

**MINUTES APPROVED –
May 17, 2018**

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

April 19, 2018

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

85 Nielson Street, Watsonville, CA 95076

Present: Aimee Escalante, Bek Sebedra, Jim Roszell, Jodie Wells, Rebekah Mills, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

Excused Absence: Hugh McCormick, Kathleen Avraham, Lynda Kaufmann

Unexcused Absence: Charlotte Reyes

1. Public Comment

- Audience member thanked the Board for including services for older adults on the agenda. Clarification on the name of the board - Behavioral Health Advisory Board name is not yet official
- Volunteer with 180/2020 which is an organization that helps house homeless people, many who have mental issues. Topic on agenda for further discussion

2. Approved meeting minutes for March 15, 2018

Motion by Rebekah Mills to approve MHAB minutes for March 15, 2018.

Second by Jodie Wells.

AYES: Aimee Escalante, Bek Sebedra, Jim Roszell, Jodie Wells, Rebekah Mills, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Hugh McCormick, Kathleen Avraham, Lynda Kaufmann, Charlotte Reyes

3. Standing Board of Supervisors (BOS) report, Greg Caput:

- Veterans Services Office fully staffed. South County Offices were open 1.5 days/week, now open 4 days/week at the Human Services Department, located on W. Beach St. Appointments only with 1 day/week for drop-ins
- Rail Trail – committed to having passenger and freight services from Watsonville to Davenport with a walking trail and bicycle path alongside of the tracks. Bicycle group oppose the railroad and would prefer trail for bicycles and walking only. Proponents for the railroad say that passenger & freight services would result in bringing in more jobs and money

4. Standing Behavioral Health (BH) Directors report, Pam Rogers-Wyman:

- Staff Announcement - Cassandra Eslami, newest Sr. Behavioral Health Manager will start on July 1st. Cassandra's main roles include: MHSA Coordinator for the County; Community Engagement Liaison; South County Service Manager representing the Adult, Child, and Substance Use Disorder Services Directors; and Development of a County Suicide Prevention Plan
- Watsonville Behavioral Health Office Building – project remains on schedule with a projected August completion date; current work is around completing the foundation work, pouring the foundation for the building, and trench work to run the electrical, sewer and gas lines
- Homeless Outreach, Proactive Engagement and Services (HOPES) Team: created as the next version of the Bob Lee PACT Program; expanded role

in more effectively serving the homeless population, particularly those with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. Formed Multi-disciplinary team which includes: Downtown Outreach Program, Mobile Emergency Response Team, County Behavioral Health, Homeless Person's Health Project, Law Enforcement Liaison Program, and Other agencies as needed. Started mid-March, meeting 3 times/week, and taking internal referrals. There is also a confidential email portal at HOPESTEAM@santacruzcounty.us. Goal is to provide health care, behavioral health care both mental health and substance use disorder care. Team is outreach and engagement, and intention is to provide a level of stability in the first couple stages of recovery so they can move forward to ongoing levels of care. The HOPES Team is scheduled to go before the Board of Supervisors in May for 32 performance outcome measures regarding the population and the services, and seeking approval for their recommendations

- Final mental health audit for this year was the annual external quality review audit on April 11 and April 12 – results were very complimentary at the exit interview on collaborations in the community; two focus groups on criminal justice and integrated behavioral health
- MHAB Presentation to the Board of Supervisors – April 24, 2018 sometime after 9:00 a.m.; regular agenda item, and limited to 10 minutes

5. Ad Hoc Committee and Board Member Reports:

- a. Jail Committee Report, Rebekah Mills
 - Continue to meet with Chief of Corrections, Steve Carney
 - Next Jail Committee Meeting will be on Friday, April 27th, H.S.A. Small Auditorium, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Meeting is open to the public
- b. Community Engagement Committee Report, Jodie Wells
 - Spanish support group for mothers who have children with mental illness, collaborating with NAMI. Request to have a MHAB table at the next meeting and a representative who is Spanish speaking
- c. Planning Committee – no report
- d. Bylaw Committee – Aimee Escalante
 - Had previous discussions with County Counsel regarding changes and were okay with recommendations. No need to meet with County Counsel to go over Bylaws, however request that she attend a future meeting to explain roles of the MHAB and functions of MHAB

6. Discussion of Presentation Topics for the Board of Supervisors Presentation: Xaloc Cabanes

- Addressed the Grand Jury concerns and are now compliant
- Several presentations and outreach at Twin Lakes Church
- Positive changes, provide services while under construction at Watsonville location
- Several great committees
- Veterans Services expanded, drop-in hours
- New hire of Sr. Behavioral Health Manager
- HOPES Team
- Housing
- Transparency
- Revision of Bylaws

- Probation and wraparound services
- Participation in the Town Hall Meetings
- Keeping people in treatment/services in our area; more beds
- Committed members that are passionate about different areas
- Opportunity for community members to speak publicly in a forum
- Sustainability of things we do as volunteers (e.g. facility evaluations)

7. Unfinished Business:

- a. MHAB Strategic Plan – Retreat date: Monday, June 18, 2018. Location to be determined.
- b. MHAB name change to Behavioral Health Advisory Board – no report
- c. Motion made by Aimee Escalante to have a discussion at the next meeting regarding a nominating committee for the MHAB positions, and the following month hold elections for the MHAB positions. Second by Jim Roszell.

AYES: Aimee Escalante, Bek Sebedra, Jim Roszell, Jodie Wells, Rebekah Mills, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Hugh McCormick, Kathleen Avraham, Lynda Kaufmann, Charlotte Reyes

- d. Services for older adults – the December 2017 presentation on older adults services described the services as a collaboration between County service providers which include psychiatry, case management, psychotherapy and occupational therapy. Now the model includes Front Street Incorporated, who are on contract and they provide occupational therapy, nursing and weekend case management. There are services for older adults, however have limited number of beds because of licensing regulations.
- e. Housing retention for Mental Health clients –discussion on 180/2020 having housed people, however can't get the support services to keep them housed, and as a result, end up out on the street. Hopeful that HOPE team will think outside of the box, listen to people, and help keep them housed
- f. Use of existing facilities for supported housing and treatment – discussion on existing facilities that are sitting empty, for example two wings of hospital rooms at the old Community Hospital, which does not meet earthquake requirements. Also, Dominican Hospital closed the Behavioral Health Center, which is now a conference center. There are 4 new beds for permanent supported housing at the Union Street site in Watsonville (previously the Women's Shelter) using MHSA Innovations money.

8. Motion to adjourn made by Bek Sebedra. Second by Jim Roszell. Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.