



# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

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# HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

**MINUTES – Approved**  
**June 15, 2023**

## **MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

MAY 18, 2023 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

1430 FREEDOM BLVD, SUITE A, ATRIUM, WATSONVILLE

Microsoft Teams Meeting (831) 454-2222, Conference 643 359 355#

**Present:** Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Supervisor Felipe Hernandez  
**Excused:** Stephen Busath, Xaloc Cabanes  
**Absent:** Hugh McCormick  
**Staff:** Karen Kern, James Russell, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

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- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:16 p.m. by Secretary Jeffrey Arlt.
- II. Public Comments
  - Public member stated that he was banned from MHCAN for one year for taking notes as it was against HIPAA. He also complained against staff as they recently closed the kitchen and staff meetings are no longer open to the public.
  - Rachel Sotos – asked what the relationship is between the MHAB and the National Association of Counties (NACo). She said there is a lot of unanimity about what might be recommended next steps for stronger policy in the counties and wondered if there's any daylight between what Santa Cruz County is thinking and the National Association of Counties, and she is particularly concerned because there's so much corporate sponsorship in relationships with the National Association of Counties.
- III. Board Member Announcements
  - Supervisor Hernandez' response to Rachel Sotos' public comment: The Board of Supervisors are members of NACo. Zach Friend and Bruce McPherson currently attend the NACo meetings and said he will be attending the NACo conference in July. Supervisor Hernandez also stated that he will be attending general workshops with the CA State Association of Counties (CSAC), which is the sister organization of NACo.
- IV. Business / Action Items
  - A. Approve March 16, 2023 Minutes
    - Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Laura Chatham
    - Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Supervisor Hernandez
    - Abstain: Celeste Gutierrez
    - Absent: Hugh McCormick, Jennifer Wells Kaupp (joined at 3:31pm); Stephen Busath, Xaloc Cabanes
    - Motion did not pass due to absences. The March minutes will be placed on the June agenda for another vote.

B. Approve April 20, 2023 Minutes  
Motion/Second: Michael Neidig / Antonio Rivas  
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig,  
Supervisor Hernandez  
Abstain: Celeste Gutierrez, Valerie Webb  
Absent: Hugh McCormick, Jennifer Wells Kaupp (joined at 3:31pm); Stephen Busath,  
Xaloc Cabanes  
Motion did not pass due to absences. The April minutes will be placed on the June  
agenda for another vote.

C. Vote to support the MHSAs Innovations Crisis Now Plan as presented.  
Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Michael Neidig  
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura  
Chatham, Michael Neidig, Valerie Webb, Supervisor Hernandez  
Noes: Celeste Gutierrez  
Absent: Hugh McCormick, Stephen Busath, Xaloc Cabanes  
Motion passed.

V. Reports

A. Secretary's Report

- No attendance issues.
- Reminder to board members to log in completed trainings in the spreadsheet.
- Training opportunity on a YouTube site called 5 Lanes. It is posted weekly and associated with Crisis Now.

B. Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Felipe Hernandez  
-No report.

C. Behavioral Health Report - 2023 to 2026 MHSAs INN Plan: Crisis Now

James Russell, Director of ACCESS and Crisis Services

James presented on the county's Mental Health Service Act Innovation plan. He stated that Behavioral Health is seeking the MHAB's approval to present this plan to the Board of Supervisors for their approval.

The presentation covered:

1. MHSAs Innovations -background
2. Primary Purpose
3. Primary Problem – Crisis Continuum Barriers
4. Why Crisis Now? System Barriers and Crisis Now Strategic Solutions
5. What Santa Cruz County has now and what Santa Cruz County needs
6. Implementation Plan
7. Evaluation Plan
8. Budget

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

Karen Kern added that Recovery Innovations International (RI International) is providing the project management of this multi-county project with Santa Cruz County and Calaveras County. They are working with the Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission who oversees and administers the Mental Health Services Act (MHSAs). RI International will be working with the County and the Commission to understand how a Crisis Now model works in different types of jurisdictions. The goal is to ramp up services over three years. The County will start off with the mobile crisis response by expanding teams, looking at metrics, and refining the budget. The goal is to get the approval from the MHAB to bring this to the Board of Supervisors at the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The MHAB discussed and voted to support the MHSAs Innovation Crisis Now Plan as presented (see Section IV.C).

D. Ad Hoc Committee Updates

1. Budget

Discussed changes to MHSA. There are concerns around Governor Newsom modernizing MHSA and moving funds into housing. Also, the Fee-for-Service reimbursement impacts services that is funded through MHSA.

2. Peer Support Specialist Certification – no report.

3. 988 – the committee completed their objective to support the rollout of 988 (July 16<sup>th</sup> is the one-year anniversary). There will be a report in June regarding the rollout of 988.

4. Ideal Crisis System – the committee has an action item regarding the Sobering Center at 265 Water Street, which was approved by the BOS to rebuild it.

5. Community / Publicity – no report.

E. Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate

George did not attend the meeting. April report was provided.

VI. Presentation: Building Hope and Safety, Santa Cruz Grant and Suicide Prevention Activities

Carly Memoli, Program Director, Applied Crisis Training and Consulting, Inc.

-This presentation is rescheduled to the August 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

VII. New Agenda Items

1. Vote Member-At-Large: Marina Archer

The MHAB received clarification that a Member-At-Large must be a former board member, therefore Marina Archer does not qualify to be a Member-At-Large. As a result, the board discussed updating the definition of a Member-At-Large in the bylaws at a future meeting.

2. Discussion and vote on letter regarding Sweeps, camping and parking bans and clearing of the San Lorenzo Park Benchlands.

The Board discussed the letter and agreed that it should include the Watsonville Sweep. The revised letter will be reviewed and discussed at next month's meeting.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

1. Member-At-Large revision in bylaws

2. Discussion and vote on revised Sweeps Letter

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.