

MINUTES – APPROVED
March 18, 2021

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

January 21, 2021

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Health Services Agency, 1400 Emeline Avenue, Room 206, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

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

Absent: Lynda Kaufmann

1. Public Comments

- Ludmila Boiko – Requesting appointment to discuss investigation.

2. Approved meeting minutes for December 17, 2020.

Motion by Supervisor Greg Caput to approve December 17, 2020 MHAB minutes. Second by Erika Miranda-Bartlett.

AYES: Antonio Rivas, Catherine Willis, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Jennifer Wells Kaupp; Serg Kagno, Stephan DuBose, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

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

- Veterans Memorial Building in Watsonville – over 70 homeless people
- Distribution of COVID vaccines - State of CA shipped vaccines to Emeline in Santa Cruz, expecting 2000 vaccines and only received 200
- Watsonville Hospital – Administration let go, and now run by independent administration called Progressive.
- Trying to set up drive thru vaccination site at Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

4. Standing Behavioral Health Director's Report, Erik Riera

- Update on new MERTY Mobile Office
 - MERTY (Mobile Emergency Response Team-Youth) is a crisis team developed specifically for South county serving the majority of children, youth, and young adults in the behavioral health system.
[Please click here to view the Behavioral Health Director's Briefing on the new MERTY Mobile Office.](#)
- Access for All – new program launching in spring. Program establishes more community access points for people seeking services with our different community partners.
- Other updates:
 - Working on budget development for the next year and releasing instructions to providers in the next week.
 - Vaccination questions can be emailed to Tony Sloss at Tony.Sloss@santacruzcounty.us. Plans include expanding vaccination clinics with our local health care partners; the Public Health department setting up vaccination clinics in conjunction with Dominican Hospital to make sure some of our higher risk settings and populations are getting access to the vaccine.

5. Standing Reports

a. MHSA Advisory Committee (Members: Lynda Kaufmann, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Antonio Rivas)

- No update.

- b. Site Visit Committee – (Members: Serg Kagno, Hugh McCormick, Valerie Webb)
 - Serg to ask Telecare if site visit can be arranged (using masks and social distancing).
 - c. County Behavioral Health Budget Committee (Members: Antonio Rivas, Stephan DuBose)
 - No report.
 - d. SUDSC/MHAB Merger Committee (Members: Xaloc Cabanes, Lynda Kaufmann, Jennifer Wells Kaupp)
 - No meetings yet this year.
 - e. Community Engagement Committee – (Members: Valerie Webb, Catherine Willis, Stephan DuBose)
 - Peer Support Newsletter – to be posted quarterly on webpage.
 - f. Mental Health and Law Enforcement Committee (Members: Hugh McCormick, Serg Kagno, Catherine Willis, Jennifer Wells Kaupp)
 - Committee will have ongoing conversations with the Director of Housing for Health, Robert Ratner regarding the preference of social service response rather than police response
 - Jennifer Wells Kaupp attended webinar last December on CAHOOTS and other policing issues. Report will be shared with the MHAB and discussed at the next meeting.
6. Patients' Rights Report – by George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate
- No December report
7. Discussion on outreach efforts, barriers, and how homeless individuals are getting connected to services - Karen Kern, Adult Services Director and James Russell, Forensic Services Program Manager
- HOPES team (functioning for 3 years) is getting homeless individuals with potential Substance Use Disorders or Mental Health issues connected to services
 - FIT team (functioning for 2 years) is going out to the community working with homeless folks, keeping caseload, and making sure individuals are getting on the Access team and getting an assessment.
 - Timeline of 10 days for appointments. For example, FIT case manager makes referral for individual to ACCESS team, the assessment appointment is scheduled within 10 days. Outreach worker helps get individuals to that appointment.
 - Identified there is no standard time frame of when people get to that assessment appointment and the next visit. This is in the process improvement project, ongoing for the past 2 months.
 - Other challenge/barrier - locating people (do not have pictures in the chart and do not know what they look like, or where they hang out)
 - Process improvement – the outreach worker who is bringing in the individual through the door initially, stay with him/her until individual gets to the appropriate team, through warm hand-offs.
 - Short term solution: outreach worker stays with client until individual has made connection with new therapist or case manager for a true warm hand-off. Long-term solution: integrate the teams that have been established and enhance those with outreach, through another individual attached to a team or case managers go out to check on individuals in the field, design it as a standard or establish robust outreach team of clinicians doing field work only.

8. Unfinished Business

- MHAB Goals and Objectives – Chairs of each committee shall email Recorder and Secretary the attendance of committee members. Serg Kagno to write proposal for ongoing process.

Motion to adjourn made by Serg Kagno. Second by Antonio Rivas. Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.