

**MINUTES – APPROVED**  
**June 18, 2020**

**MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

April 16, 2020

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Health Services Agency, 1400 Emeline Avenue, Room 206, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Present:** Antonio Rivas, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Joanna Whitcup, Lynda Kaufmann, Maryanne Tong, Serg Kagno, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

**Unexcused Absence:** Rebekah Mills

1. Public Comments

- Richard Gallo, ACCESS Ca- provided the following handouts: CA Peer-Run Warm Line; the Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (looking for cases regarding lack of care for people with disabilities during this crisis); 2020 NAMI California Families & Diverse Communities Stakeholder Surveys. Also sent email to the sheriff regarding protocol on what jails are doing during this crisis.
- Helen – MHCAN has 2 workers on outreach, zoom meetings, and still issuing food for the public.

2. Approved meeting minutes for February 20, 2020.

Motion by Serg Kagno to approve February 20, 2020 MHAB minutes. Second by Joanna Whitcup.

AYES: Antonio Rivas, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Joanna Whitcup, Lynda Kaufmann, Maryanne Tong, Serg Kagno, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

ABSENT: Rebekah Mills

NAYS: 0

3. Standing Board of Supervisors (BOS) Report, Supervisor Greg Caput

- Currently setting up tents at Watsonville Veterans Building. 10 showers. Men on the first floor, seven women and their families on the second floor.
- Various churches are delivering free packages of food to people that are always sheltered in place, over 2,000 homes in South County.
- Per Sheriff Hart – crimes about the same or down a little bit, violent crimes about the same, slight increase in domestic violence, suicide rate is very low.
- National Day of Prayer on May 7, 2020, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm online. All denominations will pray for the country and everybody locally.
  - Update from Serg Kagno: Santa Cruz Veterans Hall opened on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to lessen the density of people at Salvation Army on Laurel. Adult Protective Services at the motel (isolation quarantine motel) that have medically fragile and vulnerable people. Referrals can come from health services and someone can give them a ride to the motel and arrange for someone to take care of them. There is more outreach, getting more tents and sleeping bags to individuals. Watsonville Veterans Hall opening today.

4. Standing Behavioral Health Director's Report, Erik Riera

- Reassigned to the Public Health Division as the Community Liaison Officer in the Department Operations Center. Work with different stakeholders including the Board of Supervisors, community members, and community organizations as their bridge to the operations center which is overseeing the response to COVID-19 in the community.
- Karen Kern is the new Director of Adult Services. Karen is coming from Oregon and has extensive background in providing Substance Use Disorder Services as well as Behavioral Health Services. Start date is June 15, 2020.

- The County is switching over to the telehealth model. Majority of our services are currently provided either by phone or by video. Offices were converted to telehealth suites for individuals who do not have access to technology. Individuals can come in and see their provider using telehealth to continue maintaining social distancing.
- Working with the State association and Legislative leadership in advocating for the needs of Behavioral Health in our community. Facing significant funding cuts related to postponing taxes in the state, including sales tax and income tax. Projecting MHSA funding \$6-8 million reduction starting immediately, going through next year and continue for 3-4 years. Other two major sources of funding from state realignment funds will also have significant reductions and anticipate potential reductions in our County general funds.
- Most of the community providers have been struggling financially. There is a solid strategy to shore up the community providers for the balance of this year and going into next year. There will not be a fiscal impact for them moving forward. We have strategies to mitigate the loss and preserve our critical safety net services.
- Some programs were immediately impacted by COVID-19, particularly residential and cognitive care programs, which are the most vulnerable. It affects staff and medically vulnerable clients who are living there. The plan is to slowly open the programs for admissions. They will not be at full capacity due to the need to continue maintaining the social distance requirements to protect the clients that live there as well as staff.

Presentation: Together We Care – Lynn Lauridsen, Whole Person Care Program Coordinator

- Together We Care is part of the Whole Person Care-Cruz to Health (WPC) pilot program. Whole Person Care serves clients who are the most vulnerable in the community. The program is in the final 8 months, ending December 2020. The program is funded through Medi-Cal waiver.
- Target Population: Adults who are on Medi-cal. clients with complex needs, have behavioral health and/or substance abuse diagnosis and at least 2 of the following conditions: chronic condition, homelessness or at risk for homelessness, utilize health and psychiatric system.
- 2 divisions of the program: Direct Services and Systems Change. Under Systems Change, the focus is examining the data sharing infrastructure and improvements in care coordination.
- The WPC brand “Bridging the Care Coordination Gap” is used to promote care coordination and data sharing.
- Together We Care Vision Statement - Building an online platform, a system people can access and have a way to communicate with each other about a shared client and coordinate across the care continuum.
- Platform – goal is to achieve 3 spheres: Care Coordination, Closed Loop Referrals, Social Services Directory
- Focusing on capturing the important information about a client, information that would be gathered at intake appointment or screening.
- Process is to select a vendor through a review committee bringing in partners from different areas.
- Currently being tested by 3 partner agencies: Whole Person Care, Moving Health Care Upstream, SCCHC Complex Care Management
- Questions from the Board:
  - HIPAA compliant? – When inviting another agency, it is based on consent and tracks expiration dates of consent forms.
  - What support is given to clients so they can access care online? – Right now, clients are not invited into the platform. A planned referral directory incorporates the 211 system.

