

MINUTES – APPROVED
October 21, 2021

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

September 16, 2021

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Health Services Agency, 1400 Emeline Avenue, Room 207, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Microsoft Teams Meeting (916) 318-9542, Conference ID 407 323 58#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Catherine Willis, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Laura Chatham, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Supervisor Greg Caput
Absent: Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Xaloc Cabanes

1. Public Comments

- Richard Gallo, Ambassador for Access CA - concerned about the training providers who have not been responsive to his advocacy regarding the recent approval of peer support reimbursement by the State of California's Medi-Cal program (how it will be implemented statewide).

2. Board Member Announcements

- Training this Friday at 9am - Integrated Behavioral Health Action Coalition (IBHAC) with health improvement partnership - mental health trends will be discussed and local clinician and client experiences during COVID19.
- NAMI Presentation on 09/22 at 6pm – Suicide Prevention Service is presenting on Reconnect, Re-enter, and Rebuild.
- October 15th Trauma Conference - 8th annual fall trauma conference for the Santa Cruz Trauma consortium. Topic is on the root, causes and perpetuation of violence.
- International Overdose Awareness Day was August 31st.
- National suicide prevention week was earlier this month, currently national recovery week.

3. Approved meeting minutes for August 19, 2021.

Motion by Antonio Rivas to approve August 19, 2021 MHAB minutes. Second by Valerie Webb.

AYES: Antonio Rivas, Catherine Willis, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Laura Chatham, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Supervisor Greg Caput

NAYES: 0

ABSENT: Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Xaloc Cabanes

4. Secretary's Report

- Board Members attendance at trainings – send information to Secretary and Recorder for tracking purposes.
- Attendance reminder - no more than 4 missed meetings or 2 missed meetings in a row without informing Chair or Co-Chair.

5. Standing Board of Supervisors (BOS) Report, Supervisor Greg Caput

- No homeless left at Veterans Hall. Of the 70+ homeless, 67 staying at Rodeway Inn in Watsonville.
- Current news - very high teenage suicides related to social media this past year.

- Per Cassandra Eslami, Director of Community Engagement – there are rough estimates on data from 2020 which showed that Santa Cruz County hasn't seen an increase in completed suicides, but aware of the large study that just came out regarding Instagram and teenage girls that show a high increase in suicidal ideations as well as body image issues.
- Request from Board Member to Supervisor Caput - to have a conversation with City Council and try to advocate for more syringe disposal kiosks in the City of Watsonville that are accessible to people so they don't have to cross town to try to get rid of some needles.

6. Presentation: Behavioral Health Financial Opportunities and Updates

Cassandra Eslami, Director of Community Engagement and Karen Kern, Adult Services Director

- State and Federal funding for Counties and Cities that supports expanded services
 - SAMHSA is reconsidering funding the grant proposal of about \$700K to start both the prevention, intervention and postvention portions of the plan, which includes pieces of FSA suicide prevention services, doing community wide trainings, and Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (CSSRS) trainings, which are provider trainings to help assess for suicide risk with safety planning. In addition, the postvention piece surrounds the Local Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) team where people do field-based services to people who have experienced a suicide loss.
 - CDPH looking to fund Santa Cruz County along with three other counties across the state to help with data collection for completed and attempted suicides, as well as some interventions geared towards health care. Some of these opportunities include doing some of the suicide prevention work community wide. Internally we are working on our Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) kits. These materials are distributed to people who experience loss which include community resources for bereavement counseling, grief counseling. It is a robust packet that has coping skills, techniques and actual hard resources for people who are going through that type of traumatic event. Packets will be complete within the next couple months and going to pilot 60 packets in English and 60 packets in Spanish which will be given out to community providers in addition to our MOST team, our mental health liaisons, and our front door in Access.
- Recently released grant opportunities for the County
 - Expansion of Mobile Crisis Services – three separate grants were written to the Department of Health Care Services:
 - Every county in CA was afforded a noncompetitive half million to either plan or implement crisis mobile services. As our County is not in the planning stage but in the implementation stage, we applied for the half million non-competitive in addition to another half million to provide an expansion of the mental health liaison in South County which would assist in an expansion of days and hours.
 - Applied for another million for a proposal around embedding peer services within the local emergency departments, so that a peer is at Watsonville Community Hospital and Dominican Hospital. This will help people that are coming in and experiencing psychiatric crisis and mental health symptoms or substance use disorders. They would provide warm handoffs directly within the community to programs and resources such as 2nd Story, NAMI and other services in the community.
 - The last proposal that was written is to embed a mental health clinician with our emergency management system. This is a pilot that is coming through CMS called T3, which is Triage, Treat and Transfer. The purpose of this pilot program is to respond to people in field-based settings who are experiencing mental health or substance related issues and directly transport people into behavioral health clinics or directly to the CSP or to other community-based organizations instead of the standard route to emergency departments.

