

MINUTES – APPROVED
July 16, 2020

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

June 18, 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, Joanna Whitcup, Lynda Kaufmann, Rebekah Mills, Serg Kagno, Stephan DuBose, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

Unexcused Absence: Maryanne Tong

1. Public Comments

- Monica McGuire – Concerned about complaints of how people are treated during COVID time (Melinda McComb). Board of Supervisors voted on \$1.8 million for San Jose Behavioral Health instead of spending money locally. Hope the MHAB will do more. Who is doing oversight and following up with individuals like Melinda McComb and Rebekah Mills who have extremely negative experiences?
- Marilyn Garrett – Turned in documents regarding Melinda McComb’s experience for the April 28th Board of Supervisors meeting, so it is on record. Believe there needs to be an investigation of what is going on. Wireless microwave radiation – real health endangerment and related to people feeling fatigue, depression very much interrelated to negative impacts to our health. Would like to see offering of holistic treatment and see a society that provides housing and jobs for people, and options so that no one should be taken against their will.
- Richard Gallo, Access CA – 1) reviewed budget for fiscal year, MHSA over \$1 million and did not see run down of where money is going to; 2) evaluation of contracted agencies especially programs that are 24 hour run which require bilingual staff for each shift 3) state is changing the language of who is considered gravely disabled with the mental health community - will give update on who is determined as gravely disabled.
- Melinda McComb – sent email with doctor’s letter attached regarding wellness visit on April 17th. Sheriff’s Office thought it was unusual that I had my utilities and electric turned off. I have electromagnetic hypersensitivity and instructed by doctor to turn off electricity at night so I can sleep. Violent and traumatic event, total cost \$60k, and violation of my civic rights. I am deferring to my doctor; it is not a mental health condition it is a medical condition. Completely inappropriate and mischaracterized event and totally unnecessary, involved a lot of trauma and physical abuse.
- Becky Steinbruner – Melinda was taken to San Jose Behavioral Health, family was not allowed to take her out and was told she could not have anyone with her during conservatorship hearing where her ability to say no to injections was stripped from her. Very concerned and feel your commission would do well to serve the community by looking into this. Needs some level of county oversight. What happened to patient outcomes from clients from this county being sent there? What are the costs? What are the transportation contracts? When they come back, do they get connected with services they need? Follow-up for long term success? What is Short-Doyle in-patient day rate? How many clients does Santa Cruz send to this facility in a year or month and why are we not focusing on empty nursing homes? Also concerned with Measure G money being used for the Sheriff. There was no Behavioral Health staff with the Sheriff to conduct wellness check and there should be mixed gender that conducts a wellness check.
- Winifred Thomas – I know Melinda McComb and someone needs to step in and deal with the bills so she doesn’t have to. I also live without electricity. I am electrosensitive. People need to be educated. Something needs to be done so this does not happen to another person.

Public Comments – May 21, 2020 Meeting

- Stephan DuBose – employed with one of the mental health contract agencies, here to be more involved. Thanks for the County and all the people working together to make a difference.
- Helen – represents MHCAN, work hard to stay together and keep MHCAN open.
- Monica McGuire – bothered that several people are picked up for behavioral health issues, taken to places and not given rights, not treated with care. Requesting information on number of suicides attempted. Huge health issues because they cannot go see doctors. Also asking for number of domestic violence cases.
- Ana – live alone. Scared about living beyond this crisis. What can be done? Who can help?
- Chris Ferry – Trauma Recovery meetings through Zoom. Teach breathing, meditation, talk about what we are going through. Teach for free and offering to anybody who wants to attend - clients, community members in Santa Cruz. Best way to contact Chris is by email: CMRFerry@gmail.com
- Melinda McComb – policy of picking up people for wellness checks and putting in psych units instead of doing a physical exam and finding out what are the physical needs. Making accusations of someone acting crazy and having picked up. Feel my doctor should have been contacted. I was treated inappropriately. Being picked up like that was a violation of constitutional rights.

