

**MINUTES – Approved  
June 16, 2022**

**MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

MAY 19, 2022 ♦ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

1400 EMELINE AVE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ

Microsoft Teams Meeting (831) 454-2222, Conference 699 517 616#

**Present:** Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput  
**Excused:** Valerie Webb  
**Absent:** Hugh McCormick  
**Staff:** Cybele Lolley, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
- II. Public Comments
  - Suicide statistics 2018-2020 from CA Department of Public Health – indicated that there are higher suicide rates in Santa Cruz County for individuals aged 45 and over. Also, there is a high rate for males about 2 to 1, overall firearms were used in about 25% of all suicide deaths in 2019, but this rate increases with white males. In 2019, approximately 65% of the suicide deaths of Santa Cruz County residents had a mental health problem, and 50% had alcohol and substance use problem. In 2019, approximately 47% of Santa Cruz County residents that died by suicide were in mental health treatment at the time of their death.
  - Nicholas Whitehead – stated that he has experience with a family member go through numerous mental care institutions. He has been an advocate for a few local people needing care. He is requesting to have a conversation with George Carvalho regarding two principal concerns 1) Reise hearings – patient asks for alternate form of treatment and 2) County doesn't force treatment of individual to take medication.
- III. Board Member Announcement – reminder to board members that email communications and conversations cannot take place if there is a quorum. Also, all correspondence should go to Staff Liaison for distribution to the Board.
- IV. Business / Action Items
  - A. Approve April 21, 2022 Minutes.

Motion/Second: Antonio Rivas / Michael Neidig  
Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput  
Excused: Valerie Webb  
Absent: Hugh McCormick  
Motion passed.
  - B. Adoption of Assembly Bill 361 – Resolution Authorizing Teleconference Meetings  
Motion/Second: Laura Chatham / Maureen McCarty

Ayes: Antonio Rivas, Jeffrey Arlt, Jennifer Wells Kaupp, Laura Chatham, Maureen McCarty, Michael Neidig, Serg Kagno, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Greg Caput  
Excused: Valerie Webb  
Absent: Hugh McCormick  
Motion passed.

V. Reports

A. Secretary's Report

1. Ethics Training – the Co-chair provided reminders to the board members who are due to take the training.
2. Attendance – reminder to the Board that 3 unexcused absences result in separation from the Board.
3. Committees – Serg and Jeffrey will be creating a form for committees to complete which will include the date when committees met, who attended, etc.
4. Reminder from the last retreat - Board members are required to attend two outside trainings per year.

B. Board of Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Greg Caput

1. Pajaro River – June 8<sup>th</sup> is the final day for people in the flood zone to vote on property assessment, average is about \$200 per residential unit.
2. Discussion on the renovation of the Freedom campus is moving along, which will have a sleeping facility for youth facing mental health crisis.
3. Watsonville Hospital update - \$15 million short on keeping it open. \$45 million committed to purchasing the hospital. Deadline is August 31, 2022.
4. Senior Center in Live Oak – given 6 months to move out as Live Oak School wants to build affordable housing for teachers only.

C. Review of Grievance Process – Cybele Lolley, Quality Improvement Director

QI Director Cybele Lolley provided an overview of the County BH Grievance and Appeal Practices. Her presentation included a summary of grievance and appeal protections; the timeframes and responsiveness for complaints/grievances, Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination (NOABD) Appeals and the monitoring of grievances and appeals. [Click here to view the presentation and access links to resources.](#)

D. Committee Updates

1. Standing Committees

- a. Budget – Jeff and Laura still exploring WIC5604.2. Maureen and Antonio volunteered to join the budget committee.
- b. Ideal Crisis System – selected two goals and created purpose document. Committee waiting to hear from James Russell to inform them how the MHAB can support behavioral health. Meetings are on the second Friday of the month.
- c. Community/Publicity – Marlize and Valerie identified their goal is to provide a clear path of communication and would need to find a stable outlet. Strategy is to identify various groups that have not received resources and also recommends a social media account, such as Instagram. Meetings will be on the first Friday of the month.

2. Ad Hoc Committees

- a. Peer Support Certification – no new updates.
- b. 988 – goal is to increase the public awareness of the 988 services and make regular recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for expansion of 988 related services and actively support Andrea Tolaio and James Russell.

E. Patients' Rights Report – George Carvalho, Patients' Rights Advocate

- March and April reports were provided for this meeting.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.