- Proposed Children’s Crisis Residential Treatment Program
 - Applying for funding for a capital project to build a children crisis residential program in South County. The first floor would be a CSP so this will alleviate the current CSP of youth and move them all into the children’s building, which would open adult beds at our CSP. The second floor would be a 16-bed crisis residential and would afford a youth up to 10-day stay. The crisis children residential program will not being a locked facility, so natural supports and social supports, families can come in and do a lot of work within the milieu for therapeutic and clinical games for the youth. The application is due October 28th and hope to hear back by the end of January.
- Proposed Adult Crisis Residential Treatment Program
 - The proposed program will be at the old Harbor Vet site adjacent to the Behavioral Health Center where the CSP and PHF is currently located. This would be a 16 bed 2 story building with the living quarters upstairs and downstairs would be space for groups and other services. There would be some outpatient services so that once they left that facility, individuals would be able to come back and participate in an IOP program or potentially some outpatient services for a continuity of care as people leave and go home. This would be either a diversion from the CSP or a step down from the CSP so we would be able to take people that might be in crisis, but not quite meeting the level of needing an inpatient hospitalization.
- Expansion of School Based Services
 - The funding for the expansion of school-based services is from MHSSA (not MHSA) money. The County Office of Education received \$4 million to expand school-based services, including socio, emotional counseling. Hopefully there will be a lot more therapeutic resources within the schools across the County.
- New outreach programs for the homeless
 - Applied for another SAMHSA Grant for a request of \$3 million for 2 years. It is \$1.5 million per year to connect to innovations to provide behavioral health, medical health, housing, peer support and other great services to people who are experiencing homelessness. This grant focuses on people that are experiencing homelessness and brings together our Housing for Health Division, Behavioral Health and HPHP to provide a variety of services so that they are going out into the camps and providing behavioral health and health support including medication administration, therapy services, and various Health Services. There is also a peer that goes out with the group to provide peer support to individuals. They would be linked to our Housing for Health Division so when they are ready for housing, they can seamlessly move into that navigation and then voucher program, whichever one is appropriate for them. The other piece is getting them tucked into a health and behavioral health home and if they’re unable to come to the clinic, bringing Telehealth out to the camps or wherever they’re living so that they can connect with either health doctor or behavioral health doctor or other services through the Telehealth platform.

7. Standing Reports

- a. MHSA Advisory Committee (Members: Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Antonio Rivas)
 - No report.
- b. Site Visit Committee – (Members: Serg Kagno, Hugh McCormick, Valerie Webb)
 - Met with Suzanne, Director of Advocacy, Inc. Learned there is more than one advocate in Santa Cruz. Discussed clarity of reports, how the reports get evaluated and how they do client satisfaction surveys. Reports will track complaints and appeals, providing more transparency.

- c. Budget Committee (Member: Antonio Rivas)
 - Asking BH Director for an update.
 - d. Community Engagement Committee – (Members: Valerie Webb, Catherine Willis, Laura Chatham)
 - Figure out where communication is already happening and then figure out what the next steps are for us to make those links and start communicating with the public.
 - Trauma Consortium on October 15th 7:30am-4pm at Peace United – MHAB will have table.
 - e. Law Enforcement and Mental Health Committee (Members: Hugh McCormick, Serg Kagno, Catherine Willis, Jennifer Wells Kaupp)
 - Hard copies of jail packets are available. Still trying to get hard copies in jail lobby.
 - Partner with Probation Department and Behavioral Health Courts to provide jail packets.
8. Patients' Rights Report
- View the August Report below - by George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate
 - Per Board Member:
 - Future reports will be more clear, ongoing, and monitored.
 - Report will include short note on how complaints are resolved.
 - If they appeal, report will state where the appeals go (through Patients' Rights Advocate or through some other department).
9. New Business
- a. Consideration of youth, Marlice Velasco to become Member-At-Large – moved to next month.
 - b. Informational letter regarding Behavioral Health Programs – moved to next month.
 - c. Letter of support regarding Oversight Committee of Sheriff's Office
Motion made by Antonio Rivas to write a letter in support of an Oversight Committee for the Sheriff's Office. Second by Laura Chatham.

AYES: Antonio Rivas, Catherine Willis, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Laura Chatham, Valerie Webb, Supervisor Greg Caput
NAYS: Serg Kagno
ABSENT: Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Xaloc Cabanes

Webinar link for public meeting hosted by ACLU regarding the possibility on an Oversight Committee of the Sheriff's Office:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XSkrRazBI9oppmIPzriSdRRUsOWjCxVWJ/view?usp=sharing>

Motion to adjourn made by Serg Kagno. Second by Antonio Rivas. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.