

**MINUTES – Approved
October 20, 2022**

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
1400 EMELINE AVE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ
Microsoft Teams Meeting (831) 454-2222, Conference 647 693 38#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput
Excused: Laura Chatham
Staff: Erik Riera, Karen Kern, Arianna Lomeli, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
- II. Public Comments
 - Richard Gallo from Access CA brought up four points: 1) he would like to know the status of the MHSA Coordinator; 2) recommends stepping up initiative with our county jail regarding behavioral health; 3) CARE Court was signed by governor and opposed to using MHSA funding for CARE Court; 4) Richard stated he has not received a response regarding CARE Court from BH Director, County Administrator, or Governor and still waiting on news media.
- III. Board Member Announcements
 1. Marlize Velasco, Member-At-Large resigned from the Board.
 2. Revised Bylaws will be on the September 20th Board of Supervisors Agenda.
 3. The Chair shared the Proclamation from Supervisor Koenig regarding Suicide Prevention and Recovery Month.
- IV. Business / Action Items
 - A. Approve August 18, 2022 Minutes.

Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Valerie Webb
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput
Nays: None
Absent: Laura Chatham
Motion passed.
 - B. Adoption of Assembly Bill 361 – Resolution Authorizing Teleconference Meetings

Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Michael Neidig
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput
Nays: None
Absent: Laura Chatham
Motion passed.

V. Reports

A. Secretary's Report

The Secretary provided a reminder to the board members who are due to complete the Ethics training.

B. Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Greg Caput

- The County is looking to buy the 2-story Bay Federal building near the Sheriff's Headquarters. The plan is to use it for a short- and long-term mental health crisis facility for youth and adults.
- Watsonville Community Hospital Update – the sale of the hospital has been approved and finalized. There is a no interest loan which will be paid back in 3 months. The hospital will be a non-profit hospital.

C. Behavioral Health Directors Report, Erik G. Riera

Erik announced that he will be leaving the County of Santa Cruz. He stated he is working on a transition plan for the different projects that have been high priority and will make sure they get covered in the future. Karen Kern will be the direct line of communication to the Mental Health Advisory Board.

Erik provided other updates:

1. CARE Court legislation passed. Santa Cruz County is in the second tier to adopt the new program. There are seven counties that will begin this year and then 51 counties will adopt by December 2024. The Governor and Legislature have committed funds to both support implementation of the Care Courts as well as provide training and technical assistance to all counties.
2. Children's Crisis Stabilization and Crisis Residential - no updates yet. There is a location in mind and asking for Board approval to go ahead and execute a purchase and sales negotiation process. Erik said they are still waiting on the last grant application (BHCIP Grant) and will hear by the end of December whether the County will receive funding.
3. Watsonville Community Hospital project – working on potentially developing inpatient capacity within the hospital for Geropsych or Geropsych combination Adult Inpatient Program. There will be stakeholder meetings to gather input and presenting some preliminary designs. Karen Kern will be taking the lead on the project.

Karen Kern, Director of Adult Behavioral Health Services

Karen updated the MHAB that the County is looking into having an Assisted Outpatient Treatment program (same as Laura's Law). She said they have already been working with a consultant, Treatment Advocacy Center.

D. Presentation – CalAIM BHQIP Performance Improvement Projects

Jennifer D. Susskind, MCP, Planner and Evaluator, Praxis Associates

Jennifer stated there is a big medical initiative across the state that is attempting to make medical services more equitable, coordinated, and person-centered. There are some incentive payments to behavioral health departments that are working on what's called a bidirectional data exchange between the mental health department, substance use division and managed care plans. The intention is to use these data exchanges to improve outcomes for the medical beneficiaries. Jennifer said they are using Performance Improvement Projects (PIPS), which is a very structured process to look at performance benchmarks to try to improve services for consumers and beneficiaries. The three performance measures are:

1. Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence (FUA)
2. Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Mental Illness (FUM)
3. Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder (POD)

[Click here to view presentation slides.](#)

E. Committee Updates

1. Standing Committees

- a. Budget – meeting was cancelled due to no quorum.
- b. Ideal Crisis System – meeting was cancelled due to no quorum.
- c. Community Engagement/Publicity – The Lookout posted an article about Chair Xaloc Cabanes [Click here to read the article.](#)

2. Ad Hoc Committees

- a. Peer Support Certification – Hugh completed 45 hours of training. This training allows peers to get hired to fill the gaps that exist in the system, allowing organizations like NAMI to hire peers and be able to expand their programs. Hugh plans on doing a short report for the board and provide next steps.
- b. 988 – the committee is working with Andrea Tolaio to distribute posters. The committee will check in with Andrea to get an update on 988 and find out the growth and/or growth issues since the soft rollout.

F. Patients' Rights Report – Davi Schill, Patients' Rights Advocate

Davi Schill was present at the meeting and acknowledged that George Carvalho completed the Patients' Rights Report.

Davi reported on the following:

1. Update on the Payee Services – the County is looking to resolve the issue or acquire new payee services. No further complaints have been received.
2. Update on the food at Telecare – Telecare acquired a new vendor, same company that provides food at Dominican Hospital.

VI. New / Future Agenda Items

1. Letter of appreciation for Behavioral Health Director Erik Riera
2. Letter of appreciation/recommendation for Member-At-Large Marelize Velasco

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.