- How do the homeless interact with medical providers to get referred? - Currently in testing phase with the three community agencies. Whole Person Care is documenting the work they are doing with their clients and the next phase is inviting Front Street partners, and then invite other partners thereafter. Homeless providers can refer clients to the Whole Person Care program by emailing [wholepersoncare@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:wholepersoncare@santacruzcounty.us). Currently, we can accept referrals for case management but can assess if clients are eligible for other WPC services.

[Please click here to view the "Together We Care" PowerPoint presentation.](#)

5. Ad Hoc Committee and Standing Committee Reports:

- a. Jail Committee Report
  - Committee has come to a halt since COVID-19.
- b. Community Engagement Committee Report – Chair: TBD
  - Committee on temporary hold due to social distancing.
- c. MHSA Advisory Committee – Chair: Lynda Kaufmann
  - MHSA Stakeholder meetings has come to a halt.
  - Propose virtual system for MHSA Stakeholder meetings, taking recommendations on how to meet.
  - Approval of CBHDA's request of a 90-day extension on 3-year plan – it will or has been approved.
  - MHSA subcommittee to possibly meet first week of May.
- d. Site Visit Committee
  - Completed site visit at Telecare and held a couple of meetings with Telecare management to discuss findings/concerns.
  - Behavioral Health Court Site Visit completed – no report yet.
  - Three outstanding site visit reports: Janus, CSP/PHF, Behavioral Health Court
- e. SUDC/MHAB Merger Committee
  - Committee needs to regroup.

6. Patients' Rights Report – prepared by George Carvalho. [Click here to view the February report.](#)

7. Presentation on Recovery Café Santa Cruz – Chris Ferry, Director of the Board, Elaine Salter, co-founder of Recovery Café Santa Cruz, and Ken Goldstein, Board member

- There are 30 different Recovery Café's nationwide and follow the model that was originally created in Seattle. The mission is to provide a sober, social support network in a healing community for individuals recovering from life's traumas. It is a place for individuals who are homeless, who are post-incarceration, individuals suffering from mental illness, trauma, domestic violence, etc. Recovery Café Santa Cruz will provide a space to gather and will provide a meal and a sober social environment. The criteria for membership are 24 hours of sobriety, agreement to attend one recovery circle per week, and participate in chores. A Recovery Circle is where a group facilitator will discuss a thought of the day (subject or concept related to recovery) and all members will participate in the discussion. The Schools for Recovery are subject to a deeper dive in personal growth. These classes are 1-hour weekly meetings for 8-weeks on Recovery/Addiction, Life Skills, Inner Healing and Relationships, and Healthy Living. Currently in negotiations for a downtown Santa Cruz location. Recovery Café Santa Cruz needs support in the community, support

for funding, and support of the MHAB to assist us in gathering support in our community from other streams.

- Clarification items:
  - Members can join and leave the Recovery Cafe whenever they decide. The Recovery Café Staff will be supervising the members while on site. The staff have training and volunteers will have training as well. There are policies and procedures to address all aspects of running the café including issues that may come up with members (not following the rules or address behavioral issues which sometimes arise). They do not have to have mental health diagnosis to participate. Individuals attend at their own pace and decide how much they want to participate in their circles.
  - Funding – combination of grants, private donations, fundraisers. San Jose’s main funding comes from individuals giving throughout the year, some county funding, local companies, and corporate sponsorships. Starting budget approximately \$400K for the first year.
  - Up to 50 members within the first year, and expect to grow within 4 years, up to 125-150 members

[Click here to view the Recovery Café PowerPoint presentation.](#)

#### 8. New Business/Future Agenda Items

##### a. Nominating Committee for Board Member Positions

Motion by Antonio Rivas to keep the current Board Members in their same positions for the next year (Chair: Xaloc Cabanes, Co-chair: Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Secretary: Rebekah Mills). Second by Lynda Kaufmann.

AYES: Antonio Rivas, Erika Miranda-Bartlett, Hugh McCormick, Joanna Whitcup, Lynda Kaufmann, Maryanne Tong, Serg Kagno, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput

ABSENT: Rebekah Mills

NAYS: 0

- ##### b. Correspondence of mother, regarding diagnosis, treatment, and management of daughter.
- The Mental Health Advisory Board members have been advised to contact County Counsel Siobhan Kelly for any questions about the background.

Motion to adjourn made by Erika Miranda-Bartlett. Second by Supervisor Greg Caput. Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.