

**MINUTES – Approved
August 18, 2022**

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

JULY 21, 2022 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

1400 EMELINE AVE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ

Microsoft Teams Meeting (831) 454-2222, Conference 655 132 162#

Present: Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Maureen McCarty, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Marlize Velasco
Excused: Antonio Rivas, Michael Neidig, Supervisor Greg Caput
Staff: Erik Riera, Anthony Jordan, Lauren Fein, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:04 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
- II. Public Comments
 - Nicholas Whitehead – stated his concern in this county is the process in which a patient or resident can successfully carry on a Riese hearing. He said the report from George Carvalho shows about eight hearings and zero victories.
 - Doreen Tighe - stated she is attending the meeting on behalf of son who has four DUI's, was in the county jail and released with ankle bracelet. After the ankle bracelet was removed, there was no follow-up on offering a treatment center. Doreen said she would like to see individuals be offered or told to go to a treatment center.
 - George Carvalho, Patient's Right Advocate for Advocacy, Inc. – George stated that if anyone has questions on how things work at Advocacy, Inc. or has questions regarding hearings, please call him to discuss as he is open to suggestions and feedback.
- III. Board Member Announcements
 1. Publicity committee needs two board members. Hugh and Antonio were asked to be on the committee.
 2. Serg announced he plans on doing a site visit at 7th Avenue, also known as Harbor Hills. Any board member interested in joining Serg should contact him directly.
- IV. Business / Action Items
 - A. Approve June 16, 2022 Minutes as amended.
Motion/Second: Laura Chatham / Serg Kagno
Ayes: Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Maureen McCarty, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes
Nays: None
Excused: Antonio Rivas, Michael Neidig, Supervisor Greg Caput
Motion passed.
 - B. Adoption of Assembly Bill 361 – Resolution Authorizing Teleconference Meetings
Motion/Second: Valerie Webb / Serg Kagno
Ayes: Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Maureen McCarty, Serg Kagno, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes
Nays: None
Excused: Antonio Rivas, Michael Neidig, Supervisor Greg Caput

Motion passed.

V. Reports

A. Secretary's Report

1. Working on updating attendance for orientation dates.
2. Ethics Trainings – staff liaison will notify board members when training is due.
3. Other Trainings – Jeffrey created a tracking form for Board members to access and report trainings they attended.

B. Behavioral Health Director's Report – Erik G. Riera, BH Director

Erik provided an update on the Loan Repayment Program for clinicians in the community who have student debt. He said our county received \$300K in exchange for putting up a match of \$100K (MHPA funds was used for the matching funds). Below is a summary of the results of the award:

1. 30 student loans/stipends were awarded to staff. 63% of those awards went to county staff and 37% of the awards went to staff working in contract agencies.
2. In terms of contract agencies, 46% of those awards went to Encompass, 18% of the awards went to PVPSA, Front Street and a new contractor that Behavioral Health is working with around children services.
3. For the county programs, the loan repayment was offered to Behavioral Health staff and IBH staff in the Clinics programs. 83% of the county awards went to Behavioral Health staff and 17% went to Clinics IBH staff. And lastly, 47% of all the awards went to bilingual staff, as that was an area of focus.

In terms of what's next, the legislature appropriated a separate funding stream for people working in substance use services in the community, so Behavioral Health is looking forward to implementing access to that program this fiscal year.

C. Closing of MHPA Public Comment – Lauren Fein, MHPA Coordinator

Lauren stated that Public Comment is closing today, July 16th. One public comment was provided by Doreen Tighe, to have more treatment centers available in the city of Santa Cruz. Lauren also mentioned that the County goes through an extensive stakeholder process so that Behavioral Health can ensure the funding from MHPA is going to the programs that are best suited to the community, and the next 3-year plan and stakeholder engagement process will be the beginning of 2023.

D. Overview of Substance Use Disorder Services (SUDS) – Anthony Jordan, Director of Substance Use Disorder Services

SUDS is a division of behavioral health that provides substance use disorder prevention, intervention, and administrative oversight to the community.

Anthony's presentation included an overview of the following:

1. Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System
2. Continuum of Care
3. Contracted Community-Based Organizations
4. Internal Outpatient Substance Use Disorder Services
5. Service Funding
6. Budget Overview
7. 2023 Objectives

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

E. Committee Updates

1. Standing Committees

- a. Budget – the first meeting will be scheduled soon and a report will be provided at the next meeting.
- b. Ideal Crisis System – the committee is working on vision and mission statements. Group plans to identify speakers starting in September. Board members are doing a report card exercise through the Roadmap.

c. Community Engagement/Publicity – held first official meeting earlier this month. Initial plan is to do some outreach at the jail.

2. Ad Hoc Committees

a. Peer Support Certification – trainings are occurring at MHCAN, and individuals must pass a test to be certified. SHARE also providing peer support certification trainings.

b. 988 – the launch on Saturday the 16th was considered a soft launch.

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

June report was provided, and George was in attendance for this meeting. George's recommendation is to distribute a client satisfaction survey. Also, no numbers to report at this time. George announced that Advocacy, Inc. is short of funding and beginning in August, they will have one day of furlough until they receive more funding. He said this will impact services.

VI. New Business / Future Agenda Items

- Defining board member trainings – Board members are to consider including other ongoing meetings doing work in behavioral health to count towards the training requirement. Board to vote next month.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.