- Information provided by Sube Robertson, Quality Improvement (QI) Department
Individuals who have concerns about the County's services or services of agencies that the County contracts with may contact the QI department. If clients have a concern with San Jose Behavioral Health, the QI department will hear their concerns and make sure that the clients are connected with the appropriate people at the facility. The County does not have authority over outside hospitals, but because the County contracts with them, QI would make sure the clients are connected to the right people and follow-up with the client to make sure that someone responded to them regarding the concerns they had about the services they received. All our clients have a right to file a grievance. Grievances and the outcomes of grievances are private. QI would share the outcome with the client who files the grievance.

Clients can reach out to Sube Robertson directly at (831) 454-4170 or (800) 952-2335, or email Sube.Robertson@santacruzcounty.us.

2. Approved meeting minutes for April 16, 2020.
Motion by Antonio Rivas to approve April 16, 2020 MHAB minutes. Second by Lynda Kaufmann.

AYES: Antonio Rivas, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Joanna Whitcup, Lynda Kaufmann, Rebekah Mills, Serg Kagno, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput
ABSENT: Maryanne Tong
ABSTAIN: Stephan DuBose
3. Projected fiscal impact on Santa Cruz County schools' budget due to Pandemic 2020
Dr. Farris Sabbah, Santa Cruz County Office of Education Superintendent
[Click here to view the presentation.](#)
4. Standing Board of Supervisors (BOS) Report, Supervisor Greg Caput
 - Last Board of Supervisors Meeting covered cell phone tower proposal, marijuana regulations, vacation rentals

- Board of Supervisors to consider voting on 10% cut for Board of Supervisors wages and other workers furlough 7.5% to 10%

5. Ad Hoc Committee and Standing Committee Reports:

- a. Jail Committee Report – Chair: Rebekah Mills
 - Terrible experiences at the jail, previous approach not working and as a result stepping down from the Mental Health Advisory Board
 - Propose a mediation committee to work with people to resolve complaints. A lot of complaints do not get satisfactorily resolved.
 - Jail Orientation packet – PDF version available on NAMI Santa Cruz website
- b. MHSA Advisory Committee – Chair: Lynda Kaufmann
 - No updates
- c. Site Visit Committee
 - Not allowed to do site visits right now
 - Before next MHAB meeting, goal is for subcommittee to review Telecare visit and complete report
- d. SUDC/MHAB Merger Committee
 - Drafts sent to County Counsel and Erik Riera for the merger of the two boards. Tentative date of merger is November.
 - Discussion on absences and leaves of absences, and possibly adding in the bylaws

6. Patients' Rights Report – prepared by George Carvalho.
[Click here to view the May 2020 Patients' Rights Report.](#)

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Recovery Café - letter to Board of Supervisors. To be discussed at next meeting.

8. New Business/Future Agenda Items

- a. Conflict Resolution Center of Santa Cruz
 - Training outside of Mental Health Advisory Board meeting. Meeting will be approximately 1.5 hours. Invitation to this training will be extended to the members of the Substance Use Disorder Services Commission.
- b. Trauma Recovery Training
 - Chris Ferry sent email announcement on the Trauma Recovery Training and was forwarded to the Mental Health Advisory Board and members of the public.
- c. Letter of support for County Office of Education
 - Xaloc Cabanes to draft letter. Erika Miranda-Bartlett to proofread letter.
- d. Membership – Leaves of Absence
 - Not in current bylaws for Mental Health Advisory Board or Substance Use Disorder Services Commission. The idea is to have some leniency to take a break from the Board, instead of resigning from the Board.
- e. Statistics on Suicide attempts, successes, and other behavioral health statistics
 - Will request Carly Momoli, Program Director of FSA Suicide Prevention Services to attend a future meeting.
- f. Acknowledgement of Service – Rebekah Mills

Motion to adjourn made by Rebekah Mills. Second by Antonio Rivas. Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.