

MINUTES
APPROVED 4/20/17

Mental Health Advisory Board

March 16, 2017

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Health Services Agency

1400 Emeline Ave., Bldg. K, Room 206, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Present: Aimee Escalante, Charlotte Reyes, Hugh McCormick, Jenny Kaupp, Jim Roszell, Jodie Wells, Kathleen Avraham, Maria Correia, Richard Martinez, Greg Caput

Excused Absence: Xaloc Cabanes

Unexcused Absence: None

Motion to approve February 16, 2017 meeting Minutes by Aimee Escalante; second by Jenny Kaupp.

Ayes: Charlotte Reyes, Kathleen Avraham, Jodie Wells, Maria Correia, Greg Caput

Abstain: Hugh McCormick, Richard Martinez

Absent: Xaloc Cabanes

Motion to approve May thru December 2014 and September and October 2015 meetings minutes by Kate Avraham; second by Maria Correia.

Ayes: Kate Avraham, Maria Correia

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Public Comment:

- Introduction was made by Steven Danbeck: Steve is with Taylor Consultants contracted by California Associates of Local Mental Health Boards and Commissions to observe the MHAB meeting.
- Sylvia Caras: Reviewed the 2/3/17 retreat information and commented there were professional and family resource materials but needed client's resources.
- Carol Williamson: Announced upcoming NAMI events on education and support of clients and families. Speaker meeting which occurs the third Wednesday every other month and Human Race, a major funding event coming in May 2017.
- Rebekah Mills: Currently participating in the Crisis Intervention Training (C.I.T.) would like to have an unlocked facility available for people in crisis, like a residential house.
- George Carvalho, Advocacy Inc. – professional rights advocate will address any letters written to him regarding mental health system liaison team interactions.
- Kate Avraham: According to a recent experience, Kate wanted to advise the C.S.P. Will not accept clients over the age of 64 years old without previous doctor's medical clearance.

Standing Reports:

- Supervisor Greg Caput:
Spoke with the Grand Jury and went through the checklist of improvements and the Grand Jury was very happy with the results and invited the Grand Jury to attend future meetings.

- Erik Riera: See attached Director's Update to the Mental Health Advisory Board on following topics.
 - Annual California Association of Local Behavioral Boards Conference on June 15 – June 17, 2017 in Irvine CA. Motion to send one Board member with Hotel, travel and per-diem covered by the Association. Jodie Wells, motion to send board member; Jim Roszell, seconded. Ayes: All Nays: None
 - Psychiatry Recruitment
 - Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for Law Enforcement
 - Innovations Grant Funding
 - Whole Person Care Initiative
 - Recruitment of Director of Substance Use Disorder Services
 - Budgeting
 - Watsonville Behavioral Facility
 - Karolin Schwartz, Director of Quality Improvement (Q.I.), to attend MHAB meetings and give quarterly reports.

Sub-committee and Board Committee Reports:

- Kate Avraham, Chair: Suicide Prevention will give a presentation at the April 20, 2017 meeting.

Presentation:

- George Carvalho, Advocacy Inc: Explained his role as a patients' rights advocate according to Welfare and Institutions Code (W.I.C.) 5500.
 - Currently pursuing advocacy access to MH clients in jail thru the Santa Cruz County Mental Health jail team.
 - Monitor the ten mental health facilities in Santa Cruz County, do a walk thru each facility twice a month.
 - Advocacy role is to respond to client complaints: conservator-ship issues; medication issues; when clients are having difficulty with their psychiatrists; loss of personal property; when clients have case coordinator communication problems and are feeling coerced; mistreatment by staff either with verbal or physical abuse; new emerging issues, i.e. jail or use of service dogs.
 - Hearing representative at the Psychiatric Health Facility.

Input on committees/assignments:

- By-Laws Committee: Rick Martinez, Chair, Aimee Escalante, Jodie Wells. Committee amended some spelling; added a secretary position; will be able to revisit changing board membership numbers from 10 to 15, after a period of one year. Tabled the voting of by-laws until 4/20/17 meeting.
- Nominating Committee: Rick Martinez, Chair, Aimee Escalante and Jodie Wells, assigned by Kate Avraham, MHAB Chair, to meet and prepare board member nominations for the 4/20/17 meeting.
- A Mediation committee will be added to assess consumer complaints.

Old business:

- Continue to request from Volunteer Center and Community Connections, staff person to fill MHAB note taking position.

Adjourn

- Adjourned at 4:59 PM: Greg Caput motioned to adjourn. Jenny Kaupp, seconded.
AYES: All
NAYS: None