

MINUTES – APPROVED
August 20, 2020

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

July 16, 2020

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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

Present: Antonio Rivas, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Lynda Kaufmann, Serg Kagno, Stephan DuBose, Xaloc Cabanes

Excused Absence: Joanna Whitcup, Supervisor Greg Caput

Unexcused Absence: Maryanne Tong

1. Public Comments

- Helen – shared her experience with MHCAN.
- Adrian – works at Second Story. If there are budget cuts, asking that peer services not be cut. Reduced peer services would be a mistake and needs to grow. All peer services need representation in the Mental Health system.
- Marilyn Garrett – friend of Melinda McComb; continue to be disturbed regarding wellness check. San Jose Behavioral Health needs to be investigated. Funds are going to wrong places. Also, many people are electrosensitive (microwave or radio wave sickness from exposure to frequencies).
- Monica McGuire – following up on number of suicides, number of attempted suicides, etc. Regarding COVID, wish there is panel of experts set up to talk about the deep science and take questions from people, and use dynamic facilitation and other methods to make sure to turn any upset into creativity.
- Richard Gallo, Volunteer State Ambassador - 1) CA Department Health Care Services established Medi Nurse line (flyer to be shared); 2) Federal Communications Commission approved three-digit national suicide line. 988 will be the three digit National Suicide Prevention Hotline by July 2022; 3) California Parent & Youth Helpline 1-855-427-2736 <https://caparentyouthhelpline.org/>; 4) State of CA will be changing the definition of Gravely Disabled. Continue to monitor and will inform the MHAB on the status; 5) MHSOAC language access – they do not put Spanish requirements in contract. Waiting for MHSOAC's response regarding this issue.
- Becky Steinbruner- follow up on what was discussed last month regarding Melinda McComb and her experience; hope MHAB tries to get tour of San Jose Behavioral Health facility and do the tour unannounced. Also asking to do unannounced visit at the local county behavioral health facility on Soquel Avenue. Follow up on comment last month regarding wellness checks done by Sheriff's office – wellness checks should be conducted by a team of male and female individuals and make sure the clinicians that have been hired under the FIT program, go out on every wellness check.

2. Approved meeting minutes for June 18, 2020.

Motion by Antonio Rivas to approve June 18, 2020 MHAB minutes. Second by Erika Miranda-Bartlett.

AYES: Antonio Rivas, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Lynda Kaufmann, Serg Kagno, Stephan DuBose, Xaloc Cabanes

ABSENT: Maryanne Tong, Joanna Whitcup, Supervisor Greg Caput

NAYS: 0

3. Standing Behavioral Health Director's Report, Erik Riera
 - Continue to split time with the Operations Center of the Public Health Department and as Behavioral Health Director
 - Surrounding counties are experiencing significant increases in COVID cases, most are restricting more businesses and plans to reopen businesses.
 - New set of budget hearings in August. Behavioral Health experienced significant reductions in all funding sources that support services in the community. Biggest one is the MHPA funds – 30-35% decrease in funding in the next 3 years and will have impacts on services in the community. Funding for our own County - staff has been reduced, approved furlough salary reductions 7.5% – 10% this year.

4. Ad Hoc Committee and Standing Committee Reports:
 - a. Jail Committee Report – Chair: Hugh McCormick
 - Jail Orientation packet being used by NAMI
 - Working on the corrections for website
 - Goal is to get physical copies in jail lobby

 - b. MHPA Advisory Committee – Chair: Lynda Kaufmann
 - Plan to attend MHPAAC meeting in August – there is 1-year extension for the 3-year plan due to challenges of the budget
 - Good news that Santa Cruz County is not reallocating MHPA funds to COVID

 - c. Site Visit Committee – Chair: Hugh McCormick
 - Continue to work on completing the Telecare report

 - d. SUDC/MHPA Merger Committee – Chair: Lynda Kaufmann
 - New bylaws sent to County Counsel
 - Goal is to have first merged meeting in November

5. Patients' Rights Report – prepared by George Carvalho
 - [Click here to view the June Patients' Rights Report.](#)
 - During pandemic:
 - All staff of Advocacy, Inc. are working remotely
 - Making sure residents of various facilities know that the advocate is still in service for them during this time.
 - Main impact during this time has been the ability to go out to facilities, including Telecare. Have not stepped in any facility since March.
 - Have not seen anyone face to face since March. Relying on phone system and Zoom meetings which has affected quality of acute services in the County negatively
 - Negative impacts - difficulty with technology at Telecare facility as it relates to hearings, both capacity or medication hearings, certification abuse hearings
 - Following up on abuse issues (resident to resident abuse)

6. Unfinished Business
 - a. Recovery Café

Elaine Salter, Co-founder of Recovery Café Santa Cruz provided clarification that the financial support would come from private and member based financial support. Recovery Café Santa Cruz is requesting a letter of support, community support, and not asking for

- financial support. Board to review sample letters of support provided by Elaine Salter. Letter of support for Recovery Café will be drafted and sent to the Board of Supervisors.
- b. Conflict Resolution Center of Santa Cruz
 - July 24, 2020, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm, virtual training on mediation
 - c. Letter of support for County Office of Education
 - Xaloc Cabanes to make changes as discussed.

7. New Business/Future Agenda Items

- a. California Behavioral Health Planning Council – Patients’ Rights Advocacy Survey

The duties and authority of the CA county mental health patients’ rights advocates are outlined in the Welfare & Institutions Code and CA Code of Regulations, include but are not limited to:

 - Ensure that information about patients’ rights is posted in all facilities providing mental health services
 - Receive and investigate complaints from or concerning patients about violations or abuse of their rights
 - Monitor health facilities, services, and programs for compliance with patients’ rights laws, regulations and policies
 - Train and educate mental health providers about patients’ rights, laws, regulations and policies and act as consultant to staff in mental health facilities in the area of patients’ rights
 - Advocate for patients and residents who are unable or afraid to register a complaint
 - Act as a liaison between the advocacy program and the CA Office of Patients’ Rights
- b. Retreat – Doodle Poll survey will be sent for preferred date/time of 4-hour retreat.
- c. Future item – comfort agreement (e.g. not talking negatively, not using derogatory terms like “crazy”, talking in 1st person, etc.)

Motion to adjourn made by Antonio Rivas. Second by Lynda Kaufmann. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.