



# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

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## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

**MINUTES – Approved  
May 16, 2024**

### **MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

APRIL 18, 2024 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
1400 EMELINE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ  
Microsoft Teams (831) 454-2222, Conference ID 113 995 654#

**Present:** Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Michael Neidig, Xaloc Cabanes, Stella Peuse  
**Excused:** Hugh McCormick, Valerie Webb, Supervisor Hernandez  
**Staff:** Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, 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
    - Richard Gallo – disappointed in the passing of Prop 1. He stated this is dismantling MHSA funds, and the workforce does not look good when it comes to peer workers working in peer programs throughout the state. He said that the counties can't afford to pay without the MHSA dollars that will be taken away in 2026 when the bucket gets reduced. He added that the peer programs with NAMI Santa Cruz, MHCAN and other related services and programs that is currently being offered will not be offered in 2026.
  - III. Board Member Announcements
    - Jeffrey and Antonio will be representing the MHAB at the Crisis Now Academy meetings. They will provide monthly updates to the MHAB.
  - IV. Business / Action Items
    - A. Approve March 21, 2024 Minutes.  
Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Dean Kashino  
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Michael Neidig, Xaloc Cabanes  
Nays: None  
Abstain: Laura Chatham\*  
Motion passed.
    - B. Accept the draft Santa Cruz County Code Chapter 2.104 with amendment of TAY age group to 16-25.  
Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Celeste Gutierrez  
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Celeste Gutierrez, Dean Kashino, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Michael Neidig, Xaloc Cabanes  
Nays: None  
Abstain: Laura Chatham\*  
Motion passed.

\*Laura Chatham did not complete her Oath of Office prior to this meeting.

## V. Reports

### A. Secretary's Report

- April is the start of the 2024-2025 year. Jeffrey will forward training announcements to all as they come up from SAMHSA, CalBHBC, NAMI, National Council for Mental Health Well Being, National Institute for the Clinical Application of Behavioral Health Medicine, CIT, RI, etc.

### B. Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate

The March report was provided. George was present at the meeting and addressed the following:

- Clarified that Telecare is not a step down; people step down from Telecare.
- Advocacy, Inc. has been communicating with Telecare and has a target date of April 29<sup>th</sup> for in-person hearings.

### C. BH Director's Report – Karen Kern, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health

#### 1. Final Report on Healing the Streets

- Improved workflows developed across providers serving the unhoused community.
- Improved outreach and engagement in treatment with BH Street Medicine Team.
- Identified barriers to meaningful connection with the Housing Continuum.
- Total of 359 unique individuals out of 648 referrals (55%) were formally enrolled in HTS for services to address their needs.
- Demographics that were enrolled: 55% identify as male, 32% identify as Hispanic, 70% identify as heterosexual, 68% experienced homelessness in the past month.
- 3,492 individual direct services were provided to 346 clients.
- 59% of clients were initially engaged in Santa Cruz, and 41% in Watsonville
- Average length of service -168 days (5-6 months)
- 11% of clients (40) received 288 individual therapy sessions.
- 46% showed a decrease in psychological distress.
- Homelessness among clients decreased by 6%.

#### 2. Development of Integrated Housing and Recovery Team (iHART)

- Sustaining services to people experiencing homelessness with SMI
- County BH Full-Service Partnership Team
- Embedded Housing for Health staff
- Services in North and South County
- Enhanced Care Management (ECM) to support whole care
- Designed from learnings from the HTS project to sustain services.
- Seamless coordination with Coordinated Entry and the Housing Continuum of Care – people and systems
- Small caseload, intensive level of service
- Follow clients from homelessness to housing until stable
  - Low Barrier Navigation Center, Shelter
  - No Place Like Home (NPLH)
  - Scattered site housing with vouchers

#### 3. Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Project

- \$10.2 million to develop temporary housing for people experiencing homelessness and serious mental illness or co-occurring disorders and \$2.6 million from Whole Person Care dollars requiring a housing focus
- Priority placement for CARE Act Participants; 24/7 On-site Resident Services and BH services will be provided by the iHART team; low barrier navigation center (LBNC) Temporary Housing; joint project with Housing for Health

#### 4. No Place Like Home Update

- Made available through MHSA dollars which allows developers who are building housing for people with mental illness to get more favorable loan terms if BH promises to house people that are experiencing mental illness and/or substance use disorders and ensure that the services will happen. It is permanent supportive housing with behavioral health services that are

provided. BH writes the application with the developer and then promise there are services there for the people and then house the people in the units permanently.

- Leasing locations are at Bienestar (Live Oak) and Tabasa Gardens (Watsonville)
- In progress: Miles Lane (Watsonville), Jesse Street (Ocean) and Harvey West Studios

D. Update on committees – will focus at the retreat later this year.

## VI. New Agenda Items

### A. School District Update – Stella Peuse

- Four Wellness Centers opening in the fall and hiring Wellness coaches (only need a bachelor's or associate degree in psychology, social work, or related field). Opening it up to students and making it easier for local people and the community to get involved.
- There is a fee schedule that allows schools who are doing these programs to bill the State for the cost of hiring the Wellness coaches. The County Office of Education (COE) applied to have 46 Wellness coach positions total in the entire district, and all will be billed to the state, not the COE.
- The Wellness Coaches are going to be similar to a paraprofessional or an aide or student liaison and may be assigned to a specific student and meet with them once a week, not full time. Some coaches may come in every 2 weeks, which makes it good for young people just getting into this field.
- April 19<sup>th</sup> is the Central Coast Foster and Homeless Education Summit from 9am to 3:30pm. It is a free event that is a Tri-County collaboration between Monterey, Santa Benito and Santa Cruz County Office of Education. It is for educators, foster youth, students, families, anyone experiencing homelessness, future teachers, social workers. It is an open conversation about homelessness and foster care in the Bay Area.
- Scotts Valley Middle School and Scotts Valley High School have HOPE week planned for the next couple of weeks.

### B. Discussion and vote on revised Santa Cruz County Code 2.104

- Changes include changing the name to the Behavioral Health Board and increasing the number of board members to 21. The board discussed changing the minimum age of Transitional Age Youth from 18 to 16.

See Section IV.B for votes.

### C. Letter of recommendation regarding the Santa Cruz County budget for FY24-25

- Received clarification and determined the draft letter is not required, as it does not benefit a submission to the BOS. The change of -36.8 FTE positions was expected and does not adversely affect the Behavioral Health department.

## VII. Future Agenda Items

- Retreat – board members to start thinking about dates.
- Letter of support to Board of Supervisors to approve the proposed BH Budget.
- Field trip to new housing.
- Invite Dr. Robert Ratner to a future MHAB meeting.

## VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.