCR grant funding which communities are currently using for these types of programs.



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## Watsonville Behavioral Health Office Building

- The contractor for the site work has broken ground and is working on the site preparation, foundation, and utilities connections.





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- Ongoing work with the City of Santa Cruz on a new site for the Homeless
- New location on River Street for an organized and structured campground
  - Will have camping locations, staffing 24/7, and on site supportive services including availability for behavioral health assessments, benefits assessment and linkage, housing navigation assistance, and other healthcare services.
  - Seen as a temporary measure until a more permanent emergency shelter can be established.



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- Whole Person Care Update

- Approximately 220 individuals have been enrolled
- We have hired a new Project Director- Emily Chung, from Santa Clara County, who will start with us on February 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Through a partnership with the Salvation Army in Watsonville, we have secured 7 apartments which will be used for homeless individuals who are in Watsonville and are connected with Behavioral Health services in the County.
  - The MESA Innovations program will be supporting the placement and services for these individuals
  - The apartments will be available starting March 1.



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My Contact Information:

[Erik.Riera@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:Erik.Riera@santacruzcounty.us)