

MINUTES – APPROVED
May 16, 2019

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

April 18, 2019

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

1400 Emeline Avenue, Room 206, Santa Cruz, CA

Present: Bek Phillips, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Holly Heath, Antonio Rivas, Kate Avraham, Lynda Kaufmann, Rebekah Mills, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

Excused Absence: Aimee Escalante, Hugh McCormick

1. Public Comments

- Richard Gallo – with California Access. Noticed in February minutes that two key points he made were left out. This was one of the issues with the Grand Jury regarding the minutes not being done the way it needs to be done. Informing the Board that all public comments made should be on the minutes.
- Terri Foster – inquired as to when the Board will address her question of initially being turned away as a client. Board responded that the Quality Improvement Director will address her question/concern since this is not within the Board's purview.
- Serg – in the Strategic plan under Behavioral Health, it says "support individuals and lessen community impact through increased access to integrated mental health substance use disorder and health care services". "Lessen community impact" assumes that people in behavioral health are only doing negative impacts. Lessen negative impacts does not allow for increase of positive effects. It just says lessen negative impacts because they are always bad. Heard a Board member may have asked for that phrasing and sounds like a little judgment in the statement.

2. Approved meeting minutes for March 21, 2019

Motion by Bek Phillips to approve MHAB minutes for March 21, 2019. Second by Supervisor Greg Caput.

AYES: Bek Phillips, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Holly Heath, Lynda Kaufmann, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

ABSTAIN: Kate Avraham, Rebekah Mills, Antonio Rivas

ABSENT: Aimee Escalante, Hugh McCormick

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

- Money allocated to Salvation Army for the shelter in Santa Cruz. Funds are also to be used for the River Street homeless camp relocation; however camp relocation was delayed by the Santa Cruz City Council. New relocation date unknown.
- Welcome to the new Mental Health Advisory Board Member, Antonio Rivas. He is Bilingual (English/Spanish) and will be helpful for South County.

4. Standing Behavioral Health (BH) Directors Report, Erik Riera

- Update on the Behavioral Health Building in Watsonville – power will be connected on April 25th and 26th; the gas line, trench work, water connections and landscaping will be done in May. Scheduled to open first week of June.
- Submitted a grant application to the state for a Criminal Justice Diversion Program. It is an opportunity to apply for funds to work with individuals who have serious mental illness and are incompetent to stand trial. Treatment can be provided locally in a community setting rather than using an incarceration approach. If we get the

funds, we will be able to establish jail diversion positions, court coordinator positions as well as support some additional services in the community.

5. Ad Hoc Committee and Standing Committee Reports:

a. Jail Committee Report

- Hugh McCormick working on written materials to provide to family members and friends of individuals in jail. Anticipate project will be done in June. Working with Behavioral Health and Corrections Staff to complete this project.
- Couple more meetings for this committee and will finalize a report of what has been done and what needs to be done. This committee will end and hopefully have future ad hoc committees to address specific issues that have been identified as needing attention.
- Discussion to be held next month regarding a new standing committee to replace the Jail Committee.

b. Community Engagement Committee Report

- Recap of previous engagements: Mental Health Fair at Twin Lakes Church and World Suicide Prevention Day at Town Clock
- Participate in upcoming Townhall meetings
- Important for the Board to have a presence at the opening of the Watsonville facility
- Brainstorm at the next meeting how the Board can reach out to the Community

c. MHSA Advisory Committee

- Lynda Kaufmann is a Governing Board Member for California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHB/C). CALBHBH/C is an organization that has representation from 59 counties and offer trainings for new members. Attended 6-hour training by ACCESS California specifically about MHSA Community Engagement.
- The committee is asking the Board to consider having Andrea Crook from ACCESS California to come to Santa Cruz to do a 2-day training on what MHSA dollars are for, what the process is, look at the different programs, etc. ACCESS California is sponsored and contracted through MHSOAC, who oversees the budgets and fiscal responsibility for MHSA.
- New ombudsman specifically for MHSA to ensure that counties are sharing different ideas and following the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- MHSOAC has a new fiscal transparency site launched last week. You can see our county, the programs, how much is funded, how much money is left over, etc. You can also look at other Counties and see what they are doing.
- The County also has a link to the new MHSA fiscal transparency tool at: <http://transparency.mhsoac.ca.gov/Overview>

Motion by Lynda Kaufmann to change the MHSA Advisory Committee from an Ad Hoc Committee to a Standing Committee to allow for more community engagement. Second by Antonio Rivas.

