



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION

**MINUTES – Approved**  
**April 17, 2025**



Salud Mental y  
Tratamiento del Uso  
de Sustancias

### MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

MARCH 20, 2025, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

1400 EMELINE, CONFERENCE ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

MICROSOFT TEAMS (831) 454-2222, CONFERENCE ID 917 989 591#

**Present:** Antonio Rivas, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp (Virtual under AB2449), Kaelin Wagnermarsh, Michael Neidig, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Kimberly De Serpa

**Excused:** Valerie Webb

**Staff:** Karen Kern, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

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- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:05p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
  - II. Public Comments – 1 person addressed the MHAB in the conference room.  
No public comments on Microsoft Teams.
  - III. Board Member Announcements
    - Jeffrey called Mobile Crisis Team number three times – the challenge is the clients don't stay in one place. Stated the need to get a dedicated number as the current number is a phone tree.
    - New to MHAB – Board of Supervisor Kimberly De Serpa.
  - IV. Approve February 20, 2025 Minutes  
Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Dean Kashino  
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Kaelin Wagnermarsh, Mike Neidig, Xaloc Cabanes  
Nays: None  
Absent: Valerie Webb  
Motion passed.
  - V. Reports
    - A. Secretary's Report
      - No attendance issues.
      - All board members have completed their training.
    - B. Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate  
February report was provided. George attended the meeting.

- Clarification re: the 2/26 Telecare CSP incident – person was told he would be transferred out of county and tried to reach out to Advocate but were not able to connect. AB2275 states that a person who is on a 5150 hold (or not) can request a writ, which would keep the person from going out of county until that writ is heard (hasn't been done in this county). Recommendation from board member is to add another phone line at the CSP.
- Improvements at Telecare – more stable and commitment to patient's rights.
- Acknowledged the Public Guardian office as more people have been going to court to contest conservatorship.

#### C. Behavioral Health Director's Report – Karen Kern

- Housing CA Conference Update
  - New rules under BHSA which launches July 2026 requires 30% of MHSA distribution be used for housing interventions. 15% for housing interventions for folks on full-service partnership team and 15% for folks who are chronically homeless, must have a serious mental illness and qualify for services. Reminder this is not new money.
  - AB804 – makes housing support for specified populations a covered Medi-Cal benefit, subject to appropriations by the Legislature, includes housing transition navigation, housing deposits, housing tenancy sustaining services.
  - Flex pools – coordination and centralization to maximize efficiency and outcomes – honors choice, housing focus and support services.
- BH Bridge Housing Update
  - Delayed due to Geotech survey of ground beneath pavement and retaining wall adjacent to Sutter facility a concern over safety during a seismic event.
  - Expect the fencing to be completed by the end of April.
  - Planned opening – Winter 2025.
- MHSA 2025-2026 Plan Update
  - Hosted a community group in Spanish hosted by PVPSA in Watsonville. There were 15 attendees with a focus on youth and families.
  - Two community provider groups with a range of provider types with about 12 agencies represented.
  - Community group hosted by NAMI with 56 attendees.
  - April 15<sup>th</sup> – combo Zoom and in person group at 1400 Emeline for consumers and community members.
  - Next steps for the plan update – public comment for the 2025-2026 plan update opens on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the MHAB meeting. Public Comment will close at the June MHAB meeting. The plan update will be on the Board of Supervisors agenda in August.
- BHSA 2026-2029 Three-Year Plan
  - The Community Program Planning Process will begin August 2025.
  - Townhall to kick off the new planning process under BHSA.

- Crisis Now Update – seeing uptick in calls during the daytime. Calls are coming in to assist in de-escalation. Law enforcement is referring calls to Mobile Crisis Team.
- D. Site Visit Ad Hoc Committee Update – Kaelin Wagnermarsh and Dean Kashino MHAB agreed the first site visit will be at Juvenile Hall, second site visit will be at the County Jail. Other recommendations included visiting treatment organizations such as Janus, Santa Cruz Residential, Casa Pacific, and sites where the Patients’ Rights Advocates visit such as Front Street, Mariposa.
- E. Funding Ad Hoc Committee Update – Jeffrey Arlt and Kaelin Wagnermarsh
- The goal is to identify funding sources to enable the county behavioral health to scale its services to meet the community’s public health needs.
  - Tasks:
    1. Verify the number of people who are currently served or receiving services.
    2. Complete a current treatment and housing inventory.
    3. Verify other people who are eligible for specialty behavioral health services for adult and child mental health services and substance use disorders and calculate the need to fill that gap (staffing, physical resources).
    4. Identify where the money is at the federal, state, county levels.
  - Action for committee – submit letter of recommendation to BOS regarding funding, steps, timeline to acquire funding.
  - Antonio and Mike volunteered to join the ad hoc committee.

VI. New Agenda Items

- A. Appointment of nominating committee to select board officers  
Kaelin and Dean volunteered to be on the committee. The current officers confirmed they are open to serving another year in their current roles. MHAB will vote next month.
- B. Propose the formation of Prop 1 Ad Hoc Committee  
The intention of the committee is to have a good understanding of Prop 1 to prevent disruption of services due to changes of Prop 1. After discussion, the MHAB decided to hold off on forming a committee, as Karen will provide detailed information at the retreat.
- C. Letter to BOS re: use of Measure K funds to support MHCAN and reduce homelessness – the board discussed the draft letter and agreed that additional information is needed. A revised letter will be drafted and voted on next month.

VII. Future Agenda Items – none discussed.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.