



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

MINUTES – Approved
July 18, 2024

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

JUNE 20, 2024 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
1400 EMELINE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ
Microsoft Teams (831) 454-2222, Conference ID 151 711 224#

Present: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Artl, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Xaloc Cabanes
Absent: Valerie Webb, Supervisor Hernandez, Stella Peuse
Staff: Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

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- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:04p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
 - II. Public Comments
 - Richard Lewis - stated he is a community organizer and mentioned the one block idea which is one block, one neighborhood taking on mental health and building on what exists.
 - Laura Tucker – stated her personal story and feels there is a lack of access to mental health care, particularly schematic therapy which means that the person does not have to share all the trauma that they have been through but instead learning modalities that help their body to calm down.
 - Robert Norris – works with HUFF (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom). Concerned with the issue of folks getting sent out of county, held for 5150 against their will, and then facing forced meds, forced treatment in other jurisdictions. Needs to know stats of how frequently this happens.
 - Richard Gallo – stated that Cal Voices met with DHCS regarding Peer Support/Peer Services as part of the legislation related to Prop 1, and they went ahead and excluded everything related to peers. He stated that the State has acknowledged they have heard concerns about the peer workers being excluded. Richard will send a letter on what was proposed and what they excluded.
 - Tyler Starkman – commented on individuals needing 5150's being turned down from Telecare and having to go elsewhere outside of the county to get the correct care. He stated that statistics aren't being recorded, they are full and do not provide the care needed to individuals in this county and they have to go to Santa Clara County to get the right care even though it wasn't against their will to be sent over there, but they still ended up being 5150.
 - Coral Brune – worked at MHCAN and is associated with HUFF. She stated she is interested in the relationship and all the connections between police, mental health, and the agencies. She said since the sweeps on the levy, there have been more cases of people taking over the whole sidewalk and has seen violent tendencies with people over medicated.
 - III. Board Member Announcements
 - The Chair clarified that the MHAB is appointed by the BOS and their role is to get information and advise the BOS. The MHAB does not make policies, programs and does not have funding to encourage different policies. The MHAB doesn't have the ability to enforce anything.

IV. Business / Action Items

A. Approve May 16, 2024 Minutes.

Motion/Second: Mike Neidig / Dean Kashino

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Xaloc Cabanes

Nays: None

Motion passed.

B. Accept the letter of recommendation in support of Congressional Bill HR 8575 the Michelle Alyssa Go Act.

Motion/Second: Celeste Gutierrez / Antonio Rivas

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Xaloc Cabanes

Nays: None

Motion passed.

V. Reports

A. Secretary's Report

- Reminder to board members to send training information as outlined previously.
- No attendance issues.

VI. Standing Reports

A. May Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate

The May report was provided. George did not attend the meeting.

B. Behavioral Health Director's Report – Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Director of Behavioral Health

- Update on the 24/7/365 mobile crisis response - the expected expansion with Family Services Agency (FSA) was pushed back because of insurance issues. The new date to expand covering swing shift through FSA is July 15th, and night shift (12am to 8am) will start August 5th. The expansion of the County BH team to provide additional coverage 7 days/week, 8am-6pm starts August 5th.
- Clarification on Pacific Clinics staffing – scaled back staffing due to the demand for those services. The demand for the past year has been one youth every two days needing 5585- hold. This decreases in the summer due to less stressors so chairs are not being filled. Pacific Clinics is back up to adequate staffing.
- Clarification on staff engagement with people experiencing homelessness before a sweep – BH is not always notified that a sweep is going to happen. If a local law enforcement agency chooses to notify BH ahead of time, then it gives BH an opportunity to go out to speak with folks and connect them to other resources. BH partners up and goes out with a team from Housing for Health, which is the HUD funded homeless continuum of care that can plug folks into the coordinated entry system to be able to access temporary or longer-term housing. BH staff does not participate with law enforcement agents in the sweeps as they want to engage folks and try to get them into services or into housing before the sweep.

C. Crisis Now Academy Update – update to be provided at the next meeting.

VII. New Agenda Items

A. Discussion on requesting the BOS to direct the BH Department to work with Police Department to reduce the traumatic way the Raids (sweeps) are conducted on unhoused folks

- Athena - shared a summary of the problem with the board. She stated that people don't have anywhere to go, so they camp out somewhere. A lot of people are on the edge of getting housing, so there is a constant survival fight or flight to make it through the day and people end up all over the county. She stated that the violence from the police departments has increased over the last two months exponentially and the city police across the cities follow completely different policies and are not sticking to the policy that the federal and state law mandates. Athena said the issue is there isn't accountability.

- Troy – shared his personal story.
- Laura Tucker – stated that people without the resources are being left to fend for themselves until they get housing. She said it doesn't make sense to not provide emergency services for people and access to mental health before they get housing. She believes there needs to be more money for services and less money for desk jobs and better training and action for those desk jobs. Laura said her concern is there isn't an understanding of what the people are experiencing and what they need.
- Robert Norris – suggested asking for information from staff or from other parts of the county, the role the deputies play in the sweeps, get the stats on how often deputies are involved in the last few months in these sweeps.

- Laura volunteered to write a letter for the MHAB to review and discuss at the next meeting.

- C. Confirmation of Retreat – Friday, August 16, 2024, 9am-2pm
- D. Vote on the updated Santa Cruz County Code 2.104 – postponed to next month.
- E. Discuss and vote on letter of recommendation in support of Congressional Bill HR8575 the Michelle Alyssa Go Act – see Section IV.B for voting results.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.