AYES: Bek Phillips, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Holly Heath, Kate Avraham, Lynda Kaufmann, Rebekah Mills, Antonio Rivas, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput
ABSENT: Aimee Escalante, Hugh McCormick

- d. Membership Committee – no report.
 - e. Site Visit Committee – no report.
6. Peer Employment in Mental Health Services - presentation postponed.
7. Depression and Treatment Options Presentation – Kate Avraham, Mental Health Advisory Board Member
Depression is in the “Mood Disorders” category of clinical conditions characterized by a loss of a sense of control and a subjective experience of great distress.
- I. Types of Depression
 - II. Symptoms of Depression
 - III. Psychological Factors Contributing to Depression
 - IV. Treatments for Depression

The details of the presentation can be viewed on the Mental Health Advisory Board website at:

<http://www.santacruzhealth.org/Portals/7/Pdfs/Local%20Mental%20Health%20Board/Avraham%20Presentation.pdf>

8. Focus Intervention Team (FIT) Program – James Russell, Mental Health Supervising Client Specialist and Sgt. Billy Burnett, Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office
- Purpose: FIT is a public safety pilot program structured to address and engage the individuals in the community who have repeatedly come in contact with law enforcement, and whose behaviors are criminal and threaten public safety. The FIT Program addresses high frequency criminal offenders, increasing behavioral health assessments and treatment options, protecting public safety and enhancing community stability, and reducing public resource utilization among FIT clients. Details of the FIT Program presentation can be viewed on the Mental Health Advisory Board website at:
<http://www.santacruzhealth.org/Portals/7/Pdfs/Local%20Mental%20Health%20Board/FIT%20Presentation%20-%20April%202019.pdf>
 - Other Information on the FIT Program:
 - FIT Program started on January 28, 2019 with 10 clients.
 - FIT Team is not a Mental Health Team. It is a focus deterrence team integrating law enforcement with behavioral health staff to address some of the needs and issues underlying the behaviors.
 - The program is up to maximum of 30 clients, 3 women and 27 men
 - A total of 37-38 clients have been in the program.
 - Dedicated housing unit for male inmates at the jail – can hold up to 16 people.
 - Individuals enrolled in the program will be held in custody until they appear in court. Individuals spend an average of 3-5 days in jail.
 - Total of 93 referrals to date, 36-38 accepted. Those denied didn’t meet the eligibility criteria.
 - 24 of the 30 FIT clients have ties to the City of Santa Cruz. Ties means their behaviors are occurring in that area but does not mean they are only occurring in that area. A lot of crossover between Live Oak area and Santa Cruz. About 20 of the 30 FIT clients are in both jurisdictions.
 - Currently, 7 people have been discharged for a variety of reasons.

- 3 individuals who did not have strong ties to this community opted for the Homeward Bound Pass -this means that they go to another County where there are resources that can better stabilize them
- Housing stats: 1 housed and 29 started homeless. FIT program provides linkage to housing (work with systems/resources that are already in place)
- Each law enforcement agency has a liaison who refers individuals directly to Sgt. Burnett.
- Quarterly evaluations will be posted on our website; however, the first evaluation report will be completed after 6 months (in July).

9. Unfinished Business

- a. Nominating Committee for Board Member Positions - Nominations postponed to next month.

10. Future Business

- a. Suicide Prevention Task Force Strategic Plan – presentation next month by Cassandra Eslami, Chief of South County Behavioral Health Services and Community Engagement. The Suicide Task Force will convene a stakeholder town hall meeting on May 16, 2019, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at 1400 Emeline Avenue, Building K, Rooms 206-207, Santa Cruz.
- b. Creation of a joint subcommittee with ADAC. ADAC requesting to meet with the Chair and another member of the MHAB. Purpose of the subcommittee is to discuss the ADAC and MHAB merger, and propose to meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Erika Miranda-Bartlett. Second by Rebekah Mills. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.