

APPROVED
September 15, 2016

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

August 18, 2016

3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

1400 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Present: Kathleen Aver Avraham, Maria Correia, Jenny Kaupp, John Laue

Excused Absence: Charlotte Nolan Reyes,

Unexcused Absence: Jodie Wells, Hugh McCormick, Richard Martinez, Greg Caput

1. July 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes not approved due to lack of quorum.
2. Public Comment:
 - Janet Fardette: (“Leveelies”) A volunteer group who clean up the levee areas. Lots of mental health clients in the levee area and the group would like to help people and provide resources and referral information.
 - Sarah Leonard: (Mental Health Community Action Network) MHCAN; serve 40 - 50 mental health clients a day. Because of budget cuts they are having to turn people away.
 - Carol Williams: (NAMI). Suggested to meet and brainstorm ideas on how to help the people who are in the levee areas. Ask Pam Rogers-Wyman to connect the levee volunteer group and MHAB with Downtown Outreach worker, Danielle Long.
 - Sheryl Lee: (NAMI) Advised the Board of a NAMI presentation to be held on Wednesday, 9/21/16, 7 pm at the Live Oak Senior Center. Advised the board that Debra Lampshire of the University of Auckland, has agreed to present at NAMI’s meeting 9/21/16, and discuss “M.O.D.E.R.N Voice Hearer,” an innovative approach for people who hear distressing voices. Contact NAMI website for resources at www.namisc.org/ion
 - Sylvia Caras (Former MHAB Member) Santa Cruz is restrictive to downtown people, problem is the economy.
3. Standing Reports:
 - Board of Supervisors (BOS) report. No report
 - Behavioral Health Director Report - Erik Riera reported three Grants totaling \$3 Million have been approved. Goes before the Board of Supervisors next week for approval and plans to access services in September.
 - Funding to finance construction of a new mental health facility in Watsonville with private offices and double the staff.
 - Infrastructure leveraging technology: Laptops and phones for field-based staff.
 - Training for North and South County staff on, “Illness Management Recovery” (IMR) to teach, “Best Practices: Wellness Self-Management,”

(developed on the east coast in the early 1990's as a model to teach skills to individuals, including managing illness and reducing emergency room visits and hospitalization.) Will give the MHAB a practices presentation.

- Housing bond: State is funding a \$2 Billion bond for supported housing construction for individuals who are homeless with a mental illness. However, funding will come through a reduction in funds from the State Mental Health Services Act fund which for Santa Cruz County will result in a \$1 Million loss of funding for Mental Health programs. We are currently working on plans to determine where potential cuts will be impacted.
 - Erik advised the Board of the Town Hall Meeting to be held on September 13, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., at the Aptos Village Park (100 Aptos Creek Road, Aptos). Staff will review the Mental Health Services Act plans and provide information on the State's initiatives and impact on local services; encourage stakeholders to attend and share their input.
- Sub-committee and Board Member report:
 - Kate Avraham will bring Correspondence folder to every meeting for review by Board Members.

4. Presentation:

- George Carvahlo, Advocacy Inc.: Presented an overview of a Patients' Rights Advocate. Distributed handouts of "The Advocate's Role in the Community" and "Mental health Patients' Rights" poster, posted at all direct service providers' locations.

5. Old MHAB business:

- MHAB retreat (Nov. 4th 2016); Maria Correia has received a response from Susan Morris Wilson, trained facilitator, with a quote for training. Maria will follow up with other trainers who may do similar trainings at less or no cost. Potential locations for retreat are HSA, Bldg. K, 1400 Emeline (room 206 has been pre-reserved). Other locations for fall retreat suggested by Board Members include Community Foundation, and Horticulture or Sessnon House on the Cabrillo Campus.

6. Chair Kate Avraham recommended public notices be put out regarding Board vacancies.

7. Motion to adjourn, Maria Correia. Jodie Wells, second. Carried
Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.